



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016

No. 170

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, thank You for the spirit of contentment we can receive from You, bringing quietness and faith to our hearts.

Today, use our Senators for Your purposes, enabling them to live worthy of Your Name. May the words they speak bring edification and unity as our lawmakers build bridges of cooperation. Lord, give them the wisdom to depart from strife, remembering that soft answers turn away anger. Inspire them to avoid contention in their search for common ground. Give them cheerful hearts and optimistic spirits.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 6297

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 bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6297) to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6297

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6297, which was received from the House; further that the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate; finally, if passed, that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee, Senator FEINSTEIN, has had some trouble with this. I spoke to her last night. She said to go ahead and let this go. She is totally in agreement now that there would be time for debate on this issue and a vote. We understand that. So I am not objecting to this matter.

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

### IRAN SANCTIONS EXTENSION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. This week, Senators will have a chance to pass the Iran Sanctions Extension Act that recently passed the House on an overwhelming vote. Preserving these sanctions is critical, given Iran's disturbing pattern of aggression and its persistent efforts to expand its sphere of influence across the Middle East.

This is all the more important, given how the administration has ignored Iran's overall efforts to upset the balance of power in the greater Middle East and how it has been held hostage by Iran's threats to withdraw from the nuclear agreement. The authorities extended by this bill give us some of the tools needed to impose sanctions if necessary to hold Iran accountable and help keep Americans safer from this threat.

I expect that next year the new Congress and the new administration will undertake a review of our overall policy toward Iran, and these authorities should remain in place as we address how best to deal with Iranian missile tests, support to Hezbollah, and support of the Syrian regime.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as we come to the end of this year and of this Congress, we will continue in our efforts to complete the business before us. Members have been working diligently on their respective conference committees to conclude the outstanding conference reports on the Defense authorization bill, the waterways infrastructure and resources bill, and the energy policy modernization bill. I look forward to the full Senate taking up these measures as they are available so that we can pass final legislation to be signed into law.

In the coming days, the Senate will also consider a critical and bipartisan medical innovation bill known as the 21st Century Cures bill, as well as a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S6521

continuing resolution to keep the government funded and carry us into the spring.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### UNLV STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday an amazing thing happened at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and it deserves some attention here this morning. I will take just a brief time to talk about that.

The students who operate that newspaper made the bold decision to change the name of the newspaper. It has been going on and has been somewhat controversial now for quite some time. The newspaper will no longer be called the Rebel Yell. There were many who felt that was a disparaging name for the paper. The Civil War ended a long time ago. We should not harken back to the Civil War and the Confederacy for that newspaper.

Now UNLV's newspaper will be called the Scarlet & Gray Free Press. I am happy to have with me today Brian Ahern, who is an able member of my press staff. He was the managing editor of that newspaper. He helped run the newspaper when he was at UNLV.

I am proud of these students who did this. Seven months ago, when the students announced their intention to change the name of the paper, I publicly supported them. Now that they have followed through, I am all the more amazed by their leadership and courage in doing the right thing. The name change was not easy. There was a lot of debate swirling around this issue on campus and throughout the State. These students were more interested in unifying the student body and rejecting hateful symbols of a racist and divisive past than in hiding behind tradition.

Now it is time for the university's administration to do the right thing and get rid of the "Rebel" mascot. What these young men and women have done is a lesson for all of us. Some politicians, State legislators, and the National Football League can learn a thing or two from these students. I applaud the Scarlet & Gray Free Press for doing the right thing. They have long been an independent voice for the students at UNLV. I congratulate my able staff member, Brian, for urging me to move forward on this matter for many months now.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Republican leader mentioned a minute or two ago, the Senate has some important work to do before this Congress can come to a close. One of the pieces of legislation that has to be addressed is the Cures Act, a scaled-back version of the 21st Century Cures legislation the House is scheduled to consider tomorrow.

The staffs of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee have worked countless hours on this bill. For more than a year, they have missed time with their families and given up vacations in the hope of reaching bipartisan agreement. There are many priorities in this bill to address funding for opioids, which has been an ongoing problem with all of the deaths occurring on a daily basis. We have done nothing to help with that—nothing.

Of course, we are concerned about cancer and the advocacy of Vice President BIDEN and the so-called moonshot, as well as important provisions for the National Institutes of Health. There are other issues outstanding that will need to be resolved in this matter.

It is my understanding that the committee work continues in the House, and we can expect a managers' amendment in the House Rules Committee sometime tonight. We are all eager to see what that is going to be. We know it is different from the Senate bill, which we felt very good about.

By the end of next week, we are going to have to pass new legislation to ensure that the government does not shut down for lack of funding. But we also have to be concerned about what happens with that Cures Act. Is this going to be put over again, as we have put over opioid funding time and again over the past several years, or are we going to move forward with something that is constructive in nature? Right now, there is some angst in my caucus about what we should do.

Now, on funding, I am very disappointed that the Republican leadership appears unwilling to pass a comprehensive bill that reflects the careful and considered judgment of the Appropriations Committee. With only days left in this Congress, we should be working on a bipartisan bill, in a manner that is bipartisan, to set out our priorities. But that is not happening. We should be funding initiatives that serve important needs and eliminate others that are wasteful and have a lower priority. Instead, it appears that we are going to pass another continuing resolution that just sets the government on autopilot, potentially for many months. The exact months we don't know. I guess there is some dispute among the Republican leadership as to how long the CR is going to be.

But this isn't governing. That is punting, for lack of a better description. They are trapped, and the only thing they can do is punt and see what

happens later. It is irresponsible, it is wasteful, and it is not the way we should be doing the business of this Congress.

Mr. President, will the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The assistant Democratic leader.

#### DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 15 years ago, a woman contacted my office in Chicago because she had a problem. It turned out that her daughter, who was about 17 years old or 18 years old at the time, had an extraordinary musical talent and had been accepted as a student at the Manhattan School of Music, as well as at the Juilliard School in New York.

The problem was that her daughter was undocumented. She brought her little girl to the United States at the age of 2. This Korean girl, Tereza Lee, was raised in the United States by a family of very modest means, but she showed extraordinary talent at music, so much so that she was accepted at these great schools.

When she went to fill out the application form and they asked for her nationality or citizenship status, she turned to her mother and said: What should I put here?

Her mother said: Well, I never filed any papers after we brought you to this country, so I don't know.

They called our office. The law was very clear. This young girl, who for 15 or 16 years had grown up in Chicago in modest circumstances, gone to school, done well, and excelled in her music, was in fact undocumented. Under the law of the United States of America, the only recourse for her—and it is still the case—was to leave this country for 10 years and apply to come back.

I thought to myself: This little girl had nothing to say when the family decided to move to the United States when she was 2 years of age. She wasn't consulted. She didn't make a conscious decision. She, in fact, did everything she was expected to do in her life. She grew up believing that she would be in America, that she would be part of this country's future, but she has this undocumented status, an uncertain status.

That is why, 15 years ago, I introduced the DREAM Act. It said to young women and men such as Tereza Lee: We will give you a chance. If you were

brought to the United States as a child, you have gone through school and done well, and you have no serious criminal issues that worry us, we will give you a chance to earn your way into legal status and ultimately citizenship.

The DREAM Act was introduced 15 years ago. Over the last 15 years, it has passed in the House some years and in the Senate in other years. It has never become the law of the land. It was a few years ago that I wrote a letter to then-President Obama—still President Obama—and asked him, as a cosponsor of my DREAM Act, could he do something to help these young people who were fearful they were going to be deported. Republican Senator Lugar of Indiana joined me in the letter, and later some 20 other Senators joined as well.

President Obama studied it and asked his Attorney General and others to find a path, and he created an Executive action. That Executive action allows those who have been in a status such as Tereza Lee's a chance under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or the DACA Program, to sign up with the government, to register with the government, to pay a filing fee of almost \$500, and to go through a criminal background check. For that, if approved, they receive a 2-year temporary and renewable status. That status would allow them to stay in the United States without fear of deportation and would allow them to work.

Since the President's Executive action was launched, some 744,000 young people have taken advantage of it.

Many of their parents warned them. They said: Be careful. If you sign up with this government and tell them you are not here legally, they might use it against you.

Some of those students, young people, and their parents came to me with that concern. I said to them: As long as you are following the law, as long as you are paying the fee, submitting yourself to a criminal background check, and understand this is only a temporary situation that can be renewed, do it. Be part of America. Be part of obeying the law, following the law, and, ultimately, I think it will be to your benefit.

When I gave that advice, I could not have imagined that we would be facing a new President in just a few weeks with a totally different view on immigration. That President-elect, Donald Trump, has said some very hurtful and divisive things about immigration during the course of his campaign. Fortunately for us, it appears he is reflecting on those statements now, and some of those he is modifying, if not changing.

I hope he will do the same when it comes to this. These 744,000 DACA-eligible persons who are currently in the program, as well as others, should be given their chance in America. As long as they are no threat to our country, we should capitalize on their talents,

on the education that they have received that we paid for, and give them a chance to make America better.

I have stood on the floor many times—and I will today—to tell the story of just one of these students. It is one thing to talk about what they might bring to this country, and it is another thing to get to know them a little bit.

This is a photograph of Yuri Hernandez. Yuri was 3 years old when her family brought her to the United States from Mexico. She grew up in Coos Bay, OR. In high school she was an honor roll student and was active in her community. She was an active member of the Key Club and the Kiwanis service program for students. She was voted homecoming princess of her high school and jubilee princess of Coos Bay.

She attended the University of Portland, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work. She received numerous awards and was involved in many extracurricular and volunteer activities. She was vice president of the Social Work Club, a board member of the National Association of Social Workers, and a member of Oregonians Against Trafficking Humans.

When you hear about her record in college and what she has achieved, remember this: This young lady did not qualify for one penny of Federal assistance. Because she is undocumented, because she is a DREAMer, she was ineligible for the things that many students take for granted in America, such as Pell grants and government loans.

Yuri had to find another way to do this. She had to work her way through school, borrowing money from parents. She faced hardships that many students don't face, but she overcame them. That speaks to her, her character, and her determination.

She volunteered as a tutor for at-risk elementary school students. During her senior year in college, she was a full-time student and a full-time worker to pay for her college education.

Do we need persons in America such as Yuri—so determined, so committed to their future that they are willing to make sacrifices many students don't make? Of course we do.

Yuri is now a graduate student at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Again, she doesn't qualify for any government assistance to go to school. She is planning on a graduate degree, a master's in social work, in the fall of 2017, and she still finds time to tutor and mentor high school students.

She wants to give back to America. She wrote a letter to me about the DACA Program and said:

DACA opened a lot of doors. I no longer wake up every day fearing that I could be picked up and deported [out of the United States]. . . . DACA changed my life completely and allowed me to use my education.

Would America be better if Yuri were deported, if she were sent away from

this country to a country she has never known, one from which she was taken away when she was a child of 3 years of age?

I think the answer is obvious.

For her and for thousands such as her, this is a moment of testing. Will we in the United States of America, this Nation of diverse immigrants, this diverse Nation that believes in fairness and justice, give to those DREAMers, those DACA recipients, their chance to prove themselves? Will we hold these children responsible for decisions made by their parents or will we give them their own chance in life?

Over the last few weeks, I have been home in Illinois, and I have talked to a lot of people who have come to know these DACA recipients and DREAMers. Many of these young people are despondent. With the new President, they are afraid they are going to lose any protection they currently have from deportation. Some of them have been driven to despair. Some have decided to leave the country, and, in some rare cases, there have been cases of suicide from their despondency.

We can do better, America. We can say to these young people that, while Congress debates immigration and its future, we are going to make certain they are not penalized and hurt in the process.

For Yuri and thousands just like her, we owe it to them to give them their chance.

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

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

#### ECHO BILL

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to express my support for the ECHO Act, which the Senate will be voting on in approximately 1 hour.

This represents bipartisan work—another bipartisan achievement during this very productive term of Congress. In this case it is Senators HATCH and SCHATZ who have led us to this morning's vote.

The ECHO Act is named after Project ECHO, an innovative telehealth-inspired model originally conceived at the University of New Mexico. Project ECHO has created promising opportunities for primary care clinicians to receive high-quality specialty training remotely. In this way, the most remote patient in the most underserved area can receive specialized care by his hometown doctor or provider.

I am a longtime supporter of using technology and telehealth to improve patients' access to quality care.

New Mexico is a State with many rural areas, as is my State of Mississippi. For that reason, Mississippi

and New Mexico have had to be leaders in innovative health care models for years, such as Project ECHO in New Mexico and the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

At UMMC we are national leaders in providing technology-enabled care remotely. While ECHO emphasizes training among professionals, the University of Mississippi Medical Center has used remote technology for clinical care and patient monitoring.

Since 2003, the medical center in Jackson has reached more than one-half million rural Mississippians through the use of telehealth. To date, the program includes more than 30 specialties and can reach patients at more than 200 clinical sites.

Like Senator HATCH, I have reached across the aisle to work with our friend from Hawaii, Senator SCHATZ, to expand an innovative model for the rest of the country. Specifically, I worked this year with Senator SCHATZ on the CONNECT for Health Act, which has been endorsed by nearly 100 organizations. Like CONNECT, the ECHO Act aims at taking a proven approach to technology-enabled care and bringing it to underserved populations across the country.

The CONNECT for Health Act, which is S. 2484, would be a small but significant step toward payment parity for telehealth services under the Medicare Program. In addition to removing specific barriers to telemedicine, the bill would allow for coverage of certain remote patient monitoring services for patients with multiple chronic diseases.

Remote patient monitoring is a model the University of Mississippi Medical Center has used to expand access, improve quality, and reduce hospital admissions for some of our State's most underserved populations.

So I want to thank Senator SCHATZ for his leadership on CONNECT for Health and also ECHO, which again we will be voting on in just a few moments. I extend my utmost appreciation to Senator SCHATZ and to Senator HATCH and the Committee on Finance for including policies inspired by our CONNECT for Health Act in the bipartisan chronic care outline.

I am confident proposals to advance telehealth can improve access and cut costs, and I look forward to seeing CONNECT enacted also, but today I am pleased and thrilled we are taking an important step forward with the passage of the ECHO Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. CARDIN pertaining to the submission of S. Con. Res. 56 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### ECHO BILL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today, the Senate is voting on S. 2873, the ECHO Act. In April, Senator SCHATZ and I introduced this bill to highlight the impressive work of technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity-building models.

One such model that has brought promising new ideas to our Nation's healthcare delivery system is Project ECHO, which started in New Mexico and quickly expanded to Utah. Today, Project ECHO is thriving in more than 30 States.

Our bill draws on the success of Project ECHO to improve health services on a national scale. Our proposal is not political; rather, it is the culmination of a broad bipartisan effort to bring about meaningful healthcare reform that will benefit families across the country in red States and blue States alike.

Our legislation improves medical services for all Americans by providing healthcare professionals in rural and underserved communities with access to a network of peers and specialists who can teach specialty care. By connecting doctors and nurses with teams of experts, patients can receive the care they need when they need it. Most importantly, patients will not have to travel long distances to receive treatments; they can stay close to home and receive treatment from doctors they know and trust.

In today's bustling healthcare environment, policymakers often forget that healthcare delivery works differently in urban and rural settings. To bridge the urban-rural divide, the ECHO Act brings expertise to providers serving rural populations by enabling them to gain the skills they need to care for people living in their communities. Through this exchange, urban providers in return can learn how rural health is operationalized in real time. Ultimately, our proposal prioritizes rural health needs and reconciles differences in care delivery for diverse populations.

Today, I am grateful that a majority of my colleagues have agreed to support this forward-thinking, common-sense legislation. Like the 21st Century Cures bill, our proposal demonstrates our common commitment to improving health care for all patients.

Telehealth is a topic of particular interest in my home State of Utah. Under the existing Project ECHO programs, medical experts based at the University of Utah use videoconferencing to train healthcare professionals who are hundreds, sometimes even thousands, of miles away. As we work to improve telehealth, models like those in the ECHO Act will enable telementorship and provider education to occur via avenues more tailored to health professionals' needs.

This customization is an essential step to achieving person-centered health care.

As a body, we must be dedicated to improving health services for all Americans, no matter where they live. Through this bill, we are making significant progress toward achieving that goal. Using groundbreaking new technologies, the ECHO Act will enable us to take better care of our family members, neighbors, and friends. By putting communication front and center, Project ECHO will allow health professionals to share innovations and new discoveries in an efficient, timely manner.

Before turning the floor over to my esteemed colleague from Hawaii, whose collaboration on this proposal has proven invaluable, I first wish to share how our legislation came to be. Several months ago, doctors at the University of Utah—including Dr. Terry Box and Dr. Vivian Lee, as well as some of the most renowned disease experts in the country—reached out to me to demonstrate how Project ECHO was benefiting families across Utah and the Intermountain Region. Their innovative approach to telehealth piqued my interest. As it turns out, Senator SCHATZ had a very similar experience with his own constituents. After discussing our shared experiences, we joined forces to draft a bill that would allow Americans in rural counties access across the country to reap the benefits of telehealth.

The founder of Project ECHO, Dr. Sanjeev Arora, was an instrumental partner throughout this process. He worked with us to share ideas from ECHO hubs across the country, allowing us to incorporate a broad array of viewpoints. With his help, we were able to hear from countless stakeholders and medical professionals who understood the potential of our legislation. We also worked alongside the leadership of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. With the assistance of Senators ALEXANDER and MURRAY, as well as the majority and minority leaders, we were able to shepherd this legislation through the committee process and bring it to the Senate floor.

This bill was born fresh, from a bottom-up approach, which enabled us to solicit ideas and opinions from numerous healthcare professionals across the country. Thanks to their input and the support of Members on both sides of the aisle, we are poised to pass legislation that will dramatically improve the quality of our Nation's health care.

I wish to thank all those who assisted in this bipartisan effort. Today is a victory for everyone involved. I appreciate the efforts of Senator SCHATZ.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I thank the President pro tempore, the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH, for his leadership on this and many other issues.

Healthcare policy can be a particularly vexing area for those of us who like to get things done because over the last 8 years we have mostly just been at each other's throats, arguing about the Affordable Care Act. But we are here to talk about a bright spot—something we are not arguing about—which can reduce costs and improve outcomes. Telehealth is the future of health care. It harnesses technology to provide patients with high-quality care, whenever and wherever they need it. That is why we need to update Medicare to take advantage of these new technologies in telemedicine and remote patient monitoring. That is why I and 18 other Senators from both parties have introduced and cosponsored the CONNECT for Health Act.

I thank Senator HATCH for his support in including provisions from our bill in the Senate Finance Committee's chronic care package.

Telehealth will improve the delivery of care to patients, but it will also support providers by giving doctors and nurses the tools to work with and learn from each other. Simply put, a lot of medical education is financially or geographically out of reach for providers on the frontlines, but we can fix that using technology. It is called Project ECHO, and that is what we are about to vote on. Based at the University of New Mexico and with the strong support of Senators HEINRICH and UDALL, Project ECHO has already had a positive impact across the Nation on patients, providers, and communities.

How does it work? Imagine a VTC—video teleconference—with 15 people on the screen. Participants assemble online 2 hours every week for 6 weeks to learn about a selected disease condition—for example, depression. The leader of the VTC is a specialist physician from an academic medical center with a team which would include, for example, a psychologist, a pharmacist, and a social worker. Throughout the 6 weeks, the session time is divided between lessons, case presentations, and discussions. Providers from across the country can learn the latest best practices and develop a network of colleagues to share information and help with the hard questions. This is a game changer. This is the kind of ongoing training for folks in rural areas that has not been available until now.

Project ECHO has already been used for infectious disease outbreaks and public health emergencies, such as H1N1 and Zika; chronic diseases, such as hepatitis C and diabetes; and mental health conditions, such as anxiety and schizophrenia.

The results are impressive. Patients in rural or underserved areas now have more access to better trained doctors in their own communities, which decreases costs and improves outcomes. Providers feel less isolated and more connected to a network of high-quality providers across their State. As a result, they are more likely to stay in underserved areas where they are need-

ed the most. The health system runs more efficiently and effectively. Providers have the training to see and treat more patients.

We still have many questions about this model, which is new, but among them: What are the best successors? What are the barriers to adoption? For which conditions is it best suited? The ECHO Act, as amended, will direct HHS to study this model and give us the answers we need to make decisions at the Federal level about how to best support expanding it nationally.

One final note of thanks. It is not a coincidence that several of the successful health care-related efforts this year have been a result of collaboration with and leadership of Senator HATCH. His bipartisan spirit, his pragmatism, and his understanding of the legislative process make working with him and his staff a true pleasure.

I encourage my colleagues to continue to join us in supporting this revolutionary health care model.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Morning business is closed.

#### EXPANDING CAPACITY FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is discharged from and the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 2873, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2873) to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided between both sides during the quorum call.

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

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

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

#### AMENDMENT NO. 5110

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5110 and ask unanimous consent that it be reported by number.

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

The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Montana [Mr. DAINES], for Mr. ALEXANDER, proposes an amendment numbered 5110.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act" or the "ECHO Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.**—The term "health professional shortage area" means a health professional shortage area designated under section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).

(2) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.**—The term "medically underserved area" has the meaning given the term "medically underserved community" in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p).

(4) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.**—The term "medically underserved population" has the meaning given the term in section 330(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(b)).

(5) **NATIVE AMERICANS.**—The term "Native Americans" has the meaning given the term in section 736 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293) and includes Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(7) **TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODEL.**—The term "technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building model" means a distance health education model that connects specialists with multiple other health care professionals through simultaneous interactive videoconferencing for the purpose of facilitating case-based learning, disseminating best practices, and evaluating outcomes.

(8) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term "tribal organization" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

#### SEC. 3. EXAMINATION AND REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODELS.

(a) **EXAMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall examine technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models and their impact on—

(A) addressing mental and substance use disorders, chronic diseases and conditions, prenatal and maternal health, pediatric care, pain management, and palliative care;

(B) addressing health care workforce issues, such as specialty care shortages and primary care workforce recruitment, retention, and support for lifelong learning;

(C) the implementation of public health programs, including those related to disease prevention, infectious disease outbreaks, and public health surveillance;

(D) the delivery of health care services in rural areas, frontier areas, health professional shortage areas, and medically underserved areas, and to medically underserved populations and Native Americans; and

(E) addressing other issues the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In the examination required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult public and private stakeholders with expertise in using technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models in health care settings.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and post on the appropriate website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a report based on the examination under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include findings from the examination under subsection (a) and each of the following:

(A) An analysis of—

(i) the use and integration of technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models by health care providers;

(ii) the impact of such models on health care provider retention, including in health professional shortage areas in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iii) the impact of such models on the quality of, and access to, care for patients in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iv) the barriers faced by health care providers, States, and communities in adopting such models;

(v) the impact of such models on the ability of local health care providers and specialists to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and licensure, including the effects on patient wait times for specialty care; and

(vi) efficient and effective practices used by States and communities that have adopted such models, including potential cost-effectiveness of such models.

(B) A list of such models that have been funded by the Secretary in the 5 years immediately preceding such report, including the Federal programs that have provided funding for such models.

(C) Recommendations to reduce barriers for using and integrating such models, and opportunities to improve adoption of, and support for, such models as appropriate.

(D) Opportunities for increased adoption of such models into programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are in existence as of the report.

(E) Recommendations regarding the role of such models in continuing medical education and lifelong learning, including the role of academic medical centers, provider organizations, and community providers in such education and lifelong learning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 5110 is agreed to.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, Montanans have always been on the cutting edge of frontier medicine, using ingenuity to overcome the challenges in frontier and rural America to make sure we have access to high-quality health care. In fact, going back to the time my great-great-grandmother homesteaded near Conrad, MT, our health care providers have worked and continue to work to increase access despite geography, weather, limited resources, and government regulation.

Rural Montanans are often hours away from a hospital and even farther away from any kind of trauma center.

Our local providers are the first-line responders. They tackle everything from the common cold to emergency situations. It is their actions that can make the difference between life and death. Rural providers give Montanans access to preventive and behavioral health services. They help ward off chronic illness with early detection and provide care and support through cancer and other debilitating diseases. They deserve our respect and the resources that will help them better serve Montanans. That is why I am honored to join my colleagues in supporting the ECHO Act and making sure it is passed and signed into law. I am thankful for the leadership of the senior Senator from Utah, Senator HATCH, who has been out front leading in this effort.

Geographic location should not dictate the quality of care. This bill will promote opportunities to improve access to high-quality care in rural communities, such as access to specialists and support and training for rural health care providers. In fact, this year the Billings Clinic launched the Montana-based Project ECHO hub in an effort to address a lack of access to mental health and substance abuse resources. The hub connects rural providers with a team of specialists to collaborate, share case studies, and offer support. The hub is built to be flexible, allowing teleclinics on any topic or any disease. It also allows Montana's providers to collaborate with specialists at academic centers, such as the University of Washington and the University of New Mexico. Because of the success of this first hub, the Billings Clinic will launch two more teleclinics next year to help primary care sites across Montana integrate behavioral health services in their practices.

The ECHO Act will promote these programs throughout the country and increase access for all Americans. I am thankful to see strong bipartisan support on the passage of this bill as we work together to improve rural health care.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

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

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

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, 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. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Leg.]

Yeas—97

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Boxer	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Capito	Johnson	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Scott
Carper	King	Sessions
Casey	Kirk	Shaheen
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coats	Lankford	Stabenow
Cochran	Leahy	Sullivan
Collins	Lee	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	
Fischer	Murray	

NOT VOTING—3

Corker Gardner Sanders

The bill (S. 2873), as amended, was passed.

# MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

# NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to spend a few moments talking about National Adoption Month.

I thank the Senator from Maryland and my colleagues for letting me talk for a few minutes about an issue that I think every single Member of the Senate cares about. The month of November is National Adoption Month. It



gives us the opportunity to recognize the recent celebration of National Adoption Day, which was November 19.

As cochair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, I have had the opportunity to work with so many of our Members and understand the broad bipartisan support for what we need to do to be looking at and more dedicated to adoption and to child welfare issues.

Last year, Senator KLOBUCHAR and I came to this new role as the Senate's cochairs of this caucus. I am pleased to be working with her on a resolution that would support National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day again this year.

We also have the good fortune to work with Members of the House. The idea that every child deserves to grow up in a loving, safe family is something I think we can all agree on.

We have a lot of agreement, while we have been working with Members of the Congress, on adoption issues over the last year. Just last week, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Congressman TRENT FRANKS, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, and others, along with me, finalized a comment letter to the U.S. Department of State expressing concern over new international adoption regulations.

We have specifically highlighted the negative impact some of the Department's proposed changes could have on the adoption process.

Lately, the adoption process seems to have become more complicated internationally, and we need to make it less complicated.

We worked—many Members, including the Members I just mentioned—very hard on behalf of families who have currently been trying to resolve pending adoption cases from a number of countries, most recently finalizing adoptions out of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Uganda, Guatemala, and other countries as well.

In June Senator KLOBUCHAR and I introduced the Vulnerable Children and Families Act, which would help more children living without families or in institutional care to find permanent homes by enhancing our U.S. diplomatic efforts rather than making those efforts more difficult. We need to enhance what we do as a country. We need to enhance what we do through the State Department to where we are more focused on international child welfare, ensuring that intercountry adoption to the United States becomes a more viable and more fully developed option.

I am also continuing to support legislation to ensure that American families have the resources and support they need so that adoption domestically works. Specifically, there is the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act and the Supporting Adoptive Families Act.

Before I conclude, I want to make a few comments to highlight three stories of foster children in Missouri who

are currently waiting to get the family they would hope to have forever. According to the Missouri Heart Gallery, more than 1,200 Missouri children are in need of permanent homes. One of those children is Jason, age 15, who is an expressive young guy and, in his own words, "likes to play soccer when it is not too hot." He also likes art and music. He feels like he is creative. He is looking for a supportive family to call his own, one who will also help him stay in contact with his brothers and sisters.

Michelle, who is 9 years old, loves to dance and hopes to have her own pets in the future. However, she will tell you she would really rather have a dog than a cat. But what she would really like to find is a family—a family where she could have sisters, a family who would allow her to stay in touch with her biological sister as well.

Lastly, Terrance, age 13, and Terion, age 10, are brothers with a special bond. When you first meet Terrance, he appears shy, but after getting to know him, he really has an incredible sense of humor. He enjoys listening to music, sports, and playing outside. Terion has a smile that just goes on and on. He is very active. He has been on a Little League Baseball team, and he loves to bowl. The brothers are strongly committed to each other. They have a strong bond to each other, beyond just the normal bond of brothers. They want to find a home where they can stay forever and stay together.

Last year, I shared the stories of these two siblings on the Senate Floor. They are still looking for a family to call their own. Like so many children across the United States, Jason, Michelle, Terrance, and Terion are in need of a permanent, safe, loving home as a launching pad for their lives.

I am an adoptive parent. I am always encouraged to see families giving children the most important gift one can give somebody else, and that is a family. I urge my colleagues to join Senator KLOBUCHAR and me in marking November as National Adoption Month by passing this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor as the vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations. That means I am the Democratic leader on appropriations for this session of Congress, and next to me is the distinguished Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, who will have that responsibility next year.

I come to the floor to say that, sadly, I am concerned we will not finish our job on appropriations the way we should finish it—to do an omnibus, to get the job done. Alas, the clock is slipping away.

Now, one needs to note that the Committee on Appropriations, during the

past year, under the leadership of Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi, worked constructively, worked in a well-paced, well-sequenced way, and we were poised to finish our work, with the Committee on Appropriations reporting all 12 bills for floor consideration 5 months ago. So we were ready 5 months ago to bring them up either as individual bills or in a series of minibuses. But instead of finishing Congress's work to fund the government, we are now contemplating putting the government on autopilot by something called a continuing resolution—a short-term continuing resolution that would only last for maybe 3 months.

I am very frustrated about this. It did not have to be this way. As I said, we have worked very constructively on both sides of the aisle and have been cooperating to do our job. We attempted to write bills that meet the needs of the American people—bills related to national security and economic growth and that meet compelling human needs.

For those Republicans who are obstructionists, they really have been setting us back. For those on both sides of the aisle who want to save money, they are actually going to cost us more money by delaying.

So where are we? There is only one bill—the VA-Military Construction bill, which is signed into law. There are 11 other bills left.

Funding for every mission—let's start with the Department of Defense. Our troops are fighting overseas, and we need to support them. There is Federal law enforcement, foreign policy and embassy security, infrastructure, education—from child care to college affordability. So instead of making choices about what to fund, what to cut, we leave these missions on autopilot, spending the same amount as last year on the same items with the same policies. No business operates this way. No family operates this way. It is irresponsible to spend \$1 trillion this way with no thought, delaying important investments, and thus resulting in increasing cost to the taxpayers.

Let me talk about why this really can give you heartburn. Last week, Department of Defense Comptroller Mike McCord warned that a stopgap CR delays ships and weapons our troops need. Hello. Did you hear that? It actually delays the construction of ships and the purchase of weapons our troops need. Without a special provision in the CR, DOD would have to delay planned replacement for their Ohio-class submarines, disrupting contract awards and ultimately delaying production for the length of the CR.

These new subs are necessary. They are the backbone of our nuclear deterrent—our nuclear deterrent. The current ships' nuclear reactors reach the end of their useful lives in the mid-2020s. So this isn't some new whiz-bang thing that might be untried. So without special provisions, other things will be delayed.

What are we trying to do here? We are concerned that people in this country are now facing death from heroin and opioid overdoses. Every Governor in the United States of America has cried out to the Federal Government for help on heroin and opioid overdoses. We have heard on both sides of the aisle advocacy for a comprehensive approach. The problem affects every part of the country—urban and rural—and every socioeconomic category.

Now, our appropriations bill is ready with new spending in law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and education. But in the continuing resolution, we won't get these investments, and more families will suffer. Every leading authority on treatment says when you need it and you are ready to ask for it, you need to get it on the same day. Just as clinicians have to act with urgency, so do we.

What else won't a CR help? It won't help college affordability with full-year Pell grants. It won't bolster security funds for the FBI, for the Border Patrol, for embassy security.

Remember Benghazi? Whoa, when people loved to investigate rather than legislate, Benghazi was in the news. That was at the same time the Congress had cut—particularly, the House had cut—embassy security considerably. But in this bill, working with both sides of the aisle, we were able to come up with the appropriate money for embassy security, border control, and so on.

We also won't have the funds for infrastructure funding, particularly for roads, to improve our ports, and to make our railroads safer.

We won't meet the needs of children—children who are on the march, children who are in desperate need of help in Central America.

I know the other thing we have supported on both sides of the aisle is an innovation agenda, particularly in the area of the medical research of the National Institutes of Health. Hopefully, we are going to be debating the Cures Act, yet right now we have the ability to act with the funding for the National Institutes of Health research and also the great work done at the Department of Defense in research.

All year long I have come to the floor and talked about how appropriations can be used to solve problems, whether it was children exposed to lead in drinking water—the compelling story of Flint, MI. We need to really modernize our water supply. In my own hometown of Baltimore, infrastructure funding could be fantastic. If we replaced the Baltimore water system that was built over 100 years ago, we would improve public health, we would create jobs in Maryland, in Baltimore, and we would leave our communities in a better, safer place by getting the lead out. We need to get the lead out of our water supply, and we need to get the lead out of Congress.

We want to solve problems, create jobs, and protect America. A CR is not

the best way to do it. But if we are going to do a CR, it should be for the shortest time possible.

So let me be clear. Senate Democrats are willing to work across the aisle and across the dome. It is our Republican colleagues who need to think about this long and hard. I really urge that you not spend another half year spinning your wheels and not serving the American people, addressing security needs and compelling human needs.

As I get ready to finish my time in being the ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations, I would like to finish it by working constructively, collegially, and in the best interests of the United States of America to get a real bill across the finish line for the longest time possible. That will provide certainty to Federal agencies that are protecting America and protecting our border while we try to protect American jobs.

There is much ahead and that will lie ahead in the new term and with a new administration. We can act with certainty now for at least the funding for next year if we acted, and we acted with a long-term CR.

I could elaborate on more, but, please, let's do our job. Let's work together. There are still a few days where we could get this done the right way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to conclude my remarks.

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

#### SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 2 years ago the American people entrusted Republicans with the Senate majority. At that time, things were in a bad way here in the Senate. Under Democratic control, the legislative process almost ground to a halt. Important bills weren't getting passed, and those that did get passed were frequently drafted behind closed doors, with Republicans and many rank-and-file Democrats shut out of the process, which, of course, means that the American people's voices were frequently shut out of the process.

When Republicans took control, we knew that getting the Senate working again had to be our first priority, and that is what we did. We opened up debate so Senators from both parties could make their voices heard. We started drafting legislation in committee again so that bills were the result of discussion and compromise instead of being dictated by Democratic Party leaders. And we got the Senate passing real, substantial legislation again—a balanced budget, appropriations bills, the first major Energy bill since the Bush administration, and the first significant education reform since 2002.

I am particularly proud of two bills that the committee I chair, the Commerce Committee, worked on—a Federal Aviation Administration bill with major airport security provisions and the first long-term Transportation bill since 2005.

The terrorist attacks in Brussels and Istanbul that occurred this year broadcast airport security challenges—particularly the soft target offered by large crowds in unsecured airport areas. Those were problems we had been working on in the Commerce Committee for months before the attacks, and in July we passed an FAA bill that addresses them and more. The bill we passed requires the TSA to look at ways to improve security checkpoints to make the passenger screening process more efficient and effective, and it significantly increases the security presence in unsecured areas in airports. It also improves vetting of airport employees to address the insider terrorist threat—the risk that an airport employee would give a terrorist access to secure areas. The Senate passed this bill in July, and the President signed it into law a couple days later. I am proud of this law, which is the kind of substantial legislation we should be passing for the American people.

I am also proud of the Transportation bill we passed, part of which came out of our committee. When Congress fails to provide certainty about the way transportation funding will be allocated, States and local governments are left without the certainty they need to authorize projects or to make long-term plans, important investments in infrastructure that support the economy are shelved, and jobs that depend upon transportation are put in jeopardy. The Transportation bill we passed changes all that. It reauthorizes transportation programs for the long term and provides 5 years of guaranteed funding. That means States and local governments will have the certainty they need to invest in big transportation projects and the jobs they create, and that, in turn, means a stronger economy and a more reliable, safe, and effective transportation system.

I am proud of what we were able to accomplish over the past 2 years, but there is a lot left to be done. Some of the most important measures we passed in the 114th Congress went nowhere, thanks to opposition from the Democrats and the White House—an ObamaCare repeal; legislation to overturn some of the Obama administration's most burdensome regulations; legislation to address the dangerous problem of so-called sanctuary cities, which refuse to work with Federal immigration officials to deport illegal immigrants convicted of crimes. I am hopeful that with a Republican President, we will be able to address these issues and many more in the 115th Congress.

Republicans have big plans for the 115th. If there is one thing this election



made clear, it is that the Obama economy is not working for American families. Republicans are committed to fixing that.

Growing our economy is going to be our No. 1 priority next Congress. There are a number of things we can do to get our economy healthy again. We can reform our Tax Code to reduce the burden on American families and businesses. Right now, our Nation has the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. More and more, American companies are focusing their business operations overseas because the tax situation is so much better abroad. That means American jobs are going overseas with them. We have lost our competitive edge in an increasingly global economy. Instead of pushing corporations out of this country, we should bring our Nation's corporate tax rate in line with those of other countries to keep more jobs here in the United States.

Another big thing we can do is repeal some of the burdensome government regulations that are weighing down businesses. While some government regulations are necessary, every administration has to remember that regulations have consequences. The more resources individuals and businesses spend complying with unnecessary government regulations, the less they have to focus on the growth and innovation that drive our economy and create new opportunities for workers. The overregulation of the last 8 years has left businesses with few resources to dedicate to growing and creating jobs.

Another thing we need to do is address our national debt, which has nearly doubled over the past 8 years. All that debt is a drag on the economy. It slows growth and reduces economic opportunity. It is time to get our government back on a budget.

Another way we can help lift the burden on American families is by repealing and replacing ObamaCare. I don't need to tell anyone that the President's health care law is broken. The promise of lower premiums and affordable health care has given way to the reality of giant premium increases and massive deductibles. A Gallup poll released yesterday found that 80 percent of Americans want major changes to ObamaCare or want the law repealed and replaced completely. It is time to give the American people health care reform that actually works.

Another priority for the 115th Congress will be national security. Americans are rightly worried about the threat posed by terrorist groups like ISIS, which has spread violence and devastation not only in the Middle East but across Europe and beyond. Republicans are committed to defeating ISIS abroad and to keeping Americans safe here at home.

We are also committed to keeping Americans safe by securing our borders. We must have secure borders and policies that encourage legal immigration while discouraging illegal immigration.

There are other priorities we need to address: confirming a Supreme Court nominee who will judge based on the law and the Constitution; protecting religious liberty; and the list goes on.

Republicans are aware of the trust the American people have placed in us, and we are committed to earning it. We are going to spend the 115th Congress fighting for the American people's priorities. We have a real chance to get things done in the next Congress, and I look forward to working with my colleagues here in the Senate on both sides of the aisle to address the challenges that are facing our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to continue in morning business for 10 minutes.

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

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the past 2 years, the Republican Party has enjoyed solid majorities in both the House and Senate. They control the schedule and they control the process. They can decide which legislation to call up for debate, and frankly, for all intents and purposes, they can decide whether anything gets done around here.

A good example is the nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. If he had been treated like all other Supreme Court nominees throughout the entire history of this country in a Presidential election year, he would have received a hearing and a vote, and he almost certainly would have been easily confirmed, just as he was when he was nominated to the DC Court of Appeals. Instead, the Republican leadership did not even give Judge Garland a hearing, much less a vote. Republican Senators refused to do their job. And there are countless examples of this.

It would behoove people in this country who complain about the "do nothing" Congress to remind themselves that Congress is controlled by Republicans in both the House and the Senate. They can make it possible for work to get done if they want to, or they can make it impossible. Their track record for the past 2 years speaks for itself. Instead of a Congress that sets the standard for the world's democracies, we have been treated to a lesson of how not to get things done.

The latest example is the fiscal 2017 appropriations bills. I went back and reviewed the record. For months, the Republican leadership extolled the virtues of regular order, and I totally agreed with them on that. They spoke with great optimism and confidence about passing appropriations bills—in-

dividual bills, not even an omnibus bill that has become the norm. I agreed with the Republican leadership. They said over and over that they were going to do their job this year and pass these bills, the way we used to. We on the Democratic side fully supported Republicans in that goal. We negotiated 12 individual appropriations bills that were reported, with 1 exception, with bipartisan majorities—in most cases, overwhelming majorities—by the Senate Appropriations Committee. That was 5 months ago.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I wrote the fiscal year 2017 State and foreign operations bill. As we always do, we wrote a balanced bill, and it was reported unanimously by the Appropriations Committee by a vote of 30 to 0. Our staffs have been meeting for weeks with their House counterparts to hammer out a conference agreement that the House and Senate can vote on and the President can sign. We could easily be finished by December 9, when the current funding resolution expires.

So what is the problem? It is simple. Donald Trump was elected President, and now the Republican leadership has a different idea. Forget all those uplifting speeches about passing appropriations bills. Forget about so-called regular order. Forget about doing our jobs. What is their new plan? Throw 10 months of work into the trash can. Now we will punt the ball down the field for another 4 months. After that, who knows? Maybe we will do it again and have a continuing resolution for the rest of the year. There is no way to predict.

For Members of Congress who may not be familiar with the intricate operations of Federal agencies and would prefer not to think about it, the idea of another 4-month continuing resolution may not be a big deal. For those of us on both sides of the aisle who do know, it is an example of government at its worst. Funding the government by continuing resolution means putting priorities and budgeting decisions on autopilot. It stops us having any kind of a voice in what our government does. It negates the hard work that has gone into reevaluating priorities from one year to the next. It negates the careful process of looking at Federal agencies account by account to make adjustments as warranted. It means largely making a carbon copy of an earlier appropriations bill or bills regardless of changed circumstances or compelling need to modify earlier priorities.

I can give all kinds of examples in the appropriations bills. Here are a few examples of what it means for the State and foreign operations bill, which comprises only 1 percent of the Federal budget.

A continuing resolution will provide \$433 million less than Senator GRAHAM's and my bill for economic development, governance, and security programs, such as the Power Africa Initiative. It will mean \$59 million less for

programs to counter violent extremism. These programs have strong bipartisan support—and did in the Appropriations Committee—because they are the building blocks for stability where we have critical national security interests that affect all Americans.

A continuing resolution will provide \$162 million less than our bill for global health, including for maternal and child health programs, such as vaccines for children, and to combat malaria and tuberculosis. These programs literally mean life or death for millions of people, which is why they have bipartisan support—or at least they did before the Republican leadership scrapped the appropriations bills that we passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

In fact, one of the things a continuing resolution will do is provide \$454 million less than Senator GRAHAM's and my bill for security for U.S. diplomatic and consular personnel, for security upgrades to U.S. Embassies and facilities overseas, and for cyber security programs.

I mention that because the Republicans in the other body spent tens of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money decrying the lack of security at our embassies, even after they had already voted to cut money for embassy security, and now they are going to cut another \$454 million. Will they stop using their talking points about how we should spend more to protect our diplomats posted overseas? Of course not, because they hope the American people will not pay attention to the fact that they have cut another half billion dollars. When the Republican leadership blames others for not doing enough on security for our embassies and diplomats, as they have a habit of doing, they need to only look at themselves in the mirror.

At the same time, the continuing resolution provides \$538 million more for U.S. contributions to international financial institutions, than the amount Senator GRAHAM and I put in our bill. That is because the 2016 omnibus provided \$220 million for the Strategic Climate and Clean Technology Funds, which is not needed in fiscal year 2017 because the United States will not be contributing to either of those funds in fiscal year 2017.

The balance of \$318 million is not needed because U.S. contributions to several international financial institutions are lower in fiscal year 2017 than in fiscal year 2016. It boggles the mind. They cut money for the security of our diplomats and embassies, but then they spend half a billion dollars for contributions we don't need to make.

In fact, the continuing resolution provides \$161 million more than Senator GRAHAM's and my bill for contributions to international organizations. We don't need to pay that additional amount because of reductions in assessments in exchange rate costs. It would be nice if, instead of wasting this money on things we don't need, we used it to protect our embassies.

The continuing resolution will provide \$90 million more than our bill for assessed contributions to international peacekeeping. Again, we don't need to pay that additional amount because of reductions in several peacekeeping missions.

These are just examples for State and foreign operations. Every appropriations bill has its own laundry list of reasons why a continuing resolution makes no sense. It wastes taxpayer dollars and wreaks havoc for the agencies that run the government.

Continuing resolutions beyond a few months are illogical, wasteful, and harmful. We end up spending less for things both Republicans and Democrats strongly support, and we waste money on things we don't need and nobody wants. It is bad government 101. It is what the Republican leadership 10 months ago said they wanted to avoid, and we all agreed with them. But that was then and this is now. Now it's forget what we said before. We have changed our mind. Let's just put the government on autopilot and waste the money.

I heard Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, denouncing his colleagues for abandoning the regular appropriations process. He knows the problems it will create for the U.S. military.

Senator MIKULSKI, the vice chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, has called it "absolutely outrageous." She called it "procrastinating" instead of "legislating." I agree with her.

Another 4-month continuing resolution is completely unnecessary, not to mention outrageous, wasteful, and irresponsible. It can still be avoided. Speaking for State and foreign operations, we can complete our conference agreement in less than 1 week. We are perfectly willing to work into the evenings to do that. I suspect the other subcommittees could do the same or close to it. Certainly, we could finish these bills before Christmas.

So why don't we? That is what the Republican leadership said they wanted. That is what regular order is. That is how the Congress is supposed to work. We should do it. We ought to show the American people, for once, that we will actually do the job we were elected to do. That is what this Vermonter wants. I would hope others would also.

I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:51 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, are we in a parliamentary procedure to pro-

ceed with commentary on the Senate floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business, with 10-minute grants.

Mr. NELSON. May I be recognized?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

#### NIH FUNDING

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to talk about something we all hear about and generally support—that the National Institutes of Health needs help. It was founded in 1887. Its work and investments in the work of others have led to countless discoveries, including in Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and so many other chronic illnesses.

I visited this 300-acre campus in Bethesda, and it is jam-packed with buildings that are teeming with scientists and physicians. Yet that is just the tip of the iceberg because research is being conducted all over the country—indeed, all over the world—by the medical research grants that are given by NIH. This funded research has led to many discoveries and treatments that not only are allowing us to live healthier lives but also contribute to our knowledge and understanding of how diseases and the human body work. Take, for example, the BRAIN Initiative. NIH seeks to unravel the mysteries of the vastly complex human brain, which could allow us to understand an array of conditions affecting the brain.

When I visited yesterday, I met with Dr. Francis Collins, the head of NIH, and a plethora of his brilliant scientists who are working on neurodegenerative diseases—diseases such as concussions, ALS, Parkinson's, and all the many complicated things that come from this complicated organ called the brain. Well, they are on the verge of some real breakthroughs, but that comes at a cost. Dr. Collins stressed the need for consistent, robust funding for NIH.

In 2003, funding for NIH peaked and has since failed to keep up with inflation. In 2009 we came along with a stimulus bill that increased funding for NIH for only 2 years by approximately \$4 or \$5 billion a year over its base funding of \$24 to \$25 billion a year.

I will never forget when Dr. Collins told us—after the effect of that second year of the stimulus bill—that he had to cease 700 medical research grants sent out to the medical schools and research institutions all across the country because he simply did not have the money they had planned for, and thus there is the call for consistent and robust funding. Dr. Collins mentioned that the agency's biggest concern was a loss of young researchers. As the next generation of researchers are increasingly facing being denied research grants, they are leaving the research field. I don't think that is what this Nation wants. We need to ensure that

NIH maintains a strong pipeline of researchers so that the critical work toward scientific discovery can continue.

This is not a partisan issue. Health and disease research is a bipartisan issue, and so we need to come together to support this consistent and robust funding. Even now, NIH is engaged in developing a prevention tool against the disease that was the dominant conversation last summer—the Zika virus. They are going into their first trials on a vaccine. Zika has affected more than 1,000 people in my State of Florida alone and more than 30,000 people in Puerto Rico. We need a vaccine, but the process of FDA trials takes time.

Now, just to prove that it is not confined to Puerto Rico and Florida, just yesterday the State of Texas reported the first case of locally transmitted Zika virus, which now makes it the second State to officially have local transmission after the State of Florida.

The head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Frieden, said that Zika could become endemic within our U.S. border, making it more important now than ever to have the Zika vaccine. That is just one other little example of what has been going on at NIH.

We are just about to consider a Cures bill, which has some more robust funding. The whole impetus for the Cures bill was NIH funding. A lot of other things had been attached. There is some controversy, but it would begin to authorize funding that would be stable over a 10-year period. If the United States is going to continue to be looked at as the leader of medical research around the world, we are going to have to provide for the funds for this great institution. We have already seen major breakthroughs in our lifetime, and this funding will help us to see some new incredible breakthroughs accomplished. You have heard of the Moonshot for cancer research. Look at the existing victories that have already been had in cancer research. We are now just on the cusp. What about diseases where we don't have a cure, such as ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis?

A big reason for my making this speech is for my friend Evan in Jacksonville. He is afflicted with this disease that affects the body's motor nerves. There is something that happens in the brain that does not send the signals all the way through the neurological system to the motor nerves. We first identified that in a famous baseball player, Lou Gehrig. There are 20,000 to 30,000 people in the country afflicted with this disease. We still don't know the reason for it nor have a cure, but yesterday I talked to three different physician scientists who have very promising leads for identifying a gene that has a direct connection to what happens in the brain when someone has ALS. They are trying to determine whether we could go in and clip out that gene so that our progeny would not have this concern.

We have seen what has happened in Alzheimer's. Did you see the 60 Minutes segment last Sunday in which there is this incredible space in Colombia, near Medellin, within a 100-mile diameter, where so many families get the onset of Alzheimer's during their forties, which is quite unusual. They have now identified a protein in the brain where, if you now know the gene that causes that protein, you could go ahead and alert people of the disease, and even though the effects of Alzheimer's has not come on, that person could start a therapy that would work against that protein in the brain. They are right on the cusp of these kinds of exciting discoveries that can help us to live healthier, longer lives.

I implore my colleagues in the Senate not to short-sheet the NIH and the funding that it so desperately needs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

#### ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss legislation I introduced to eliminate the Electoral College and ensure that the candidate who wins the most votes will be elected President. Clearly, this has nothing to do with this past election. There are recounts going on, and we will see where that goes, but the bottom line is that this looks to the future.

The Presidency is the only office in America where the candidate who wins the most votes can still lose the election. There isn't any elected office in the Nation, be it county, city, State, or national level, where this is true. The person who gets more votes—one person, one vote—wins, but that is not true in the Presidential election.

I realized how little sense this made many years ago, but when I tried to explain it to my grandkids after this election, they said: Grandma, who won? Well, I told them, Donald Trump. Well, wait a minute, didn't Mrs. Clinton get more votes? Yes.

What if we did that in sports? I am a major basketball fan. What if the team that got the most points didn't win? What if that happened? What would people think? Well, why not? Well, because not everybody on the team touched the ball, therefore—even though they won by 40 points—they don't win.

This doesn't make sense. This is an outdated system that does not reflect democracy, and it violates the principle of one person, one vote. Every single American, regardless of what State they live in, should be guaranteed that their individual vote matters. Throughout our great history, we have had—this is the 45th President—five elections where the winner of the general election did not win the popular vote, but in our lifetime it has happened twice. We have had two in the last 16 years, and so it really needs to be addressed. This is more than an

anomaly. It looks like it could happen one way or the other. We don't know if a Republican or a Democrat gets seated.

Right now, Hillary Clinton's lead in the popular vote is 2.3 million votes. It is expected that she will win by probably more than 2.7 million votes. That would be more than the votes cast in Alaska, Delaware, Washington, DC, Hawaii, Vermont, and the Dakotas combined. We are not talking about a few votes; we are talking about 2.7 million votes—more than the votes cast in Alaska, Delaware, Washington, DC, Hawaii, Vermont, and the Dakotas combined. Clinton would have won the popular vote by a wider margin than not only Al Gore in 2000, but Richard Nixon in 1968 and John Kennedy in 1960.

In 2012 Donald Trump said, "The electoral college is a disaster for democracy." I couldn't agree more. I don't agree with too much of what Donald Trump says, but I sure agree with that. He said, "The electoral college is a disaster for democracy."

After the election, his views did not change:

"You know, I'm not going to change my mind just because I won. But I would rather see it where you went with simple votes."

These are all quotes of his.

"You know, you get 100 million votes and somebody else gets 90 million votes and you win."

After he said that, I think his advisers went a little nuts because by the next morning, he tweeted that the electoral college system was "actually genius." Then he also tweeted this, which was very interesting: "If the election were based on the total popular vote, I would have campaigned in New York, Florida, and California and won even bigger and more easily."

OK. Maybe that is true. Maybe that is true. His point is well-taken.

Presidential candidates should campaign in every single State. Actually, if we got rid of the electoral college, candidates would have to campaign in every State because the vote of every American would matter regardless of where they live. If you get all the popular vote in one State, you will add to your popular vote at the end.

According to [nationalpopularvote.com](http://nationalpopularvote.com), 94 percent of campaigning by the Presidential candidates in 2016 took place in 12 States—12 States. That was it. Two-thirds of these general election campaign events took place in six States.

In 2015 Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin said: "The nation as a whole is not going to elect the next president. Twelve states are." Just think about that. "The nation as a whole is not going to elect the next president."

He was right when he said that in 2015. He was right.

So what message does that send to the people who live in the populous States, like my State, where 39 million Americans live? What message does that send to the 27 million Americans who live in Texas? What message does

that send to the smaller States, like North Dakota and Rhode Island, where the candidates don't even bother to campaign for the votes because they are either blue or red? They are not purple, so they don't matter. No wonder voter turnout was just 58 percent in this election. Too many Americans don't believe their vote matters because they are told: Oh, you live in a red State. It is going to Trump. Even if you are for Trump, just stay home.

It is ridiculous. Maybe that person really wanted to vote, but they are convinced that if they live in a bright red State like Alabama, they don't have to vote because it is going for Trump, and if they are for Hillary Clinton and they live in a reliably blue State, they may think: Well, you know what, I am not interested. Why should I bother? My State is blue. What is the difference?

So we have a 58-percent voter turnout. It is altogether ridiculous. Political science experts agree that too many Americans feel their vote doesn't count. It just doesn't count.

Listen to Doug McAdam, professor of sociology at Stanford University, who asked, "What about all those citizens who live in noncompetitive states?"

He makes my point:

"Consider the loyal Republican who lives in California or the stalwart Mississippi Democrat? Every four years, voting for them is an exercise in political powerlessness, at least when it comes to the presidential race."

What is the difference? Hillary is going to win by so much. Don't worry about it.

But if we were using the popular vote, believe me, every Republican would get out and every Democrat would get out and every Independent would get out because their vote would count.

Every 4 years, a lot of people in different States feel their vote doesn't matter. They feel powerless when it comes to the Presidential race—the only race in the country where the winner doesn't win, maybe. The winner doesn't win. It is crazy. I looked all over to find another example where this is true; it is not true.

William Crotty, professor emeritus of political science at Northeastern University, said that the electoral college "has never worked well. The fact is that it is a terrible system that has no place in an age where democracy is ascendant. It continues to exist from sheer inertia and the protection of entrenched power. It has little to do with democracy."

Well, everybody knows I didn't run again for the Senate. I have a fabulous replacement coming. But I did drop this bill to do away with the electoral college because I am still a Senator, I am still here, and I will be darned if I am going to let this thing pass.

Listen to a professor of law at Fordham University, John Feerick:

"Not only have reasons for the Electoral College long since vanished but the institu-

tion has not fulfilled the design of the framers. Today it represents little more than an archaic and undemocratic counting device. There is no good reason for retaining such a formula of electing the president of the United States."

Well, I also saw a poll which shows that 62 percent of the people in this country, regardless of party, think we should do away with it and go to a system where the winner wins. How unique—the winner wins and the loser loses. That is the way it should be in the greatest democracy in the country.

Try explaining this to your kids and grandkids. I am telling you, if they are about 11 or 12, explain what happened.

I know changing the system won't be easy. I have been around a long time. I have spent more than half of my life in politics in elected office. So we understand that the legislation would need to be enacted by Congress and would only take effect after being ratified by three-quarters of the States within 7 years after its passage. This is very difficult. This is a constitutional amendment. So I am not naive, and I understand what we are talking about.

But there is another way to address this; it is called the National Popular Vote plan. It would guarantee that the Presidential candidate who wins the most votes would win the election and be the President, whether it is Donald Trump getting the most votes or Hillary Clinton getting the most votes, et cetera. All it requires is for enough States to act. It is an interstate compact where the States would agree to award their electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who wins the popular vote.

So in California, where we have a number of electoral votes, if Donald Trump wins, they go to Donald Trump regardless of how our State voted. In other words, the votes are counted and then the States give their electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote—pretty simple. So you still have the electoral college, but the result is that the votes are given to the person who wins the national popular vote. The agreement takes effect only once the participating States together hold a majority of electoral votes; that is, 270 out of 538 electoral votes.

So far, the National Popular Vote bill has been enacted into law by 10 States and the District of Columbia, adding up to 165 electoral votes. The legislation has been introduced in every State in the country, and it has support on both sides of the aisle because electing the person who wins is the democratic way.

Trump supporter Newt Gingrich wrote a letter in 2014 endorsing the idea. He wrote:

"No one should become president of the United States without speaking to the needs and hopes of Americans in all 50 States. . . . America would be better served with a presidential election process that treated citizens across the country equally."

Former Republican Congressman Bob Barr said:

"Only when the election process is given back to all of the people of all the states will

we be able to choose a President based on what is best for all 50 states and not just a select few."

I will make a point that I don't agree with Newt Gingrich on pretty much anything except this. This is rare. Newt Gingrich said Medicare should wither on the vine. He called Democrats traitors. Believe me, I served with him, I know. And his ethical standards don't meet what I think the standards should be. But setting that aside, here we are on the same side.

"No one should become president of the United States without speaking to the needs and hopes of Americans in all 50 States. . . . America would be better served with a presidential election process that treats citizens across the country equally."

I urge my colleagues to take a close look at the legislation I have introduced, and I urge State legislators and Governors around the country to take a close look at the National Popular Vote bill.

Again, I am going to be honest, it is really hard to pass a constitutional amendment. I am not naive about it. But to pass a law in various States isn't that hard. That should be done. The American people can help. I ask them to call their Senators and Members of Congress about our bill. There is a bill in the House being introduced by CHARLIE RANGEL to do away with the electoral college—very simple—and just let the popular vote stand. Ask them to sign on to this bill, but don't stop there. Write and call your representatives in the State house and push for your State to sign on to the interstate compact.

A lot of people have come up to me after this election and said: You know, I don't feel my voice is heard, period.

This is one of the reasons. Well, make your voice heard on either getting rid of the electoral college or the State compact where the State would give its votes to the winner of the national popular vote.

Voting is the cornerstone of democracy. We have had men and women through the decades die for the right to vote. Many generations of Americans of every gender, race, religion, and ideology have marched and struggled and died to secure this fundamental freedom. Yet we have a system where the winner can lose.

We owe it to the American people who have given so much for the right to vote to make sure that every vote matters and every vote counts. We owe it to them to ensure that the vote of a citizen in my State is worth the same as a vote of someone in a swing State. We owe it to every Republican voter and every Democratic voter and every Independent voter, every Green Party voter—whatever the party—to have that vote count. One person, one vote is the cornerstone of democracy.

By making this critical change where the winner of the popular vote wins and every citizen's vote counts regardless of who they are, where they live, whether they are a Republican, Democrat, or a decline-to-state or Green or

whatever party they choose, we would then be engaging voters in every single State. We will lift voter turnouts. We will ensure that every Presidential candidate speaks to the needs of Americans in every State and every region. We will ensure equal representation for all.

You know, sometimes I come down here and I talk about issues that are very controversial. I must tell you, if you ask anyone on the street "Do you think the winner of the popular vote should win the Presidency?" I would say a very strong majority would say "Of course." If you ask them "Do you know of any office in the land, whether it is Governor, mayor, supervisor, city council, sewer board, sanitation district, you name it, where the winner doesn't win?" they will say "No, I can't think of any." You know what, there are none. So why not do the simple thing and the right thing and the just thing and make sure that the winner of the popular vote is sworn in as our President. I think this will be a huge boon for every single voter in this greatest of all countries.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### IRAN SANCTIONS EXTENSION BILL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I noticed the majority leader has given us all notice that, after consultation with the Democratic leader, he intends to bring up the Iran Sanctions Act, H.R. 6297. I point out that this legislation passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 419 to 1.

It is legislation that would extend the Iran Sanctions Act that was passed by this Congress that is set to expire at the end of this year. Let me repeat that. The Iran Sanctions Act, which was enacted originally in 1996—if no action is taken before the end of December, that sanction authorization legislation would expire.

This is our last opportunity to extend the Iran Sanctions Act before it is scheduled to expire at the end of December. It was passed in 1996 by a unanimous vote of this body. Its goal was to deny Iran the ability to be able to have financial support for its nuclear proliferation. Congress had passed several bills that provided sanction opportunities by the administration to impose sanctions in order to get Iran to change its behavior, its illegal activities in pursuing a nuclear weapon, which was against U.S. security interests, destabilizing for the entire region, threatened Israel, threatened the neighboring states. It was, I think, the unanimous view of our body that we had to take whatever steps were possible to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon power.

The legislation we passed, including the Iran Sanctions Act, allowed the Obama administration to move forward with sanctions against Iran, and they rigorously enforced the sanctions they

imposed. I want to acknowledge the work done by the Obama administration in enforcing those sanctions that we gave our authorization to impose.

But the Obama administration went further than that. They then garnered international support to also impose and support the sanctions that we had imposed in the United States, which was strong enough to get Iran to recognize that they had to come to the negotiating table. Clearly, the sanctions were the motivating factor that allowed for the negotiations of the nuclear agreement that was agreed to 2 years ago.

This legislation is pretty simple. It extends for 10 years the Iran Sanctions Act that was used by the administration and in which we have a temporary—we have relief granted under that law as long as Iran is in compliance with the nuclear agreement. The nuclear agreement, JCPOA, specifically provides for the snapback of sanctions in the event that Iran violates the provisions of the agreement.

In order to have snapbacks, you have to have the sanction regime in place. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to extend the sanction authorization. This does not impose any new sanctions on Iran. That it does not. It is not in violation of the JCPOA. It just allows us to have effective enforcement to make sure Iran complies with their commitments. I want to underscore that point. During the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, I had a chance to ask the administration's witness, Secretary Lew, that specific question. I asked Secretary Lew—this question was asked July 23, 2015. I said to the witness:

The Iran Sanctions Act expires at the end of 2016. We will still be in the JCPOA a period of time where snapback of sanctions is a viable hedge against Iran's cheating. Congress may well want to extend that law so that power is available immediately if Iran were to violate the agreement. Is that permitted under the JCPOA?

The answer from Secretary Lew:

I think that if it is on expiration, it is one thing. If it is well in advance, it is another. I think the idea of coming out of the box right now is very different from what you would do when it expires.

Well, we are doing exactly what the administration asked us to do. We have held off for over—now it has been over 15 months, 16 months that we have held off before we have taken action to extend the Iran Sanctions Act. If we don't take action now, the authority given by Congress in the 1996 act, which would empower the snapbacks if needed, would not be available. So it is timely for us to act. It is totally consistent with the JCPOA and is not at all inconsistent with our responsibilities under that legislation.

I think, though, that we should have a little bit of a discussion as to what we do moving forward. I should point out that the Iran Sanctions Act, H.R. 6297, is identical to S. 3281, legislation I filed with 19 of my colleagues earlier this year. So I think this enjoys strong

bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Now, looking forward—I did not support the JCPOA. I did not support that agreement for various reasons, but it went into effect. I must tell my colleagues, I think it would be tragic if the United States unilaterally walked away from the Iran nuclear agreement. What that would do is give the ability to Iran to pursue a nuclear weapons program without inspectors on the ground to let us know what they were doing. They would be able to pursue that, knowing full well that the international community would not be unified in regard to sanctions against Iran. Yes, we would impose sanctions, but our allies around the world would no longer be obligated to follow that, since it was the United States pulling out of the agreement.

Many of those countries already have arrangements, and it would be very difficult to see that they would follow U.S. leadership. In fact, one of the adverse impacts of the United States walking away from the Iran agreement would be that we would lose our standing as an international leader, bringing the international community together to isolate Iran. Instead, we would be isolating the United States. That is not in our national security interest.

So what should we do? Well, as I said earlier, the first step is to pass H.R. 6297 so that we have all of the tools in place. Secondly, let us all join together to rigorously enforce the Iran agreement, the JCPOA. We need to do that. We need to make sure that every part of that agreement is adhered to, including making sure Iran never becomes a nuclear weapons state. We need to continue the use of sanctions on Iran's nonnuclear nefarious activities.

They are still a sponsor of terrorism. We all know that. I was recently in the Middle East. I had a chance to talk to a lot of our strategic partners. They tell me about Iran's activities in their region, how they are supporting efforts to destabilize other sovereign states in the Middle East. They are supporting terrorism.

We also know that they have expanded their ballistic program. That is in contravention to their international obligations. We can impose sanctions and continue to strengthen sanctions against Iran in regard to those activities. They are violating the human rights of the citizens of their own country. We can take actions there.

There are areas where we can continue to work with the international community to deal with Iran's nefarious activities. We should do that. I would just call to my colleagues' attention that several—actually in October of 2015, I introduced S. 2119, along with several of my colleagues, so that the Congress would be in a better position to carry out rigorous enforcement of the JCPOA and to take on Iran, working with our partners, in regard to their other activities.

It provides more information to the Congress on how the sanction relief resources are being used by Iran so that we can track the money. If they use it to support terrorism against the United States or they use it against our interests, we would be able to know about that and take action.

It provides for expedited considerations if Iran commits these types of violations. It makes it very clear that we will continue to work on a regional security strategy so that our partners in the region know that the United States will continue to be on their side against the aggression that we have seen from the Iran regime. To me, that is the responsible action for us to take in order to carry out what should be U.S. leadership in isolating Iran, getting it to change its behavior, recognizing that it has been a major problem for the security of the United States in the region, and we must continue to be actively engaged.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for such time as I may require.

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

#### 21ST CENTURY CURES BILL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, tomorrow the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on a piece of legislation that many in this body on both sides of the aisle have worked on and that the majority leader of the Senate has described as the single most important piece of legislation that will pass this year. We call it the 21st Century Cures Act, and it includes three mental health reform acts—the most significant reforms in mental health programs in 10 years.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks the more than 200 organizations from all across the country supporting the 21st Century Cures legislation.

Why would the majority leader say it is the most important legislation the Senate might act on—because we do a lot of important stuff around here, whether it is Defense authorization, whether it is cyber security, whether it is the bill to fix No Child Left Behind that we passed in a bipartisan way last December. I think it is because this legislation will affect virtually every American family because we are entering the most exciting period of medical research in our country. That is the first part of it.

The second part, which has to do with mental health, affects so many

families. We know that about one out of every five adult Americans suffers from some form of mental illness. This concentrates a large amount of money we actually spend on mental health programs every year from the Federal Government and spends it in a more effective way to actually help people.

In the next few minutes, I would like to acquaint the Senate again with how we have gone about this and remind Senators of how many of us have had a hand in this legislation. It is a remarkable 2 years of work that has involved many, many, many hearings, dozens of meetings, and that has been done in a large committee of 22 Senators of very different points of view in a largely bipartisan way.

I will summarize. The first thing I would mention, the legislation includes \$6.3 billion of funding and \$1 billion of that is for State opioid grants. Whether it is Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island or Senator AYOTTE and Senator PORTMAN, probably most Senators of this body have seen on the front pages of their newspapers the tragedies of opioid abuse. I know that is true in Tennessee. This bill helps in two ways. The most immediate way is to provide State grants—Federal dollars to go to States—over the next 2 years to help States fight opioid abuse.

The other way it helps, when we get to the part about 21st Century Cures, is that Dr. Francis Collins, head of the National Institutes of Health—Dr. Collins calls it the “National Institutes of Hope”—says that one of the groundbreaking discoveries we expect to happen in this country is a non-addictive pain medicine. The problem with opioids is, they are addictive. Now, people need it. If you have a back surgery or if you have terrible pain, opioids can help people. We know that, but it is addictive and it is causing problems. What if we had non-addictive pain medicine? So this bill helps that in two ways.

There is other funding in this legislation: \$4.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health. The first 1.8 billion of that is for Cancer Moonshot. This is Vice President BIDEN’s initiative. He is motivated for many reasons by it. His son died of cancer. Many of us have family members or friends with cancer. There are startling discoveries going on in cancer today. This is \$1.8 billion in support of the Vice President’s Cancer Moonshot.

Then there is \$1.4 billion for the Precision Medicine Initiative. This is one of President Obama’s most important initiatives. I know he has said that very realistically he expects it to happen anyway, but he would like to move it along. This helps move it along. What this means is that if the Senator from Oklahoma and I each have a disease, that because of our genetic background, the medicine we might get for that disease should be different. If we know that genetic difference between the two of us, the doctor can prescribe for it. That is called personalized medicine or precision medicine.

Then there is \$1.6 billion for the BRAIN Initiative. This includes groundbreaking research in Alzheimer’s, for example. I talked to one drug manufacturer that has spent more than \$1 billion trying to develop a medicine that will help identify Alzheimer’s before it shows symptoms and then another medicine that will slow the progression of Alzheimer’s. Imagine what could happen in our country if, for the tens of millions of Americans who are going to suffer with Alzheimer’s, we could find that out before they actually have the symptoms and we can then slow down the progression of Alzheimer’s. Think of the suffering that would help avoid. Think of the billions of dollars it would save. This is for that kind of research. Dr. Collins says that during this next 10 years, he expects that we will be able to identify individuals at high risk for Alzheimer’s before any symptoms appear and provide them with effective medicines to slow or prevent the disease.

It also includes \$500 million for the Food and Drug Administration to help pay for the extra work we are giving the FDA.

One Senator was on the floor talking about this bill and suggested this isn’t enough money. Let’s talk about money just a minute. The United States spends more on biomedical research and development than Europe, Japan, and China—almost as much as those three put together. There has nevertheless been a real need for increased funding for the kinds of things I just mentioned, but the way we do things here is, we have authorization bills, which this is, where we decide what our policies and our programs are going to be. Some of us are on those committees—like the committee I chair, and of which Senator MURRAY of Washington is the ranking Democrat, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee in this case. Then we have Appropriations Committees that decide how much we can afford to spend on that. We do that separately.

Last year, this Congress, a Republican majority, I would point out—but Senator BLUNT, chairman of the Appropriations Committee for the Senate, would quickly give Senator MURRAY, the ranking Democrat, full credit—added \$2 billion to the National Institutes of Health budget for 1 year. That means \$20 billion over 10 years. This year, the same Republican Congress, with the cooperation of the Democratic Members, added another \$2 billion to the National Institutes of Health budget. That is another \$20 billion over 10 years. The Cures legislation that I have just described is another \$5 billion. So that—20, 20, and 5—adds up to 45 billion new dollars approved. The first \$20 billion is law, the second \$20 billion has just been approved by the Appropriations Committees—hopefully it will become law—and the \$5 billion I just described. Now, that is real money.

It is unusual to find an appropriations bill stuck on an authorization



bill, but we have done it this time because this is an unusual opportunity, and we have done it in a way that Speaker RYAN and the House of Representatives believe is fiscally responsible. That means it doesn't add any new mandatory spending. That kind of spending has the budget going through the roof so it doesn't do that. It means it is paid for. That means we have reduced other spending to pay for it. When we look at the entire budget, it doesn't add a penny to the entire budget—we call it the discretionary plus the mandatory part—because it is paid for by reducing other spending.

We have set priorities, we have done our job, and the Appropriations Committee has done its job in consecutive years, approving \$20 billion more over 10 years for the National Institutes of Health and will add another 5 here just to the National Institutes of Health.

Let's talk about the bipartisan nature of this bill. I am going to go through this fairly quickly, but for those watching, I think it is important to see this because sometimes when bills are popular—and I think this one will be popular. Everyone says: Well, that is easy. Tomorrow, the House of Representatives will vote on the 21st Century Cures bill. It includes the mental health bill—that I will describe in just a minute. I think it will be on suspension, which means they expect a big vote over there. I expect a big vote over here because I don't expect many Senators would want to vote no on a \$1 billion grant program that will fight opioid abuse in their home State. I don't think there will be a lot of Senators who want to vote no on more money to fight cancer and to help the Vice President with the Cancer Moonshot. I suspect there will be a lot of Senators who want to vote yes to help the President advance his precision medicine legacy. I know there are families affected by Alzheimer's all over the country who hope Senators vote yes on the BRAIN Initiative. I imagine we will get a big vote when it comes up next Monday and Tuesday, after the House passes it tomorrow, but as we put this bill together, there was plenty of controversy, there was plenty of conflict, but virtually everything we did was bipartisan.

The money I just described is certainly bipartisan—the President's initiative, the Vice President's initiative, the opioid initiative. That is bipartisan, but look at the bills we are talking about.

Here is one called the Advanced Targeted Therapies, which allows researchers to use their own data from previously approved therapies to help find a faster treatment for serious genetic diseases—Senator BENNET, Democrat; Senator WARREN, Democrat; Senator BURR, Republican; Senator HATCH, Republican—and it passed by voice vote.

I am very quickly going to go through 19 different bills that are the core of the 21st Century Cures legisla-

tion. They came out of our committee which has 22 Members, and the largest number of recorded votes against any one of those 19 bills was two because every single one of these bills had a Democratic sponsor and a Republican sponsor, except for one, and that was Senator MURRAY's bill, and she is the ranking Democrat on our committee. So don't let anyone suggest that a bill that has \$6.3 billion of appropriations, that include Democratic priorities and bipartisan priorities, and the core of it is 19 bills of FDA and NIH reform that has a Democratic sponsor for every single bill and that was approved by a 22-member committee and only had two recorded votes against it—was the most that was against it—don't let anybody say this is not a bipartisan bill. Anyone who says that simply hasn't spent the time to be involved in the process.

Let's go to the next one.

BURR and FRANKEN, Republican and Democrat, FDA Device Accountability. It will bring innovative devices like artificial knees and insulin pumps to patients more quickly by getting rid of unnecessary regulations.

One of the major things we need to do—and we do it in this bill—is to bring cures and discoveries through the regulatory process more quickly and at less cost. All of us are concerned about the price of drugs. One factor contributing to that cost is that it takes a billion dollars and 13 or 15 years to take a new discovery through the process. We would like to shorten that process as long as we can do it in a way that ensures that it is safe.

The next one is called the Next Generation Researchers Act—Senator BALDWIN, Democrat; Senator COLLINS, Republican. It improves opportunities for our young researchers. It was passed by voice vote. That means there was no objection.

The next one is called the Enhancing Rehabilitation Research at the National Institutes of Health—KIRK, Republican; BENNET, Democrat; HATCH, Republican; MURKOWSKI, Republican; Republicans ISAKSON and COLLINS. Enhancing Rehabilitation Research was passed by voice vote.

Neurological Diseases Research. Here we have ISAKSON and MURPHY, Republican and Democrat, advancing Research for Neurological Diseases.

The next one has to do with superbugs and protecting patients. You know about these. You get an infection, and you take a medicine to treat it, but the medicine doesn't work because the infection is a superbug. This bill will clarify that the FDA requires cleaning and validation data for reusable medical devices. In other words, this will make it less likely that will be a problem. That is Senator MURRAY's bill.

Improving Health IT. This is about electronic health records. The government has spent a huge amount of money on that, over \$32 billion, including hospitals and doctors to adopt elec-

tronic medical records. It is very important to precision medicine, to personalized medicine, because if you can't use all this data, a doctor is not going to prescribe something for the Senator from Oklahoma that is different from something for the Senator from Tennessee.

We found that the electronic medical records system was a mess. We had six hearings on it, and we worked with the Obama administration because they could do some things to fix it and we could do some things to fix it. I thank Secretary Burwell in the Obama administration—I thank her and Andy Slavitt at CMS for the efforts they have made to do what they could do. And these are the things that we could do. Senator MURRAY was involved, Senator CASSIDY, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator HATCH, Senator BENNET. It was a bipartisan effort to reduce physician documentation burden—electronic health records to make it more interoperable and to get this system moving again.

Advancing Breakthrough Medical Devices. One of the great successes we have had in legislation was a few years ago when Senator BENNET and Senator BURR, among others, introduced a bill and made it law that brought breakthrough medicines through the Food and Drug Administration more rapidly. More than 49 have been approved and 464 requests for breakthrough designation in about 4 or 5 years. We are applying that same breakthrough strategy to medical devices. Of course, we have bipartisan support for that.

The Advancing Hope Act. If you are a parent of a child with a rare disease, such as brain cancer, this increases the opportunity that the drugs will help.

Medical Electronic Data Technology. We had Senator BENNET, Democrat; Senator HATCH, Republican.

Medical Countermeasure Innovation Act. This is very important. Senators BURR and CASEY have been real leaders in dealing with medical countermeasures. These are in case there is a bioterror attack, anthrax—some kind of man-made or naturally-occurring problem like that. Are we ready to deal with that? This helps to do that.

There are just a few more. Some will say: Why are you going on for so long? Because I would like for people to know when it happens that this Senate is capable of taking a great big, complex subject, and Democrats and Republicans are capable of working together to produce a result that deserves a big vote.

The Combination Products Innovation Act. This helps to bring to the market a products that are made up of medical devices and medicines.

There is a bill by WICKER, BENNET, COLLINS, KLOBUCHAR, ISAKSON, and FRANKEN on Patient Focused Impact Assessment.

There is one to modernize the FDA workforce. Dr. Califf told us that his biggest problem at the FDA is that he can't hire all the people he needs to deal with all of the exciting things

going on. This gives him new authority to do that. Everybody thinks that would be an important thing to do. It was approved by voice vote.

Advancing Precision Medicine. This is legislation that I introduced and supported the President's Precision Medicine Initiative, which I have talked about before.

There is other legislation that went through. The point of all of this is that 19 different bills are the core of this 21st Century Cures Act. The most recorded number of votes against this bill was two, and every single one was sponsored by a Democrat as well as a Republican, except for one, which was Senator MURRAY's bill. She is the ranking Democrat on the committee.

In conclusion, we are fortunate to be able to add to the bill the Mental Health Reform Act. Actually, we include three mental health bills, and together they make up the most significant reform of mental health programs that we have had in more than a decade. I want to give particular credit to Senator MURPHY, Democrat, and to Senator CASSIDY, Republican, for working together through some real landmines to get this to a place where it can pass the House almost unanimously and where it will be a part of the bill that we will vote on next week.

I want to thank the majority whip, Senator CORNYN, who also added an important judicial part to this legislation and helped us navigate some difficult issues. In other words, these Senators showed that they know how to legislate. They could have stood up and made a speech. They could have insisted on doing things exactly their way, but they said to look for the area where we might agree on 80 percent of the bill and let's agree that.

This is one of those bills. Look at the number of Republicans and Democrats who have passed that. Here is the second mental health bill we are talking about. You can see the number of Senators. I have taken some time to go through the legislation that will be coming to the Senate early next week and that will be voted on tomorrow in the House of Representatives. I do think it likely represents, as the majority leader has suggested, the most important piece of legislation that we could act on this year. Because it affects virtually every American family, *Forbes* magazine reported that 78 percent of the American people favored Congress taking action on medical innovation because they have heard people like Dr. Francis Collins, the head of the National Institutes of Health, talk about within the next 10 years having a Zika vaccine and HIV/AIDS vaccine, identifying Alzheimer's before symptoms appear and slow its progression, an artificial pancreas for those with diabetes, and a non-addictive type of pain medicine.

These are magnificent opportunities for us. We have strong leadership at the National Institutes of Health. We have put our money where our mouth

is. It is true that we will have to approve it every year, and it is true that we had to reduce other spending in order to have this spending, but that is the way we are supposed to do things.

What we have done is take a bipartisan core of bills; we worked hard for two years in a bipartisan way and produced a result that had very few "no" votes along the way. It includes Democratic priorities as well as Republican priorities. It has the avid interest of the Democratic President of the United States, the Democratic Vice President of the United States. It is a part of the agenda forward in health care for the Republican Speaker of the House, and the Republican majority leader in the Senate says it is the most important bill we are going to act on.

I would think that would get a big vote tomorrow in the House, and I would think it deserves a big vote in the U.S. Senate next week. It has been my privilege to work with Senator MURRAY and the other members of the Committee on Health, Education, and Labor to produce the bill.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING 21ST CENTURY CURES

IBM, Premier Healthcare Alliance, American Society of Clinical Oncology, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, Alliance of Specialty Medicine, Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities/Association of American Universities, United for Medical Research; Epstein Becker Green on behalf of: Coalition for CLIA Waiver Reform, Advanced Medical Technology Association, National Coalition of STD Directors, Abbott, Alere, Becton Dickinson & Company, BioFire Diagnostics, ChemBio Diagnostic Systems, Roche Diagnostics, Sekisui Diagnostics, Spartan Bioscience, TearLab Corporation.

Coalition of 217 rare disease foundations: AKU Society of North America, Alpha-1 Foundation, ALS Association, Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood Foundation, American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA), American Brain Tumor Association, American Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Support (AMEN Support), Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD), Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Inc. (AGMD), Association for Glycogen Storage Disease, Batten Disease Support and Research Association, BCC Nevus Syndrome Life Support Network, BRBN Alliance, Children's PKU Network.

Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, Chromosome Disorder Outreach Inc., Cicatricial Alopecia Research Foundation, Council For Bile Acid Deficiency Diseases, CureCADASIL (CADASIL Association Inc.), CureCMD, Cure HHT, Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation, The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation, Inc., Dystonia Advocacy Network, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa research association of America (debra of America), The Erythromelalgia Association, Everylife Foundation for Rare Diseases, Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc., Foundation for Prader-Willi Research, Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne (FED), Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance

(FARA), GBS/CIDP Foundation International, The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders, The Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation, Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network Inc., Histiocytosis Association, HLRCC Family Alliance, The Huntington's Disease Society of America, HypoPARathyroidism Association, Immune Deficiency Foundation, Indian Organization for Rare Disorders, The International Advocate for Glycoprotein Storage Diseases, International FOP Association, International Foundation for CDKL5 Research, International Myeloma Foundation, International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation (IPPF), International WAGR Syndrome Association, Jack McGovern Coats' Disease Foundation, Kennedy's Disease Association, LAL Solace, The Life Raft Group, Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance, The Marfan Foundation, MEBO Research, MitoAction, Moebius Syndrome Foundation, The Morgan Leary Vaughan Fund.

Mucopolidosis Type IV Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), The Myositis Association, National Adrenal Diseases Foundation, National Alopecia Areata Foundation, National Ataxia Foundation, National Eosinophilia Myalgia Syndrome Network, National Lymphedema Network (NLN), National MPS Society, National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), National PKU Alliance, National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc. (NTSAD), NBIA Disorders Association, NephCure Kidney International, Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation, Neurofibromatosis Network, The Oley Foundation, Organic Acidemia Association, Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation, Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD), Parents and Researchers Interested in Smith-Magenis Syndrome (PRISMS), PKD Foundation, Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA), PRP Alliance, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, RASopathies Network USA, Rett Syndrome Research Trust, Scleroderma Foundation, Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Sturge-Weber Foundation, Tarlov Cyst Disease Foundation, Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, United Leukodystrophy Foundation, The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, US Hereditary Angioedema Association, Vasculitis Foundation, VHL Alliance, Williams Syndrome Association, Wilson Disease Association, Worldwide Syringomyelia & Chiari Task Force, XLH Network.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier this year the Republican leadership made a somewhat controversial decision, but when you think about it, it shouldn't have been all that controversial. It was to allow the American people, by their selection for the next President of the United States, to express their views about who ought to be

nominated to the vacancy left by the untimely death of Justice Antonin Scalia. This is not an easy decision, but the fact remains that the Supreme Court considers rules on some of the most pressing, challenging questions of our time. It does some very important things, such as interpreting the Constitution. They are the final word. It also guarantees liberty by the separation of powers and enforcing the Bill of Rights and the like.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Supreme Court affects the lives of every man, woman, and child in our country, and it is obviously a truism that the people who occupy those seats will have a very clear impact on the future direction of not only the Court but our country.

We have to consider lifetime appointments carefully. As Justice Scalia liked to say during his lifetime, why in the world should people trust non-elected judges to make value judgments and in so doing, substitute their judgment for the views of the duly elected Members of Congress who represent the American people and who are politically accountable? That is why he said judges ought to take a rather limited role, or view of their role, under the Constitution. I agree with him.

The role of the judiciary is not to say what the law should be but, rather, what the law actually is. Unfortunately, we know the Supreme Court of the United States has become such a controversial place in large part because of its tendency to substitute its value judgments for those of the American people or to read into the Constitution words that nobody found in the last 200 years, but miraculously somehow they sprung up with new meaning, resulting in the creation of a new constitutional life that nobody ever dreamed existed before.

It is true that the Supreme Court plays an essential function in our government, and there was simply too much at stake not to let the American people, through their selection of the next President, have a say. Well, suffice it to say, 3 weeks removed from election day, it is clear that we heard their voice. I think by the selection of Donald Trump as the next President of the United States, the American people clearly realized that even though the Supreme Court wasn't on the ballot, the person who selected the next Supreme Court Justice—perhaps the next two or three—was clearly on the ballot, and there was a clear difference between those choices. I think people realized that Secretary Clinton would likely appoint more judges in the tradition of people like Justice Ginsburg and Justice Sotomayor, people who demonstrated their record of being willing to take some license with the Constitution and the laws and basically rewrite them in their own image.

I think the American people knew they were choosing between activist judges who essentially operated as un-

accountable, unelected legislators wearing black robes or judges who believed in the more traditional role for the judiciary—judges who actually interpret the written words on the page passed by the Congress and signed into law or the Constitution itself. I believe that is how our Founding Fathers intended our separation of powers to work.

The judiciary is not supposed to be a substitute for Congress and the political branches; it is supposed to represent a check and balance to make sure that the laws that are passed do not violate the Constitution as written and that the laws that are passed are faithfully enforced according to the words in the statute.

I, for one, look forward to considering President-Elect Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court in due time. Since I have been in the Senate, I have had the privilege of participating in the nomination and confirmation of four Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. As members of the Judiciary Committee, we are at ground zero in that process, and I know Chairman GRASSLEY is already preparing, along with members of the committee, to receive the nomination of President-Elect Trump. We don't know whom he will nominate to the Court yet, but he has given the American people a pretty good idea of the type of jurist he would nominate. I think that is one of the reasons millions of Americans voted for him. They wanted an administration committed to the Constitution, and they saw that commitment reflected in the list of men and women President-Elect Trump circulated as potential nominees to the Court.

Now that we have heard from the American people, I look forward to going through the confirmation process once again. I am sure it will be a rigorous contest of ideas. I am sure there will be a lot of different views expressed, and that is OK. But in the end, I am confident that we will elect President-Elect Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court. I am optimistic that it will be somebody in the tradition of Justice Scalia, somebody who believes in upholding the rule of law in the country.

Having been a member of the State judiciary for 13 years, I have some pretty strong views on this topic. If people want to take on the role of a policymaker, I believe they ought to run for Congress or some legislative office or maybe run for President. They shouldn't seek to be a judge on the Federal court or in the court system because that is not primarily a policymaking role. It is important but perhaps less exciting in some ways or at least is a less visible way of interpreting the Constitution and the laws passed by Congress. That is important and straightforward enough, but it is important that the people who are nominated and confirmed understand what their important but limited role is under our constitutional government.

As I said, we need a Justice like the late Justice Scalia, who believed that the words in the Constitution matter. We need a Justice who brings some sense of humility to the bench. That is a very important quality. I remember Chief Justice Roberts talking about the importance of humility when it comes to the job of judging. When one has a lifetime tenure job and can't be removed from office except by impeachment, that gives them a lot of latitude to do things that perhaps maybe humility would dictate that we not do. So we need people of good character, people with the requisite qualifications and experience and with the right judicial philosophy, I believe. We need a Justice who will fight for the Court to take its proper role as a check against executive or legislative overreach, but it ought to be constrained by the words of the Constitution as written and by the words in the legislation Congress has passed. There is no justification under our Constitution for a judge who simply views their position as license to do what they want or substitute their opinion for that of the elected representatives of the people.

I am optimistic we will be able to move forward with President-Elect Trump's nominee to fill the bench and will soon be up to full speed of nine Justices. Through President Obama's tenure, we saw the Senate confirm two of his Justices to the Supreme Court. As I mentioned, those are two of the four confirmations in which I have had the pleasure of participating in the confirmation process. President Obama was able to replace two members of the Court.

In recent months, we heard our friends across the aisle say how important it is to fill the vacancy left by the death of Justice Scalia. We know they disagreed with us on our decision to leave that decision to the voters who selected the next President, but I trust they will feel the same way now—that it is important that we fill this bench without undue delay now that the people have spoken.

It is the American people who I believe have made a choice in the type of Justice they want confirmed to the Court. They have determined that what our country needs is a Justice committed to the rule of law and to the Constitution—not politics, not value judgments, but enforcing the law as written. I look forward to helping the new administration deliver that for the American people.

#### JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today the House will take up a piece of legislation known as the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, a bill that will help victims as they seek to restore their lives and will better equip law enforcement to fight some of the most heinous crimes imaginable. This legislation will help put more of the guilty behind

bars and provide key resources to forensic labs across the country while aiming to end the rape kit backlog.

The rape kit backlog in particular has been something that a wonderful woman named Debbie Smith has committed much of her life to, making sure we provide the resources to local forensic labs that test those rape kits because of the power of DNA and forensic testing. One can literally tell with almost certainty whether the evidence contained in a rape kit matches a DNA sample from a suspected sexual offender. Likewise, one can also exclude the suspect from being the one who provided that forensic DNA sample. In other words, you can exonerate as well as convict people as a result of testing from these rape kits.

Being involved in this issue, we initially heard there were as many as 400,000 untested rape kits in America. Some of them had been tested 20 years after the fact only to find that the sexual offender didn't just commit one act of violence or sexual assault but was a serial offender.

There are stories of individual courage on the part of victims of sexual assault who have come forward to tell their story about the impact of this important elimination of the rape kit backlog. There are cities like Houston—Houston, under the leadership of Mayor Parker, basically said they are going to eliminate the rape kit backlog in Houston on their own, with perhaps some Federal assistance. They were able to identify a number of perpetrators in unsolved crimes because they were able to tell that the DNA in these rape kits matched certain hits on the FBI's CODIS list, where they maintain the data bank of DNA samples that are matched against those collected from suspects, collected in forensic examination.

Suffice it to say that this legislation will contribute to ending that rape kit backlog, and I believe that is a good enough reason to support it. It will make sure that brave people like Debbie Smith, who years ago suffered a sexual assault and who has made this one of her causes in life—it will make sure that no woman would have to endure what she had to endure, and that is where law enforcement fails to use all the resources available to it to find her assailant and to bring them to justice.

Most importantly, this legislation will also help strengthen victims' rights and help them pursue their justice in court.

We already passed it once unanimously in the Senate back in June, and I am thankful to the leadership in the House for bringing this bill up in the waning days of the 114th Congress. I look forward to the House bringing up and passing this legislation today and to us taking it up here with any amendments that the House may offer and taking it up here I hope by unanimous consent and passing it before we leave for the holidays.

With that, Mr. President, 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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 25 minutes in morning business.

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

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I started my weekly series of speeches about the dangers of climate change in the spring of 2012. My trusty "Time to Wake Up" sign is getting a little battered, showing some wear and tear, but I am still determined to get us to act on climate before it is too late. The Senator from New Hampshire clearly knows what is going on in her State.

It is long past time to wake up to the industry-controlled campaign of calculated misinformation on the dangers of carbon pollution. Opponents of climate action relish operating in the dark. Their slimiest work to undermine science and deny the harmful effects of carbon pollution on human health, natural systems, and the economy is done by hidden hands through front groups. If anything is to change, we first need to acknowledge peer-reviewed science, the expert assessments of our military and national security leaders, and the business case for climate action that iconic American companies are making. But if anything is really going to change, we need to shine a light on the sophisticated scheme of science denial being foisted on the American people.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said: "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

We in Congress have the chance to do this worthy work, but big special interests don't want that to happen. So Congress keeps drifting toward climate catastrophe, and I keep delivering my weekly remarks—today for the 150th time.

Thankfully, I am not a lone voice. Many colleagues have been speaking out, particularly our ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator BOXER, and one of our Democratic Party's Presidential contenders, Senator SANDERS. Senator MARKEY has been speaking on climate longer than I have even been in the Senate. Senators SCHUMER, NELSON, BLUMENTHAL, SCHATZ, KING, BALDWIN, BROWN, and COONS have each joined me to speak of the effects of carbon pollu-

tion on their home States and economies. Our Democratic leader, Senator REID, has pressed the Senate to face up to this challenge, and 18 fellow Democratic colleagues, including climate champs MERKLEY, WARREN, MARKEY, and SCHUMER joined me in calling out the industry-controlled many-tentacled apparatus deliberately polluting our American discourse with climate science denial.

The climate science that deniers tried to undermine dates back to the 1800s, predating Henry Ford's first production Model T, predating Thomas Edison's first light bulb demonstration, and predating the first commercial oil well in the United States. It was 1824, around the time that President Monroe added the South Portico to the White House, that French scientist Joseph Fourier explained that the Earth's temperature would be much lower if the planet lacked an atmosphere, providing one of the first descriptions of the greenhouse effect. In 1861, the year President Lincoln took office, Irish physicist John Tyndall described the trace components of the atmosphere that were responsible for the greenhouse effect, including carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapor. In 1896, the year Utah joined the Union, Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius published the first calculation of global warming due to the addition of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere at that time was 295 parts per million. Today it is 400 parts per million and rising—indeed, rising at a pace not seen for 66 million years. Scientific research continues to demonstrate planetary warming and the many changes that come with it.

I am from the Ocean State, and we can particularly look at the oceans to see the devastating effects of climate change. Of course, the great, corrupt denial machine the fossil fuel industry supports rarely talks about oceans. But, remember, that machine doesn't care about evidence. It just wants to create phony doubt. But there is not much room for doubt in measurements of warming, rising, and acidifying seas, which are measured with everyday thermometers—with yardsticks, essentially—and pH tests. So faced with all that measurement, they just don't go there.

But the changes happening in the oceans are real. Our unfettered burning of fossil fuels has made our oceans warmer. The oceans have absorbed the vast majority of the heat trapped in our atmosphere by our carbon pollution—the heat equivalent to several Hiroshima-style atomic bombs being set off in the sea every second for the last 20 years. One result of all this heat is the calamity now taking place in the world's coral reefs, the incubators of the sea.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral ecosystem on Earth. Severe bleaching has hit between 60 and

100 percent of corals on the Great Barrier Reef, according to Dr. Terry Hughes of James Cook University in Queensland. Research led by Dr. Andrew King at the University of Melbourne determined that the ocean warming that led to widespread and devastating coral destruction was made 175 times more likely by human-caused climate change.

As one researcher put it, climate change “is the smoking gun.” We are not just warming the oceans. The oceans actually absorb carbon dioxide itself, as well as heat. Because carbon dioxide forms carbonic acid when it dissolves in sea water, the seas are acidifying at the fastest rate in 50 million years. On America’s northwest coast, oyster hatcheries have already experienced significant losses when their new hatches were unable to grow their shells in the acidified sea water. Off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California, 50 percent of tiny sea snails called pteropods—these creatures right here—were measured to have “severe shell damage,” mostly from acidified seas. A NOAA study released just last week detailed for the first time the extent to which that damage was caused by human carbon pollution. If this species collapses, the bottom falls out of the oceanic food chain.

In Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay’s mean winter water temperature is up nearly 4 degrees Fahrenheit. Our Rhode Island lobster fishery is crashing, and our winter flounder fishery is practically gone. I know that the New Hampshire fishery is equally stressed. With real alarm, Rhode Island’s clammers, lobstermen, fish farmers, and shellfish growers are all watching the damage acidified seas are doing. This is the cost of climate change in the oceans.

We are approaching a point of no return. The U.N. Environment Programme’s Emissions Gap Report, released earlier this month, warned that unless reductions in carbon pollution from the energy sector are taken swiftly, it will be nearly impossible to keep warming below 2 degrees Celsius and avoid widespread catastrophes. The report says that the next 3 years are “likely the last chance” to limit global warming to safe limits in this century—likely the last chance to make a difference. But Republicans in this Senate want to do nothing about it.

Once upon a time, Republicans joined Democrats in pushing for action on climate. Senator McCain ran for President on a strong climate change platform and was the lead cosponsor of the Climate Stewardship Act, which would have created a market-based emissions cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollutants from the biggest U.S. sources. At the time Senator McCain said:

While we cannot say with 100 percent confidence what will happen in the future, we do know the emission of greenhouse gases is not

healthy for the environment. As many of the top scientists through the world have stated, the sooner we start to reduce these emissions, the better off we will be in the future.

Other Republicans got behind cap-and-trade proposals. Senator CARPER’s Clean Air Planning Act at one time or another counted Senators ALEXANDER, GRAHAM, and COLLINS among its supporters. Senator COLLINS later coauthored her own important cap-and-trade bill with Senator CANTWELL.

Senator KIRK voted for the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill in the House. Senator FLAKE, then representing Arizona in the House, was an original cosponsor of the Raise Wages, Cut Carbon Act to reduce payroll taxes for employers and employees in exchange for equal revenue from a carbon tax.

So what happened? Why did this steady heartbeat of Republican climate action suddenly flatline in 2010? Something happened in 2010.

What happened was the Supreme Court’s disgraceful 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, where, in a nutshell, the Court ruled that corporations are people and money is speech, and so there can be no limit to corporate money influencing American elections.

When *Citizens United* uncorked all that big, dark money and allowed it to cast its bullying shadow over Congress, Republicans walked back from any major climate legislation. Rather than freeing up open debate, *Citizens United* effectively ended any honest debate in Congress on the climate crisis.

Unlimited corporate spending in politics can, indeed, corrupt—and not just through floods of anonymous attack advertisements. It can corrupt secretly and, more dangerously, through the mere threat of that spending, through private threats and promises. Sometimes, the fossil fuel industry threat to politicians who don’t toe their line is not so subtle. The Koch brothers-backed political juggernaut Americans for Prosperity has openly promised to punish candidates who support curbs on carbon pollution and has openly taken credit for the “political peril”—to use their words—that organization created for Republicans on climate change.

Since 2010, the fossil fuel industry strategy has been to crush Republican opposition to prohibit Republicans from working with Democrats on climate change so that the industry can disguise what is basically old-fashioned special-interest pleading as a partisan issue in America’s culture wars.

I don’t know if you remember the alien in the movie “Men in Black” who climbed into the skin and clothing of the unfortunate farmer. That is what the fossil fuel industry has done to the Republican Party since *Citizens United*.

The industry has a lot at stake. The International Monetary Fund has reported the American subsidy for the U.S. fossil fuel industry at nearly \$700

billion a year—that is billion with a “b”—and every year. I ask you, how much trouble would an industry go to to protect a \$700 billion-per-year subsidy?

A growing body of scholarship is examining the science denial apparatus protecting the fossil fuel industry—how it is funded, how it communicates, and how it propagates the denial message. That research includes work by Harvard’s Naomi Oreskes, Michigan State’s Aaron McCright, Oklahoma State’s Riley Dunlap, Yale’s Justin Farrell, Drexel’s Robert Brulle, and others.

Industrial powers fighting to obscure the harms their products cause isn’t new. They operate from a well-worn playbook that was used for industrial contaminants and health hazards such as DDT, CFCs, and, of course, particularly tobacco. It is the ultimate special interest lobbying.

President-Elect Trump campaigned on a pledge of draining the swamp of big special interests controlling Washington. Yet leading the transition at the Environmental Protection Agency for the Trump administration is Myron Ebell, the poster child of industry-backed climate denial. Mr. Ebell is the director of energy and environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a corporate front group that has specialized in undermining tobacco, climate, and other science. CEI received millions of dollars from ExxonMobil, the Koch family, coal companies Murray and Massey, and the identity-laundering groups Donors Trust and Donors Capital. CEI and Myron Ebell are the quintessential DC swamp creatures.

Politico reports that Ebell was a veteran of the tobacco regulation wars. Jeremy Symons of the Environmental Defense Fund credits Ebell with “taking the tobacco playbook and applying it to climate change.” And on climate, Jerry Taylor of the libertarian Niskanen Center says Ebell was “involved in marshaling allies, building a skeptic movement and enforcing that political orthodoxy as best he could in the Republican Party.”

Ebell criticizes scientists for working outside their degreed fields, but it turns out he isn’t even a scientist himself. After college, he studied political theory at the London School of Economics and history at Cambridge.

He has even criticized Pope Francis’s encyclical on climate change, calling it “scientifically ill-informed, economically illiterate, intellectually incoherent and morally obtuse.” That is rich right there—an outspoken climate contrarian whose organization receives fossil fuel money calling Pope Francis morally obtuse.

Well, the President-elect mocked Republican politicians when they went groveling before the Koch brothers at their “beg-a-thon,” as the President-elect called it, but now he is busy filling his staff with Koch operatives. Donald Trump may have won the Presidency, but with operatives like Myron

Ebell, the Koch brothers are moving in to run the Presidency.

The new President, however, will hear from our military, he will hear from our National Labs, and he will hear from NASA, which, with a rover driving around on Mars right now, may actually know a little science, that this is deadly serious.

I encourage President-Elect Trump to listen to the voices of reason and expertise, not to the swamp things. Don't, Mr. President-Elect, be taken in by industry lobbyists and front groups scratching and clawing to protect a \$700 billion conflict of interest. Consider, Mr. President-elect, listening to your children, who joined you just 7 years ago in saying climate science was "irrefutable" and portends "catastrophic and irreversible" consequences. That is what you and they said just 7 years ago.

Madam President, let's assume something. Let's assume that all our National Labs, NASA and NOAA, our military leaders, our home State universities across our 50 States, hundreds of major American companies, and the more than 190 different nations that signed the Paris climate agreement are all actually not deluded about climate change, that they are not part of a hoax. If that is so, if these trained expert scientists who don't labor under a \$700 billion-per-year conflict of interest are telling the truth, then the fossil fuel industry's science denial operation is a fraud. As a fraud, it is a particularly evil one because in order to achieve its goal, the industry has to drag down the Government of the United States or at least the Congress of the United States to its level. The fossil fuel industry maintains a science denial operation and a political influence operation designed and intended to willfully sabotage the proper operation of a branch of the Government of the United States. We ought to all have a problem when a powerful special interest is willing to damage our American experiment in democracy just to achieve its selfish ends.

As a Senator, John F. Kennedy once said this:

Let us not despair but act. Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.

Solutions to climate change need be neither Republican nor Democratic. They do need to be based on sound science and healthy and open debate. And we will be a stronger and more respected country if they are American solutions, if we are leading the world, not tailing along behind other countries.

For a country like ours that claims to stand as an example—as a city on a hill, we call it—a country that benefits from the power of our example around the world, this horrible example of out-of-control special interest influence will have lasting consequences. We have a role to play in this world, we

Americans, and it is time we got about it.

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

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, let me also take a moment to add to my climate remarks my appreciation to Dr. Gifford Wong, who is here with me on the floor today. He has been helpful in my office as a trained expert scientist and has helped with many of these speeches. He is leaving us this week after working as a fellow on my staff for over a year. I am proud to have had him serve in my office, and I wish him well. This is his last climate speech with me.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Yes, the Senator withholds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I want to commend Senator WHITEHOUSE for his 150th climate speech. It takes a lot of passion, a lot of research, and a lot of focus to be willing to stay on one topic in the Senate for that many consecutive speeches. There are a lot of things that are important in the Senate and it is easy to get distracted, but Senator WHITEHOUSE remains steadfast, focused, and passionate, and history will show that SHELDON WHITEHOUSE was right and is right. I am proud to be his colleague.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, sir.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I am here to speak on another topic, actually, and that is what we are about to do with respect to appropriations.

This Congress was told by the majority leader that the Senate would return to the regular order, and I have no doubt he intended to make good on that promise. I know he is an appropriator. I know he is an institutionalist, and he really wanted to get back to the regular order. We were given assurances that keeping the government funded would be an orderly and bipartisan process, and it was true at the committee level, but that was then, and today we are far from that promise.

Today the Republican leadership, led by House leadership, has refused to complete funding bills for the current fiscal year. And what is so confounding for the folks who pay attention and who believe in the appropriations process, who believe in our constitutional prerogative, our constitutional obliga-

tion to hold the purse strings and to use that authority to be a proper check on the executive branch, is that simply kicking the can down the road and passing another short-term CR doesn't result in anything conservative at all.

Many in this Chamber talk passionately about the need to eliminate government waste, fraud, and abuse, and yet a CR does exactly none of that. It does the opposite. It means programs that should be eliminated altogether will keep getting funded and programs that are working well and are critical but are in need of additional funding will remain underfunded. A CR puts the government on autopilot, stopping us from shifting investments to the most critical areas and decreasing funding for programs that are not working or are no longer needed. For example, the CR does not support accelerated counter-ISIL operations in Iraq and Syria; it defers work on the Iron Dome, delaying protection for Israel from long-range Iranian missiles; it underfunds the DOD's basic operations and maintenance account by \$12 billion; and it delays cyber security efforts led by the Department of Homeland Security. The CR also delays critical funding needed to address the opioid crisis—something I know the Presiding Officer cares passionately about. Both House and Senate bills provide large increases to fund drug abuse prevention, but the funding will remain flat under the CR.

We are on autopilot. We are not doing our job. We are abdicating our oversight role in the appropriations process.

There are actually two problems here. One is that things that need to be funded are not funded and things that should be eliminated or funded less are still funded. I don't see what is conservative about that. But the other result in a lot of ways is more insidious from the perspective of the Constitution and from the perspective of this institution, and that is, to the extent and degree that members of the administration, regardless of party, listen to members of the legislative branch, it is because we hold the purse strings. It is because we hold the purse strings. And every time we fail to do an authorization, every time we fail to do an appropriation, we are just shifting authority and clout to the executive. There is nothing conservative about that.

There is a mistaken assumption that running up against our funding deadline will somehow pressure the Congress into doing its job. What is crazy to me is that we have now 5 or 6 or 7 years of proof that doesn't work—this idea that what we should do is take difficult decisions and have them coincide with other difficult decisions and coincide with an even bigger difficult decision and then wrap it all up in a bow and do it at once. There may have been a time in the 1970s, 1980s, or 1990s where we could create these omnibus solutions, where we could get to these grand bargains, but what we need to do



now is to hit a few singles. We need to do a few rational things.

The idea that what we should do is take the debt ceiling and the expiration of the CR and put them together just doesn't make any sense. It was proven wrong by the government shutdown of 16 days in the year 2013. The administration estimated that had up to a \$6 billion impact on the economy. NIH studies were delayed, national parks were shuttered, transportation and energy projects were postponed, and FDA's routine food safety inspections were pushed back. This is not fiscal conservatism. This is not any kind of conservatism.

The idea of being a conservative, as I understand it—and I will grant you that I am a progressive, so it is not totally clear to me—is the idea that what you do may have unintended consequences and that whatever changes you make ought to be incremental and ought to respect the institutions that have gotten America this far.

This is not a conservative result, to kick the can into the next spring, when we have no idea whether we are going to be able to solve multiple problems at the same time. If we want government to work, piling up all these issues and leaving it to a new administration to deal with in the spring will likely not work. We should finish the work we were elected to do and complete the funding bills for this fiscal year.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO BERNARDA "BERNIE" WONG

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to acknowledge Bernarda "Bernie" Wong, founder and president of the Chinese American Service League, CASL—and Esther Wong, cofounder and executive director of CASL. Earlier this year, Bernie and Esther announced they would be retiring on December 31, 2016.

Nearly 40 years ago, along with eight Chinese American friends, Bernie and Esther gathered over potluck dinners to discuss the needs of the Chinese community in Chicago. These discussions led to the creation of the Chinese American Service League, commonly referred to as CASL. CASL began with the goal of teaching English as a second language to Chinese immigrants. But today, because of Bernie's leadership, CASL has become one of the largest Asian American social service organizations in the country, providing social support services from early childhood development through elder care.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Bernie moved to the United States in 1962 at the age of 18. Like many immigrants, Bernie came to the United States to further her education. She was awarded a full scholarship to attend Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, IA, and graduated in 1962 with a degree in social work. Before moving to Chicago, Bernie received her master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis. Social work was in her blood. Her mother used to tell her, "Share and give. Even if you don't have much, you share it . . ." And that is exactly what Bernie did, but it didn't come easy. When Bernie first came to Chicago, she faced push back from community leaders. They didn't want an outsider coming in and shining a light on their problems. Some considered it shameful. But that didn't stop Bernie. She went to the United Way and explained what she was trying to do. In 1979, they awarded her a special grant. She used it to start CASL.

Today Bernie's vision for Chinese immigrants in Chicago has grown from an annual budget of \$32,000 to \$13 million and a handful of employees to 450, serving more than 17,000 of the community's most vulnerable. She once said, "It's my job to know what the people in this community need. Then we can make a program available that will help them." That guiding principle has led Bernie and Esther to launch and oversee each of CASL's programs giving immigrants the tools to succeed in America, such as senior and child care services, family counseling, financial education, and employment training.

Bernie has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Champion of Change Award given by President Obama for her extraordinary leadership in the community. Her other awards include United Way of Chicago's Executive of the Year Award; Crain's Chicago "100 Most Influential Women of Chicago;" and the Chicago Historical Society's Jane Addams Making History Award. Bernie also chaired the Chicago mayor's advisory council on Asian affairs and was the first Asian appointed to the boards of United Way of Chicago and the Chicago Public Library. And just last month, her years of service were recognized with her very own street: Bernarda "Bernie" Wong Way, right outside the Chinese American Service League. What an honor.

Since CASL's beginning, Esther Wong has been a faithful founding member. For more than two decades, she has served as chair of the program committee. Esther has been integral in CASL's success. So much so that, in 2002, Esther was recruited to assume the newly created executive director position. In this role, Esther has been responsible for expanding CASL's programs to include housing and financial education. She has also overseen several significant infrastructure improvements that have allowed CASL to provide critical safety net programs to

the Chicagoland community. As a recipient of the mayor's Commission on Women's Affairs' Woman of the Year Award and the Asian American Coalition of Chicago's Community Services Award, Esther served on countless boards in the Asian American and immigrant community. She continues to serve on the boards of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, the Coalition for Limited English Speaking Elderly, and the Chicago Jobs Council.

I will close with this. A few years ago, the Chicago Tribune interviewed Bernie. They asked how she would like to be remembered if she ever retired. She recalled a time when a janitor was sitting down eating lunch in the cafeteria. In China, you don't sit with your boss, so he was trying to leave. Bernie said, "No, sit down." He told her, "I've never seen a boss who wanted to include you." That is Bernie Wong's legacy. She simply wants people to know she cares and to make people feel included. After a career spanning nearly four decades at CASL, providing comprehensive and inclusive programs for immigrants and helping generations born in America realize their dreams, one thing is clear: Bernie and Esther care.

I want to congratulate Bernie and Esther on two wonderful careers and thank them for their service to our community. I wish them and their husbands, Albert and David, all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

#### ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN WOMEN WAGE PEACE MOVEMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for decades people around the world have witnessed seemingly intractable conflict in the Middle East, and those who live there have suffered through generations of violence. While the peace sought for that region has been elusive, organizations such as the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Southern Israel have continued the struggle to promote conflict resolution and unity to counter forces of hate and violence. Vermont Rabbi Michael Cohen is one of the founding faculty members of the Arava Institute.

In October, Rabbi Cohen wrote of the Women Wage Peace movement in Israel after thousands of people from different political and religious backgrounds joined together to march in support of peace in that troubled region.

The Women Wage Peace movement, founded by a small group of Israeli women, has grown over the years in both force and numbers. Its mission: to demand a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The rallies took place throughout the country, with a final march, the March of Hope, taking place in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Cohen, together with many other students, staff, and faculty of the

Arava Institute and community members from Kibbutz Ketura where he currently teaches, attended one of the rallies at the official Israeli-Jordanian border crossing along the Eilat promenade, and, the following day, at Qasr al-Yahud, the Jordan River baptismal site.

At the baptismal site one of the members of Kibbutz Ketura recognized a man sitting on the Jordanian side of the river who had visited the Arava Institute earlier in the summer. The man had come to support the March of Hope from the Jordanian side, while members of the Arava Institute showed their support from the Israeli side. The two men exchanged warm words from across the river epitomizing the goals of the movement.

The Middle East is facing one of its most unstable and dangerous periods in modern history. Entities like the Arava Institute, along with the Women Wage Peace movement, offer hope that peaceful coexistence is possible in the Middle East. Women, men, Israelis, Palestinians, Christians, Muslims, Jews, youth, and elders have joined together to remind us that we are all connected as members of one international community.

I ask unanimous consent that Rabbi Cohen's October 26, 2016, post, "A rabbi in the desert: A reminder of what can be," from the Arava Institute blog be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Oct. 26, 2016]

A RABBI IN THE DESERT: A REMINDER OF  
WHAT CAN BE

When I was five I attended my first political rally. It was the March on Trenton which paralleled the famous March on Washington and Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream Speech." The event in Trenton, New Jersey, as well as others around the country, were held for people who could not make it to the nation's capital to show nationwide support for the message of the event.

Fast forward fifty-three years later, and the grassroots Israeli-Palestinian "Women Wage Peace" movement decided on the same format; rallies throughout the country followed by a rally in Jerusalem. So during the week of the Sukkot holiday, I found myself standing at the official Israeli-Jordanian border crossing between Eilat and Aqaba with members of the southern Arava valley communities including Kibbutz Ketura and students, staff, and faculty of the Arava Institute. The message of the rally was women demanding, with men invited to participate, a model of political leadership that would transform decades of failure when it comes to a settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. "Right, Center, Left Demand a Peace Agreement" was the slogan of the rally. After a march along the Eilat promenade there were a number of speeches including one by the mayor of Eilat.

The following day many of us got up before the sun so we could travel first to Qasr al-Yahud, the Jordan River Baptist site and then onto Jerusalem. At Qasr al-Yahud we joined together with hundreds of Palestinians. People shared smiles, food, and a sense of doing something important together. It was a powerful sight as we marched, many hand in hand, from the gathering point to the baptismal site.

There, participants mingled with Christian pilgrims who had come to the site for baptism ceremonies. The Jordan River at that point is some fifteen feet wide and on both sides steps allow pilgrims easy access to its holy waters. A member of Kibbutz Ketura pointed out a man with white beard sitting on the Jordanian side of the river who had visited the Arava Institute shortly after our arrival this summer! He owns a farm near that spot and is working with Dr. Clive Lipchin, the Director of our Center for Transboundary Water Management, and Arava alumnus and researcher Suleiman Halasah, to install the prototype of a new solar desalination system in Jordan. He came to support the March from the Jordanian side of the border. I called across the river and border. He immediately recognized me and we had a conversation much to the delight and surprise of those who listened to us. This extraordinary encounter modelled what the Arava Institute is capable of creating, and by extension what the Women Wage Peace event was all about.

The rally was addressed by Liberian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Roberta Gbowee, whose story of empowerment, bravery, and strength resonated with the marchers. From Qasr al-Yahud we continued on our way to Jerusalem, where our numbers swelled to 20,000 as we marched past Israeli government ministry buildings, the Knesset, the Prime Minister's office, the President's House, and finally ended up a block from the Prime Minister's residence. The marchers' spirits were uplifted by the sight of so many people snaking their way through the streets and neighborhoods of Jerusalem. At the final rally, Yael Deckelbaum led us in her touching song "Prayer of the Mothers".

The day was called the March of Hope. Hope is one of the great motivating forces in our lives; it allows us to reach forward to what we want. The day was a strong reminder of what can be. The activities of the Arava Institute are daily reminders that hope can also be lived as a reality.

RECOGNIZING ALLENHOLM FARM  
AND THE ALLEN FAMILY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermonters understand the value of hard work and perseverance, and we take pride in passing those values from generation to generation. Our communities thrive on family-owned businesses built on these values. They form the roots of success in our Green Mountain State, and it is those who own and operate them who are providing the leadership that will carry our State into the future. Today I want to recognize one exceptional Vermont family for the success of their multigenerational Vermont enterprise and their continued commitment to Vermont values.

Founded in 1870, Allenholm Farm is Vermont's largest apple orchard. At its helm is Ray W. Allen, whose great-grandfather Rueben Allen planted the farm's first apple trees more than 150 years ago, and Ray's wife and partner, Pam. After graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in agriculture, Ray returned to the family farm he had worked as a child, eventually purchasing it from his father in 1960. More than five decades of running the farm haven't slowed Ray down, and he can still be found fixing machinery,

giving tours of the orchard, and loading delicious Vermont apples into trucks for shipment.

Like many Vermont businessowners, Ray knows the value of diversification. In addition to the apples it sells to local grocery stores and cider makers, the farm harvests raspberries, blueberries, and cherries, some of which are sold to Vermont's world-renowned Alchemist Brewery. Ray and Pam, his wife of 31 years, work together to make hundreds of apple pies that are then baked fresh on demand. The autumn season brings thousands of guests, often multigenerational families themselves, for pick-your-own apples and visits to Willie and Sassafras, the farm's pet donkeys. Visitors may also enjoy maple creemees, a soft serve ice cream that is as unique to the State as the patented Vermont Gold apple variety is to Allenholm Farm.

Ray's dedication to his farm is matched only by his commitment to his family's legacy. As he hands down his knowledge of the apple business to his children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren, he passes on something else: a commitment to building on the past to create a successful Vermont for future generations.

I ask unanimous consent that an October 1 story from the Burlington Free Press about the successful Allenholm Farm in South Hero, VT, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Oct. 1,  
2016]

LOCALVORE SINCE 1870 AT ALLENHOLM FARM  
IN SOUTH HERO  
(By Sally Pollak)

SOUTH HERO.—When the apple pies are sold out, the goats are spitting out grain-filled ice cream cones, and the porta-potties need to be emptied, it's been a busy weekend at Allenholm Farm.

Count last weekend as very busy. Thousands of people visited the South Hero orchard, the owners estimated.

"The groups were really big," co-owner Pam Allen said. "Generational groups."

Allenholm Farm, founded in 1870, is itself multi-generational—seven and counting. The farm in South Hero is thought to be the oldest commercial orchard in the state, according to its owner, Ray W. Allen. Allen, who will turn 80 next month, has owned and operated the farm for 56 years. His great-grandfather, Ruben Allen, planted the first apple trees at the farm almost 150 years ago; the last of the original trees died in 1978.

At one time, Allenholm Farm was a diversified family farm with dairy cows, sheep, hogs and poultry, horses for plowing. These days, the 275-acre farm is primarily an apple orchard, with 2,000 trees growing on roughly 25 acres. The farm also produces cherries, berries, pears and pumpkins.

Farm animals are confined, mostly, to a petting zoo, though a donkey named Willy sometimes strolls down South Street, site of the farm. That's when Ray C. Allen, sheriff of Grand Isle County and son of Ray W. Allen, telephones his stepmother with a message:

"Your husband's ass is in the middle of the road again," the sheriff tells her.

This is family duty, he said. Not law and order.

Ray W. Allen, steadfast and true to the farm, is also a bit of a wanderer. Over the years he has gone off to high school at Lyndon Institute in the Northeast Kingdom; run 25 marathons; appeared on stage in community theater, served as a trustee at the University of Vermont, his alma mater; and volunteered as an EMT—late-night calls before early-morning chores.

Monday morning he was up at 3:15 for a bank run to deposit the weekend's cash. At 4:30, he was back home in his kitchen, hand-mixing pie dough for some of the 2,500 pies Allenholm Farm makes each year. (Ray Allen mixes the dough; Pam Allen makes the filling.)

At 5 a.m., he and his grandson, Brandon Allen, met at the big gray storage shed across from the farmstand to load trucks with boxes of apples for delivery to Hannaford supermarkets.

"It's a good time," Brandon Allen said. "Quality bonding time at 5 in the morning."

#### STORIED HISTORY OF APPLE PRODUCTION

The Champlain Islands have a long history of quality apple production, said Terry Bradshaw, apple specialist at UVM and director of its Horticulture Research Center. The lake climate—which makes for a cooler summer and protects against frost—provides superior growing and ripening conditions, especially for McIntosh apples, he said. In addition, access to the lake in the early 20th century meant transportation for shipping fruit north to the port of Montreal and south to New York.

"It's historic," Bradshaw said of Allenholm Farm.

The history dates to the founding of Vermont. Pam Allen, Ray Allen's second wife, is a descendant of Thomas Chittenden, Vermont's first governor. Ray Allen descends from Moses Robinson, the state's second governor.

"Illegitimate," Allen said of his ancestry.

More recent farm history includes the end of dairying about half a century ago, and getting in on the craft beer boom. Allen sells his cherries to the Alchemist, the Stowe brewery that makes Heady Topper. The cherries are used in a beer called Petit Mutant. Perks of this job include beer delivery to the farm by Alchemist brewer John Kimmich.

#### 'COOL GUY'

But the main crop is apples, and the primary variety is McIntosh. A crew of six seasonal farm workers from Jamaica are the apple pickers. The men live at the farm in a former dairy barn converted to housing. Winston Waugh, from St. Ann, Jamaica, has worked at Allenholm Farm for about 20 years.

"He's a cool guy," Waugh said of Ray Allen. "He's quite OK."

Picking is hard work, Waugh said, especially in cold weather. It's crucial not to bruise the fruit, he said.

The season's dry weather calls for "selective picking," Allen said, as opposed to stripping a tree of fruit. Selective picking yields 50 to 60 bushels of apples per day per picker, he said. When you strip a tree, an apple-picker brings in about 90 bushels a day.

The size of the apples is important, too. Apples that are three or more inches in diameter are worth \$40 a bushel; two-and-a-half to three inches are worth about \$30 a bushel; less than two-and-a-half inches sell for \$5.50 to \$7 a bushel, Allen said.

In the winter and into spring, before the apple trees bloom, Allen is in his orchards pruning trees. He fixes machinery and works in the farm store, which is open until Christmas Eve.

Last spring, Allen had surgery to replace both his knees. He wore them out not from farming or running, but by wearing Western-

style boots 365 days a year, he said. Allen didn't want to sit around on the couch, drink beer, and feel sorry for himself, so he challenged himself to be active. Within six days, he was driving around the farm.

"He's a character," his son said.

His roles include welcoming visitors to Allenholm Farm and leading tours. Allen expects future generations will fulfill these and other duties; but he has no plans to retire.

"I would hate to be the one to lose it," he said. "This is the 146th year. I sure don't want to be the first one to lose the farm."

#### CONSUMER REVIEW FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as chairman of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which has jurisdiction over consumer protection matters, I introduced the bipartisan Consumer Review Freedom Act last year, along with Senators SCHATZ and MORAN, and cosponsored by Senators MCCASKILL, DAINES, BLUMENTHAL, NELSON, BOOKER, and WYDEN, to address a growing and alarming trend affecting American consumers in the United States. Some businesses are slipping so-called gag clauses into form contracts to stop consumers from providing critical feedback to the public, even when that feedback is an honest reflection of the consumer experience.

This legislation, and companion legislation agreed to in the House of Representatives would invalidate non-disparagement clauses in form contracts and make it unlawful for a person to offer or enter into a contract containing a nonnegotiable nondisparagement clause. Both bills contain a rule of construction to clarify that the legislation should not be construed to affect the right of a Web site owner to remove a review that "contains the personal information or likeness of another person or is libelous, harassing, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, or inappropriate with respect to race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or other intrinsic characteristic."

This language is simply intended to preserve the existing ability of Web site operators to enforce such terms of service. For example, it would—and is intended to—preserve the ability of a business to remove language from its Web site that includes inappropriate or harassing references to someone's religion, physical disability, or similar characteristic. As highlighted at the Commerce Committee hearing on this legislation, the intent is not to regulate speech; the intent is to ensure that consumers are protected against fees and penalties imposed pursuant to form contracts for engaging in honest reviews of goods and services.

I am pleased that the Senate has passed the latest version of this legislation and that it will be headed to the President's desk for signature. I thank my colleagues for their support of this measure.

#### HONORING CHARLES E. RUDLER

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Charles E. Rudler, a

World War II infantry soldier and prisoner of war who selflessly served his Nation with distinction.

Born in Linesville, PA, on March 26, 1925, Charles Rudler was an 18-year-old truck driver when he began his service in the U.S. Army in 1943. Serving as a rifleman during WWII, he landed on the beaches of Normandy and fought through northern France, the Ardennes, and Central Europe.

Unfortunately, Rudler was captured while fighting the Nazis and held as a POW through the end of the war at Stalag 3A, a brutal prison and work camp near Brandenburg, Germany. He survived this ordeal and separated from the service at the end of the war with an honorable discharge in 1945.

For his bravery and determination, Rudler has been awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, a Purple Heart, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars.

For these reasons, I wish to honor Charles Rudler for his service and sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lempster, NH—a town in Sullivan County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am delighted to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

The territory was originally discovered in 1735. In 1753 it was regranted and named Dupplin after a leader of Nova Scotia at the time. Lempster, named for Sir Thomas Fermor of Lempster, England, received its current name after it was regranted a final time in 1767.

Lempster is located in the center of western New Hampshire and consists of three parts: East Lempster, Dodge Hollow, and Keyes Hollow. With a population of 1,154 residents, this close-knit town may be best known for its meetinghouse that is more than 200 years old. The meetinghouse is a source of great pride for Lempster and embodies its deep historical roots.

The town of Lempster is also home to a number of unique landmarks, including New Hampshire's first wind farm. Additionally, Lempster also received the first electric pole under the Rural Electrification Act on December 4, 1939. Nestled among these landmarks are beautiful recreational areas that allow the residents of Lempster and countless visitors the ability to enjoy all that the Granite State has to offer.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lempster on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.●

# PLAISTOW FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 101ST ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Plaistow Fire Department, as this year marks the 101st anniversary of its founding.

The department was established on August 9, 1915, and was originally known as the Plaistow Volunteer Fire Company. It was formed with the objective of providing better fire protection for the community and served as an active working organization in order to protect the citizens of Plaistow. In 1915, the town noted "we have a village, the best in the State and would seem almost criminal not to protect our property and our beautiful shade trees, which, if destroyed by fire, would be a great loss to the town."

The Plaistow Fire Department is comprised of full-time and on-call staff who are dedicated and professional individuals that are committed to serving the town of Plaistow and our State. Importantly, Plaistow placed an emphasis on inviting all of its residents to contribute to safety and "most earnestly invite the co-operation of every citizen in this matter of fire protection and extend a most cordial welcome to everyone to attend its meetings and try-outs."

Today the Plaistow Fire Department remains committed to responding to every call in a safe and professional manner to protect the lives and property of its citizens. We ask so much of our firefighters and first responders, and we will be forever grateful for the selfless nature of their service.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I join with the residents of Plaistow in celebrating the 101st anniversary of the Plaistow Fire Department and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

## TRIBUTE TO ALINE SCHLEIFER ALVES DA COSTA

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Aline Schleifer Alves da Costa for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Aline is a native of Brazil and a graduate of Laramie County Community College. She is a junior at the University of Wyoming, studying international relations. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Aline for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

## TRIBUTE TO LEANN BENTLEY

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Leann Bentley for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Leann is a native of Laramie, WY, and a graduate of Laramie High School. She is a junior at the University of Wyoming, studying business marketing with a concentration in sustainability and global markets. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Leann for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

## TRIBUTE TO DAULTON GRUBE

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Daulton Grube for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Daulton is a native of Rock Springs, WY, and a graduate of Rock Springs High School. He attended the University of Wyoming, where he studied microbiology. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Daulton for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

## TRIBUTE TO TANNER HANSON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Tanner Hanson for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Tanner is a native of Ferndale, WA. He graduated from Reed College, where he studied history. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Tanner for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to

have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

## TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MYLER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Thomas Myler for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Thomas is a native of Casper, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. He is currently a second year at Casper College, studying communications and multimedia. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Thomas for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

## TRIBUTE TO SAM TANNER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sam Tanner for his hard work as an intern in the Republican Policy Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sam is a native of Utah and a sophomore at Central Wyoming College. He is studying business administration. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sam for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

## TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH WALSH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Elizabeth Walsh for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Elizabeth is a native of Glenrock, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. She is currently in her second year of Casper College, where she studies international studies and world languages. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Elizabeth for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES WILLSON

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to James Willson for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

James is a native of Cody, WY, and a graduate of Cody High School. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming College of Law. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank James for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM COURTWAY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor University of Central Arkansas president Tom Courtway who will retire as president of the university in December after nearly 15 years of dedication to higher education in Arkansas.

President Courtway was appointed the 10th president of UCA in 2011, and he has proven himself to be a driving force in improving and expanding the campus for current and future students.

His career has been marked by leadership and dedicated service, which will endure since he will continue to teach at UCA. During his time leading in higher education, he has always put students first and fought to ensure the community had opportunities to succeed.

President Courtway has been lauded for his steady leadership and has been entrusted to serve time and again. In addition to serving as president of the university, he previously represented UCA as general counsel, vice president, and interim president. President Courtway is a strong leader in central Arkansas' dedication to academic vitality, diversity and integrity.

He has also been actively engaged in the legislative process at the State level on behalf of his community. He served the 45th district in the Arkansas Legislature for 6 years, and he also spent a year as the interim director of the Arkansas Department of Education. President Courtway has served his community and State in a remarkable way, pursuing development and

higher education opportunities for the good people of Conway.

I congratulate President Courtway for his outstanding achievements in his career and thank him for his dedication to education, students, and the community. I wish him all the best in retirement and know that his wife, Melissa, and the rest of his family will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM SPEARS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor circuit judge Jim Spears who will be retiring in December after serving the people of Sebastian County, AR, for more than 20 years.

Judge Spears has been an active member of the legal community since graduating from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1973. Described by those who know him as "kind, fair and approachable," his 24 years presiding over the Sebastian County Circuit's Third Division have been a testament to his commitment to the people of Arkansas.

Those who have stood in court before Judge Spears have expressed their utmost respect and admiration for his conduct and character.

In addition to his passion for the law, his colleagues say that his commitment to civic involvement is equally important to his years on the bench. Judge Spears has worked closely with the Boy Scouts of America and served on the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission and as board chairman of the U.S. Marshals Museum. He has played a critical role in many community projects including leading the effort to create a bronze statue of U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves.

Judge Spears has been honored by many organizations for his efforts, including the Arkansas Bar Association's Citizen Lawyer award in 2004 for his exemplary service to his community.

I am honored to know Judge Spears and want to thank him for his distinguished service as a leader in the justice system and the community. I wish him the best in his well-earned retirement from the bench, and I look forward to watching him use his talents and passion to continue to serve Arkansas in the years to come.●

#### DEDICATION OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today we honor the lives of 19 courageous Granite Mountain Hotshots by celebrating the dedication of the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park in Yarnell, AZ. I ask that this letter recognizing the occasion be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

U.S. SENATE,  
November 29, 2016.

ARIZONA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS,  
*Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park, Yarnell, AZ.*

DEAR FRIENDS: In a proud but solemn moment for all Arizonans, today we celebrate the dedication of the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park.

The 2013 Yarnell Hill Fire was a tragedy that resulted in the lives of 19 brave and fearless Granite Mountain Hotshots. That fateful day on June 30, 2013 was the greatest loss of life for firefighters in a wildfire since 1933 and the greatest loss of firefighters in the United States since the September 11th attacks. This Memorial State Park is a most fitting tribute to these remarkable firefighters who selflessly risked their own lives to protect others and their community in the beautiful Arizona town of Yarnell.

I thank Arizona State Parks and the Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Board, who made this designation possible. With this wonderful memorial, I hope the family and friends of those Hotshots who passed may find peace and comfort in this historic designation, which will forever preserve and honor the memory of these brave souls.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all on this occasion, and I send best wishes for a memorable event.

Sincerely,

JOHN MCCAIN,  
U.S. Senator.●

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD D. ROGERS

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, it is my honor today to honor the life of a revered Kansan, U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Rogers, who passed away on November 26 of this year at the age of 94.

Richard Rogers was devoted to public service in every sense. He was a decorated veteran, having received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service flying 33 combat missions as a bombardier in World War II. He served the town of Manhattan, KS, as both its mayor and city commissioner. He served as a State legislator in both chambers of the Kansas Legislature, rising to the title of President of the Senate. And in 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed Richard Rogers to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas, a position he held for more than 40 years.

Judge Rogers represented the very best of the greatest generation, unselfishly giving of himself and his time to improve the lives of those around him. A graduate of Wamego High School, Kansas State University, and later the University of Kansas School of Law, he took an active interest in his State, its people, and their many different walks of life.

His understanding of Kansans carried over to the courtroom where colleagues say Judge Rogers served with great wisdom and fairness. Judge Rogers' contemporaries also remember him as a mentor and friend, someone often consulted for his breadth of knowledge, his geniality, and his humility until he stepped down from his position on the Federal bench on August 7, 2015.

Richard Rogers was a pillar of the Manhattan and Topeka communities,

and his integrity, service, and devotion to justice will be forever remembered by the people of Kansas.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT RELATIVE TO AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR PAY INCREASES FOR CIVILIAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE GENERAL SCHEDULE AND CERTAIN OTHER PAY SYSTEMS IN JANUARY 2017—PM 57

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am transmitting an alternative plan for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2017. Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative pay plans for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of “national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare,” I view the adjustments that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Civilian Federal employees made significant sacrifices as a result of the 3-year pay freeze that ended in January 2014. Since the pay freeze ended, annual adjustments for civilian Federal employees have also been lower than private sector pay increases and statutory formulas for adjustments to the General Schedule for 2014 through 2016. However, we must maintain efforts to keep our Nation on a sustainable fiscal course. This is an effort that continues to require tough choices under current economic conditions.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 28.49 percent and costing \$26 billion would go into effect in January 2017. Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases. In my August 31, 2016, alternative pay

plan submission, I noted that the alternative plan for locality payments will be limited so that the total combined cost of the 1.0 percent across-the-board base pay increase and the varying locality pay increases will be 1.6 percent of basic payroll, consistent with the assumption in my 2017 Budget. Accordingly, I have determined that under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments for the locality pay areas established by the President’s Pay Agent, in the amounts set forth in the attached table, shall become effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

The locality-based comparability payments for the locality pay rates in the attached table are based on an allocation of 0.6 percent of payroll as indicated in my August 31, 2016, alternative pay plan for adjustments to the base General Schedule. These decisions will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 29, 2016.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6297. An act to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7671. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Chief Compliance Officer Annual Report Requirements for Futures Commission Merchants, Swap Dealers, and Major Swap Participants: Amendments to Filing Dates” (RIN3038-AE49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7672. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts” covering the period August 7, 2015 to February 6, 2016; to the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Finance; and Foreign Relations.

EC-7673. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7674. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order

13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7675. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Annual Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7676. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2017–2022”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7677. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Measurement of Oil” (RIN1004-AE16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7678. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Measurement of Gas” (RIN1004-AE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7679. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Site Security” (RIN1004-AE15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7680. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation” (RIN1004-AE14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7681. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s 2016 Report to Congress on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7682. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Operating Organization” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7683. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reactor Operator Qualification Program; Reactor Operator Training” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7684. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of



a rule entitled “Seismic Classification” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7685. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “System Quality Group Classification” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7686. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Management and Technical Support Organization” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7687. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Administrative Procedures - General” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7688. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Non-Licensed Plant Staff Training” (NUREG-0800) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7689. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: Leak Detection Methodology Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems” ((RIN2060-AS73) (FRL-9955-12-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7690. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products” ((RIN2070-AJ44) (FRL-9949-90)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7691. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Findings of Failure to Attain the 1997 PM2.5 Standards; California; San Joaquin Valley” (FRL-9955-53-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7692. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of

the Ohio Portion of the Campbell-Clermont KY-OH Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area” (FRL-9955-37-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7693. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clarification of Requirements for Method 303 Certification Training” ((RIN2060-AR97) (FRL-9955-50-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7694. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; FL Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 1-hour NO2 NAAQS” (FRL-9955-49-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7695. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval/Disapproval; AL Infrastructure Requirements” (FRL-9955-29-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7696. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) Category; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting” ((RIN2025-AA42) (FRL-9953-28)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7697. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Spodoptera frugiperda Multiple Nucleopolyhedrovirus strain 3AP2; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9953-40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7698. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endothall; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9953-97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7699. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “DoD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP)” (RIN0790-AJ16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7700. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishing a More Effective

Fair Market Rent System; Using Small Area Fair Market Rents in the Housing Choice Voucher Program Instead of the Current 50th Percentile FMRs” (RIN2501-AD74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7701. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013: Implementation in HUD Housing Programs” (RIN2501-AD71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7702. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commerce Control List: Removal of Certain Nuclear Nonproliferation (NP) Column 2 Controls” (RIN0694-AH04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7703. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary General License: Extension of Validity” (RIN0694-AG82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7704. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Equal Access to Housing in HUD’s Native American and Native Hawaiian Programs—Regardless of Sexual Orientation of Gender Identity” (RIN2506-AC40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7705. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicaid Program: Final FY 2014 and Preliminary FY 2016 Disproportionate Share Hospital allotments, and Final FY 2014 and Preliminary FY 2016 Institutions for Mental Diseases Disproportionate Share Hospital Limits” ((RIN0938-ZB30) (CMS-2401-N)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7706. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “United States Property Held by Controlled Foreign Corporations in Transactions Involving Partnerships; Rents and Royalties Derived in the Active Conduct of a Trade or Business” ((RIN1545-BJ48) (TD 9792)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7707. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled “Transaction of Interest—Section 831(b) Micro-Captive Transactions” (Notice 2016-66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7708. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs: Eligibility Notices, Fair Hearing and Appeal Processes for Medicaid and Other Provisions Related to Eligibility and Enrollment for Medicaid and CHIP” ((RIN0938-AS27) (CMS-2334-F2)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7709. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a waiver of section 1003 of Public Law 100-204 regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7710. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Revision of U.S. Munitions List Categories VIII and XIX” (RIN1400-AD89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7711. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0161 - 2016-0168); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7712. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems)” (RIN1218-AB80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7713. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits” (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7714. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation’s fiscal year 2016 Annual Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7715. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7716. A communication from the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7717. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commis-

sion’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7718. A communication from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Annual Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7719. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “The U.S. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program” ((RIN1651-AB01) (CBP Dec. 16-20)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7720. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation entitled “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Pay Reform Act of 2016”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7721. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation’s fiscal year 2016 Annual Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7722. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Executive Branch Ethics Program Amendments” (RIN3209-AA42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7723. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Technical Amendments” (FAC 2005-92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7724. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Removal of Regulations Relating to Telegraphic Communication” ((RIN9000-AN23) (FAC 2005-92)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7725. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Public Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Reduction Goals-Representation” ((RIN9000-AM90) (FAC 2005-92)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7726. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-92; Introduction” (FAC 2005-92) received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7727. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7728. A communication from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2016 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7729. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s fiscal year 2016 Agency Financial Report and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7730. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7731. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7732. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7733. A communication from the Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s fiscal year 2016 Agency Financial Report and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7734. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7735. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a delay in submission of the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report (AFR) for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7736. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7737. A communication from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Annual Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7738. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological and Ethnological Material from

Greece" (RIN1515-AE18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7739. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-92; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7740. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Retention of EB-1, EB-2, and EB-3 Immigrant Workers and Program Improvements Affecting High-Skilled Nonimmigrant Workers" (RIN1615-AC05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7741. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Debt Refinancing in 504 Loan Program" (RIN3245-AG79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-7742. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5589)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7743. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-0465)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7744. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8464)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7745. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Previously Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) (Airbus Helicopters) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0578)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7746. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Previously Eurocopter Deutsch-

land GmbH) (Airbus Helicopters) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5306)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7747. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-6538)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7748. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9144)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7749. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9318)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7750. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-8160)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7751. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2006-23706)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7752. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Division Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5423)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7753. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Schempp-Hirth Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6123)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7754. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthi-

ness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6990)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7755. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Engine Alliance Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-1293)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7756. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Simferopol (UKFV) and Dnipropetrovsk (UKDV) Flight Information Regions (FIRs)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0225)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7757. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3821)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7758. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Organization and Delegation of Powers and Duties in the Transportation Acquisition Regulation" (RIN2105-AE41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7759. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Enhancing Airline Passenger Protections III" (RIN2105-AE11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7760. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Miles City, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-7046)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7761. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Falmouth, MA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5444)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7762. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Hagerstown, MD" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No.

FAA-2015-4513)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7763. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (43); Amdt. No. 3716" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7764. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (1); Amdt. No. 3718" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7765. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (233); Amdt. No. 371" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7766. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (85); Amdt. No. 3715" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-255. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota making formal application to the United States Congress to call an Article V convention of the states for the sole purpose of proposing a federal balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1001

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of South Dakota hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that in the absence of a national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints; and

Whereas, this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made appli-

cations on the same subject. It supersedes all previous applications by this Legislature on the same subject: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, That the State of South Dakota does hereby apply to the Congress of the United States to call an amendment convention pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution requiring that in the absence of a national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints; and be it further*

*Resolved, This application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states, including previously-adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. This application shall be aggregated with same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require the calling of a convention for proposing a balanced budget amendment but may not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the other states be encouraged to make similar applications for an amendment convention pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application for such amendment convention pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of two-thirds of the states have made such applications and such convention has been called by the Congress of the United States; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the secretary of state transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Clerk of the United States Senate, the members of the South Dakota congressional delegation, and the legislatures of each of the several states, attesting the adoption of this resolution by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota.*

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 3483. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 3484. A bill to establish an advisory committee to issue nonbinding governmentwide guidelines on making public information available on the Internet, to require publicly available Government information held by the executive branch to be made available on the Internet, to express the sense of Congress that publicly available information held by the legislative and judicial branches should

be available on the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 620. A resolution reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 621. A resolution designating November 2016 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. FISCHER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 622. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being, for all children; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KIRK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. NELSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 623. A resolution recognizing the vital role the Civil Air Patrol has played, and continues to play, in supporting the homeland security and national defense of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Con. Res. 56. A concurrent resolution clarifying any potential misunderstanding as to whether actions taken by President-elect Donald Trump constitute a violation of the Emoluments Clause, and calling on President-elect Trump to divest his interest in, and sever his relationship to, the Trump Organization; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to require States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding shooting incidents involving law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2126

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2126, a bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2424

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diag-

nosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 2551

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2551, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States civilian capacities to prevent and mitigate such crises.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive mental health reform, and for other purposes.

S. 2713

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to provide for the implementation of a Precision Medicine Initiative.

S. 2873

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2873, a bill to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 2971

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2971, a bill to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

S. 3149

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3149, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to

Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

S. 3245

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3245, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3256, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3359

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3359, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize grants for heroin and methamphetamine task forces.

S. 3450

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3450, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include electric charging of certain vehicles as a qualified transportation fringe benefit excluded from gross income.

S. 3475

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3475, a bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 616, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 620—RE-AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES-ARGENTINA PARTNERSHIP AND RECOGNIZING ARGENTINA'S ECONOMIC REFORMS

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 620

Whereas, on November 22, 2015, the citizens of the Argentine Republic elected Mauricio Macri as their President;

Whereas President Macri has pledged to promote greater national unity, rebuild the economy, combat domestic corruption, strengthen freedom of the press, defend human rights abroad, attract foreign direct investment, return to international credit markets, and reassert Argentina's leadership globally;

Whereas President Macri has emphasized his intention to seek closer ties with the United States and restore the bilateral partnership previously enjoyed by both countries;

Whereas the Argentine Republic is a major non-NATO ally of the United States;

Whereas United States-Argentina relations are historically characterized by comprehensive commercial ties and strong bilateral cooperation on human rights, peacekeeping, science and technology, non-proliferation, and education, as well as on regional and global issues;

Whereas President Barack Obama traveled to Argentina in March 2016 to strengthen engagement on trade and investment, renewable energy, climate change, security, and peacekeeping issues;

Whereas, in an appearance with President Macri at the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires, President Obama said that "our countries share profound values in common—respect for human rights, for individual freedoms, for democracy, for justice, and for peace";

Whereas the United States Department of the Treasury no longer opposes multilateral development banks lending to Argentina because of the Government of Argentina's "progress on key issues and positive economic policy trajectory";

Whereas President Macri prioritized Argentina resolving its 15-year standoff with private creditors stemming from the 2001–2002 economic crisis;

Whereas the Macri Administration lifted controls on trade, currency, and poultry, enhanced the quality and transparency of government data, and eliminated subsidies on electricity, water, and gas;

Whereas, in April 2016, the Government of Argentina issued \$16,500,000,000 in new government bonds and paid \$9,300,000,000 to hold-out creditors to resolve its default settlements, which facilitated Argentina's return to international financial markets;

Whereas Argentina is Latin America's third largest economy and the International Monetary Fund, in April 2016, claimed the Macri Administration "embarked on an ambitious, much needed transition to remove domestic imbalances and distortions and correct relative prices";

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry visited Argentina in August 2016 to launch a High-Level Dialogue to develop and sustain cooperation on bilateral, regional, and global challenges, including democratic development and protection of human rights in Latin America; and

Whereas Secretary Kerry, during his visit, stated that "the United States strongly sup-

ports President Macri's effort to deepen Argentina's integration with the global economy" and that "our governments will be supporting policies that are aimed at strong, sustainable, and balanced economic growth". Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) upholds its commitment to the partnership between the United States and Argentina and reaffirms that the Argentine Republic is a major non-NATO ally of the United States;

(2) encourages the Department of State to coordinate an interagency strategy to increase cooperation with the Government of Argentina on areas of bilateral, regional, and global concern;

(3) commends President Mauricio Macri and his Administration for making far-reaching economic reforms that will benefit the people of Argentina, stimulate economic growth, and deepen Argentina's integration with the global economy;

(4) praises the Government of Argentina for resolving its dispute with international creditors; and

(5) encourages the Government of Argentina to continue to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the 1994 bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) in Buenos Aires, as well as the January 2015 death of AMIA special prosecutor Alberto Nisman.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 621—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2016 AS NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 621

Whereas hospice and palliative care services empower individuals to live as fully as possible, surrounded and supported by family and loved ones, despite serious and life-limiting illnesses;

Whereas hospice and palliative care can bring patients and family caregivers high-quality care delivered by an interdisciplinary team of skilled professionals that includes physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors, health aides, spiritual care providers, and others who make the wishes of each patient and family a priority;

Whereas advance care planning involves an individual making decisions about the health care the individual would want to receive if faced with a serious or life-limiting illness or unable to speak on behalf of the individual;

Whereas hospice and palliative care focus on quality of life through pain management and symptom control, caregiver training and assistance, and emotional and spiritual support, allowing patients to live fully until the end of life, surrounded and supported by loved ones, friends, and committed caregivers;

Whereas every year more than 1,650,000 individuals in the United States living with life-limiting illness, and the families of the individuals, receive care and support from hospice programs in communities throughout the United States;

Whereas more than 430,000 trained volunteers contribute 19,000,000 hours of service to hospice programs annually; and

Whereas hospice and palliative care providers encourage all individuals to learn more about the options of the individuals for care and to share the wishes of the individ-

uals with family, loved ones, and health care professionals: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2016 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life; and

(B) to observe National Hospice and Palliative Care Month with appropriate activities and programs.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 622—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN AWAITING FAMILIES, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING, FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 622

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 427,910 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 111,820 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 62 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which the children are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas, in 2015, over 20,000 youth "aged out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

Whereas every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that although "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past 5 years";

Whereas while nearly a quarter of individuals in the United States have considered adoption, a majority of individuals in the United States have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 50 percent of individuals in the United States believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of



children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 39 percent of individuals in the United States believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and intercounty adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization or long-term, often disrupted, foster care;

Whereas November is National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day occurs in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas, since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 58,500 children have joined permanent families during National Adoption Day; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 19, 2016: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and throughout the year.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 623—RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE THE CIVIL AIR PATROL HAS PLAYED, AND CONTINUES TO PLAY, IN SUPPORTING THE HOMELAND SECURITY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KIRK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. NELSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 623

Whereas, on December 1, 1941, a new civilian defense organization known as the Civil Air Patrol was founded, which was to rely on volunteer civilian aviators who would fly in support of the homeland security of the United States;

Whereas with the attack on Pearl Harbor 6 days later and the entry of the United States into World War II, the Civil Air Patrol would find itself serving the United States in ways that were not imagined at the time of the conception of the Civil Air Patrol;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol initially engaged in coastal patrol operations that were

considered critical to the United States war effort, piloting aircraft that in total flew 24,000,000 miles over 18 months, reporting 173 possible enemy submarines, and dropping 82 bombs or depth charges;

Whereas Civil Air Patrol civilian volunteers flew privately owned light aircraft armed with military bombs at the expense of the volunteers, often at low altitude, in bad weather, and up to 60 miles from shore;

Whereas Civil Air Patrol civilian volunteers undertook other vital World War II missions nationwide, which included border patrols, search and rescue operations, courier and cargo services, and air defense and pilot training;

Whereas, unlike many organizations at the time, the Civil Air Patrol welcomed women into its ranks to fly for the Civil Air Patrol, with approximately one-half of the women later joining the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (commonly known as "WASP") after having first flown with the Civil Air Patrol;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol was open to all pilots interested in flying for the Civil Air Patrol, which allowed African-Americans an opportunity to serve and fly for the United States well before the adoption of the integrated Armed Forces;

Whereas, in 2016, the Civil Air Patrol continues its critical mission in service to the United States, now as a vital partner for the Air Force, serving as the auxiliary force, and, since 2015, as an official component of the total force;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol remains one of the premier inland search and rescue organizations of the United States, and was credited with saving the lives of 69 individuals through search and rescue operations in 2015;

Whereas the Civil Air Patrol continues to fulfill many other vital missions, including helping train interceptor pilots and unmanned aerial vehicle operators under realistic conditions, aerial observation missions, counterdrug operations, disaster relief support, live organ transport, aerospace education, cadet programs, and Reserve Officer Training Corps orientation flights;

Whereas the continued work of the all-volunteer force of the Civil Air Patrol offers vital support to homeland security and defense missions; and

Whereas the weekly youth and aerospace education programs of the Civil Air Patrol continue to introduce young students to the field of aviation and instill within the students the values of national service and personal responsibility: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the Civil Air Patrol for 75 years of continuous service in times of peace and war;

(2) recognizes the critical emergency services, training support, and mission capabilities that the Civil Air Patrol offers State and national homeland security agencies as well as the United States Armed Forces; and

(3) commends the more than 23,500 youth and 32,500 adult volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol, who hail from a range of professions and across the United States, and dedicate their time to the service of their communities and the United States.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56—CLARIFYING ANY POTENTIAL MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO WHETHER ACTIONS TAKEN BY PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE, AND CALLING ON PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP TO DIVEST HIS INTEREST IN, AND SEVER HIS RELATIONSHIP TO, THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 56

Whereas article I, section 9, clause 8 of the United States Constitution (commonly known as the "Emoluments Clause") declares, "No title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.":

Whereas, according to the remarks of Governor Edmund Randolph at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, the Emoluments Clause "was thought proper, in order to exclude corruption and foreign influence, to prohibit any one in office from receiving or holding any emoluments from foreign states";

Whereas the issue of foreign corruption greatly concerned the Founding Fathers of the United States, such that Alexander Hamilton in Federalist No. 22 wrote, "In republics, persons elevated from the mass of the community, by the suffrages of their fellow-citizens, to stations of great pre-eminence and power, may find compensations for betraying their trust, which, to any but minds animated and guided by superior virtue, may appear to exceed the proportion of interest they have in the common stock, and to over-balance the obligations of duty. Hence it is that history furnishes us with so many mortifying examples of the prevalence of foreign corruption in republican governments.":

Whereas the President of the United States is the head of the executive branch of the Federal Government and is expected to have undivided loyalty to the United States, and clearly occupies an "office of profit or trust" within the meaning of article I, section 9, clause 8 of the Constitution, according to the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice;

Whereas the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice opined in 2009 that corporations owned or controlled by a foreign government are presumptively foreign states under the Emoluments Clause;

Whereas President-elect Donald J. Trump has a business network, the Trump Organization, that has financial interests around the world and negotiates and concludes transactions with foreign states and entities that are extensions of foreign states;

Whereas Michael Cohen, an attorney for Donald J. Trump and the Trump Organization, has stated that the Trump Organization

would be placed into a “blind trust” managed by Donald Trump’s children, Donald Trump Jr., Ivanka Trump, and Eric Trump;

Whereas the very nature of a “blind trust” is such that the official will have no control over, will receive no communications about, and will have no knowledge of the identity of the specific assets held in the trust, and that the manager of the trust is independent of the owner, and as such the arrangement proposed by Mr. Cohen is not a blind trust;

Whereas Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and George W. Bush have set the precedent of using true blind trusts, in which their holdings were liquidated and placed in new investments unknown to them by an independent trustee who managed them free of familial bias;

Whereas the intermingling of the business of the Trump Organization and the work of government has the potential to constitute the foreign corruption so feared by the Founding Fathers and betray the trust of America’s citizens;

Whereas the intent of this resolution is to prevent any potential misunderstanding or crisis with regards to whether the actions of Donald J. Trump as President of the United States will violate the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution, Federal law, or fundamental principles of ethics; and

Whereas Congress has an institutional, constitutional obligation to ensure that the President of the United States does not violate the Emoluments Clause and is discharging the obligations of office based on the national interest, not based on personal interest: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) calls upon President-elect Donald J. Trump to follow the precedent established by prior presidents and convert his assets to simple, conflict-free holdings, adopt blind trusts managed by an independent trustee with no relationship to Donald J. Trump or his businesses, or take other equivalent measures, in order to ensure compliance with the Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution;

(2) calls upon President-elect Donald J. Trump not to use the powers or opportunities of his position as President-elect or President of the United States for any purpose related to the Trump Organization; and

(3) regards, in the absence of such actions outlined in paragraph (1) or specific authorization by Congress, dealings that Donald J. Trump, as President of the United States, may have through his companies with foreign governments or entities owned or controlled by foreign governments as potential violations of the Emoluments Clause.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak on behalf of a resolution I will submit today on the enrollment clause, which seems to uphold the values and strictures of one of our Nation’s most sacred documents—the Constitution itself.

The Founding Fathers were clear in their belief that any Federal officeholder in the United States must never be put in a position where he or she could be influenced by a foreign governmental actor. Article 1, section 9, clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution, known as the emolument clause, declares that “no title of nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of

any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.”

Longstanding precedent has made it plain the President of the United States, as the head of the executive branch of government, clearly occupies an office of profit or trust. As such, the emolument clause clearly applies to and constrains whoever holds the Oval Office of the Presidency.

For those who claim to value a strict interpretation of the Constitution and who place upholding the Constitution above partisan politics, the unambiguous reading and meaning are clear and evident. Put simply, the American public has a right to know the President of the United States is acting in their best interest and not because he or she has received some benefit or gift from a foreign government, such as Russia or China or any foreign entity. They need to know the President of the United States is making decisions about potential trade agreements, sending troops into war, or where we spend America’s great resources is based upon what is in the public interest and not because it would advance the President’s private pecuniary interests.

The Founding Fathers’ concerns on this subject were neither abstract nor baseless. Alexander Hamilton made specific references to these dangers in the Federalist Papers. While the Constitution was being debated in America, the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth was in the process of being ruthlessly dismembered by her neighbors—Prussia, the Austrian Empire and Russia.

Poland’s neighbors bribed Polish Government officials and succeeded in paralyzing the state for decades. The Founding Fathers placed the emoluments clause, an explicit bar on foreign corruption and interference, within the Constitution so we may avoid Poland’s fate.

Happily, the emoluments clause has not been a section of the Constitution that has had to be of concern to this body, nor is there voluminous case history detailing its legal interpretation with regard to the highest offices of the executive branch. This is because every President, from George Washington to Barack Obama, has taken great pains to avoid even the appearance of impropriety with regard to their personal wealth and investments, ensuring that such investments never interfere with performing their duties as President of the United States.

That is why, over the past four decades, Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush all had their assets placed into blind trusts while they were President. President Obama went even further because he wanted to fulfill his promises of greater transparency. He invested the vast majority of his funds into U.S. Treasury bonds.

I wish the well-established precedent and practice would make it unneces-

sary to introduce and seek to move this resolution today. I wish President-Elect Trump would be inclined to continue the longstanding and bipartisan tradition of Presidential traditions.

In September, Mr. Trump said, if he were elected, he would absolutely sever ties to The Trump Organization. Despite that pledge, it has since become clear that absent intervention by this body, the President-elect may not follow the precedents established by his predecessors. In so doing, he may well—for whatever reason and whatever motive—place himself and our Constitution in jeopardy.

As a separate and coequal branch of government, the Senate has a duty and obligation to safeguard our Constitution. It is to the Constitution, after all, not the person or position, that we swear our oath of office and to nourish the republican virtues that have allowed our Nation and government to flourish.

We must do so because following the election, it appears that President-Elect Trump may have changed his mind about the promises he made as he sought office. Mr. Trump’s lawyers announced The Trump Organization would be placed into a “blind trust,” managed by Don Trump’s older children, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump, and Eric Trump.

Let me be clear, as the gravity of this issue demands absolute clarity. The financial arrangement described by Mr. Trump and his lawyers is not a blind trust. It just isn’t. We can’t allow Mr. Trump or his lawyers to trick us or the American people into thinking it is just because they use that term.

A true blind trust, including the ones established by past Presidents, is an arrangement where the official has no control over, will receive no communications about, and will have no knowledge of the identity of the specific assets held in the trust, and the trust’s managers operate independently of the owner.

The arrangement described by Mr. Trump and his lawyers is not independent. Mr. Trump is well aware of the specific assets held, and he can receive communications about and take actions to affect the values of such assets. The idea that President-Elect Trump’s children are or will be truly independent managers is not credible. This is not a blind trust, and this is not an arrangement that will ensure compliance with the emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Trump has said there is no one like him who has ever become President of the United States. On that point, he may well be correct. I am very concerned Mr. Trump may violate the U.S. Constitution on the day he takes office and, even if it is not his intent, place himself and our Nation at risk. The purpose of my resolution is to convey to the President-elect there is still time for him to avoid this constitutional conflict.

Some might ask: Why should anyone care? It is not hard to imagine circumstances in which a foreign governmental actor will want to give President Trump gifts so they can curry favor with him and hope to influence his decisions in ways that benefit them when the President's decisions should benefit the American people—precisely the danger our Founding Fathers sought to protect against with the emoluments clause.

This is not an esoteric argument about rules that do not affect real people. The American public has the right to know if President Trump will put our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines in harm's way to protect America's national security or to protect the latest Trump Tower in some far-off country. They have the right to know if the trade agreements negotiated by the new administration will benefit American businesses, farmers, workers, and consumers or whether they will benefit some Trump company or hotel.

Donald Trump's business network, The Trump Organization, has financial interests around the world and negotiates and includes transactions with foreign states and entities that are extensions of foreign states.

To give but one example of how bad things can get if Mr. Trump is allowed to stay connected to his businesses: In Azerbaijan, The Trump Organization partnered with billionaire Anar Mammadov to build a 33-story Trump Tower in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Mammadov's father is Azerbaijan's long-time Transportation Minister and a confidant of the President of Azerbaijan. There have been allegations this billionaire's company and the companies he is connected to have profited from more than \$1 billion worth of transportation contracts related to his father's position in the Transportation Ministry.

A former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan in the 1990s and an adviser to the Director of National Intelligence under George W. Bush has said of this deal: "These are not business people acting on their own—you're dealing with daddy."

There are a great many nations, none of which we should emulate, where the lines between officials of the foreign government and business entities controlled by that foreign government are blurred or obliterated. For that reason, the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice has stated that corporations owned or controlled by foreign governments are presumptively foreign states under the emoluments clause.

We should all be concerned when the President-elect is connected to an organization that has dealings with countries and entities that aren't interested in distinguishing between doing business with President Trump and the profitmaking portion that bears his name. We run the risk of turning the United States of America, our legal system, our immigration system, our

financial system, our trade agreements, and our military into subsidiaries of The Trump Organization.

It has already been reported that the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC, has been patronized by an increasing number of foreign dignitaries and diplomats because of Mr. Trump's election. One diplomat was recorded as saying:

Why wouldn't I stay at his hotel, blocks from the White House, so I can tell the new president, "I love your new hotel"? Isn't it rude to come to his city and say, "I am staying at your competitor"?

Likewise, news reports suggest that one day after a phone call between President-Elect Trump and the President of Argentina, permits under review for a Trump building in Buenos Aires were suddenly approved. In China, just days after the Presidential election, Donald Trump scored a legal victory in a decade-long trademark dispute over the right to use the Trump name for real estate agent services in commercial and residential properties in China. The timing of these actions is interesting, to put it mildly.

The appearance of intermingling between the business of The Trump Organization and the work of government has already begun. Despite Mr. Trump's campaign promises to sever ties to The Trump Organization, where he stated that "I'll have my children and my executives run the company and I won't discuss it with them," the Trump Presidential transition team has named Mr. Trump's children, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump, and Eric Trump, to the transition team's executive committee—the same children who are supposedly managing The Trump Organization without discussing it with him. In those positions, they have the ability to offer counsel as to which personnel are selected to critical posts in the new Trump administration.

Ivanka Trump reportedly has been present during Mr. Trump's congratulatory calls with Japan's Prime Minister and the President of Argentina. Donald Trump, Jr., reportedly met in secret prior to the election with pro-Russia politicians to discuss Syrian policy. After the election, President-Elect Trump met with Indian real estate executives—his partners in developing Trump Towers in India—in which they allegedly discussed with the Trump family about possible additional real estate deals.

The list goes on and on. The totality of these engagements and the potential implications are deeply, deeply disturbing. Yet President-Elect Trump has done nothing to assure the American people he will put their interests above the enrichment of himself and his children, and he will assure, as the Founding Fathers intended, that the President is not placed in a position where he might be vulnerable to foreign influence or even the appearance of foreign influence.

While Mr. Trump or his advisers say "Trust us," let us remember what John

Adams said: "We are a government of laws and not of men." It was the enduring wisdom of our Founders to recognize that not all men are angels, so we place our trust in the Constitution itself, not in individuals.

Mr. Trump's wealth and business interests must yield to the U.S. Constitution. Those wide-ranging interests make us realize just how critical the Constitution's prohibition of foreign gifts is. The business that the Trump Organization does overseas in places like Scotland, Argentina, India, and Azerbaijan cannot help but not be far from Mr. Trump's mind when he discusses matters of policy with foreign heads of state. This is not because President-Elect Trump is any more susceptible to these temptations than anyone else but simply because, as the Founding Fathers recognized, we are humans, not angels.

This insight into human conditions elicited the precise fear articulated by our Founding Fathers: Leaders who receive gifts and payments from foreign governments, being human, may not act in the best interests of the American people. To quote Richard Painter, an expert in ethics and an adviser to George W. Bush: "Imagine where we'd be today if President Franklin Roosevelt had owned apartment buildings in Frankfurt and Berlin. . . . some of us might be speaking German."

I am extremely troubled by Mr. Trump's recent remarks on this subject. On November 22, President-Elect Trump stated, "The law's totally on my side, meaning, the president can't have a conflict of interest." In typical Trump sleight of hand, he selectively picks his own facts as he shows a troubling and callous disregard for our Constitution and for the duty he owes to the American people.

While the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and Federal judges may be granted specific, limited exemptions from conflicts of interest so that they may act and carry out their duties, that law does not supersede the Constitution nor, frankly, have anything to do with the very specific provisions of the emoluments clause preventing foreign governmental financial influence over the President. That the President-elect is not doing enough to avoid such conflicts is what brings me to the floor today and, overall, according to one new poll, is troubling to nearly 60 percent of the people of this country. The limited exception to the conflict of interest statute recognizes that there are certain public officials whose authority to act should not be held in question. That ability to act does not cure the restrictions in the emoluments clause of the Constitution.

The Constitution is the ultimate law of the land, not the President. Mr. Trump apparently does not appreciate the reason that the law on this issue is untested because previous Presidents have had the wisdom and personal forbearance not to seek to put this question to the test. But we have tested the

unfortunate proposition that “when the president does it, that means it is not illegal” before, and Congress, in service of the Constitution and the American people, has found that not to be the case. No one is above the law; no one is above the Constitution, including the President of the United States.

President-Elect Trump has also tweeted: “Prior to the election it was well known that I have interests in properties around the world.” That is undoubtedly true. But the American people, in voting for a candidate, cannot—indeed, would not want to—excuse a potential future violation of the Constitution by that candidate.

President-Elect Trump’s attempt to imply that because he won the election, the Constitution somehow does not apply to him is irresponsible and disrespectful. It would be disrespectful to the Constitution; it is truly disrespectful to the American people, who are trusting their future, their children, their livelihood, and their safety to decisions Mr. Trump will make once he becomes President.

We must do everything we can to protect our Constitution, our democracy, and the American people from such recklessness.

The aim of my resolution is straightforward. It takes a strict interpretation of the plain words of the Constitution and supports the traditional values and practices adopted by previous Presidents. It simply calls on President-Elect Trump to follow the precedent established by prior Presidents and convert his assets to simple, conflict-free holdings, adopt blind trusts managed by truly independent trustees with no relationship to Mr. Trump or his businesses, or to take other, equivalent measures. It calls upon the President-elect to refrain from using the powers or opportunities of his position for any purpose related to The Trump Organization. It makes it clear that if Mr. Trump does not take appropriate actions to sever his ties to his businesses, Congress will have no choice, given the oath to protect and defend the Constitution that each and every Member has taken, but to view any dealings Mr. Trump has through his companies with foreign governments or entities owned or controlled by foreign governments as a potential violation of the emoluments clause.

As Mr. Painter observed, “It should send a clear message to [Mr. Trump] that he should divest his assets and that [Congress] will regard dealings with his companies that he owns abroad and any entities owned by foreign governments as a potential violation of the Emoluments Clause unless he can prove it was an arm’s-length transaction.”

It makes it clear to President-Elect Trump that we care about the Constitution and our democracy, that the American people really are watching, and that we will not be distracted from caring about these things.

I want to close by observing that because of strong feelings and passions

generated by the recent election, some might be tempted to view this resolution and its aims through a distorted prism of politics. Nothing could be further from the truth. I strongly support a smooth transition between the Obama administration and the Trump administration. I want the Trump administration to have support from Congress to succeed on behalf of the American people. But when Mr. Trump deviates from his constitutional responsibilities or recommends policies that are contrary to the core values of our Nation, Members of Congress have an obligation to speak out and to act.

I stand here today because I believe Congress has an institutional, constitutional obligation to ensure that the President of the United States, whosoever that is, does not violate our Constitution, acts lawfully, and is discharging the obligations of the office based on the broad interests of the American people, not his or her own narrow personal interests.

My resolution is not intended to create a misunderstanding or crisis, but to avoid one, so that President-Elect Trump can put aside any appearance of impropriety and devote himself to the good work on behalf of the American people. We owe it to President-Elect Trump to make very clear what our expectations are ahead of inauguration day. Why? So that we can avoid a Constitutional crisis. Such a crisis would not serve in the best interests of the President, Congress, and the American people.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5113. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COONS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2944, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program, and for other purposes.

SA 5114. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2944, *supra*.

SA 5115. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 461, to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

SA 5116. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. REID)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3438, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5113. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COONS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2944, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2016”.

#### SEC. 2. REPORTS.

Section 1205 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “Rules, regulations, and procedures issued under this part may include regulations based on standards developed by another Federal agency for programs related to public safety officer death or disability claims.” before the last sentence;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” before “In making”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) In making a determination under section 1201, the Bureau shall give substantial weight to the evidence and all findings of fact presented by a State, local, or Federal administrative or investigative agency regarding eligibility for death or disability benefits.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1)(A) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau information on all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

“(B) Not less frequently than once per week, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau updated information with respect to all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

“(C) The information made available under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) for each pending claim—

“(I) the date on which the claim was submitted to the Bureau;

“(II) the State of residence of the claimant;

“(III) an anonymized, identifying claim number; and

“(IV) the nature of the claim; and

“(ii) the total number of pending claims that were submitted to the Bureau more than 1 year before the date on which the information is made available.

“(2)(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 180 days thereafter, the Bureau shall submit to Congress a report on the death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part.

“(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include information on—

“(i) the total number of claims for which a final determination has been made during the 180-day period preceding the report;

“(ii) the amount of time required to process each claim for which a final determination has been made during the 180-day period preceding the report;

“(iii) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before that date for which a final determination has not been made;

“(iv) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before the date that is 1 year before that date for which a final determination has not been made;

“(v) for each claim described in clause (iv), a detailed description of the basis for delay;

“(vi) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number

of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before that date relating to exposure due to the September 11th, 2001, terrorism attacks for which a final determination has not been made;

“(vii) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before the date that is 1 year before that date relating to exposure due to the September 11th, 2001, terrorism attacks for which a final determination has not been made;

“(viii) for each claim described in clause (vii), a detailed description of the basis for delay;

“(ix) the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau relating to exposure due to the September 11th, 2001, terrorism attacks for which a final determination was made during the 180-day period preceding the report, and the average award amount for any such claims that were approved;

“(x) the result of each claim for which a final determination was made during the 180-day period preceding the report, including the number of claims rejected and the basis for any denial of benefits;

“(xi) the number of final determinations which were appealed during the 180-day period preceding the report, regardless of when the final determination was first made;

“(xii) the average number of claims processed per reviewer of the Bureau during the 180-day period preceding the report;

“(xiii) for any claim submitted to the Bureau that required the submission of additional information from a public agency, and for which the public agency completed providing all of the required information during the 180-day period preceding the report, the average length of the period beginning on the date the public agency was contacted by the Bureau and ending on the date on which the public agency submitted all required information to the Bureau;

“(xiv) for any claim submitted to the Bureau for which the Bureau issued a subpoena to a public agency during the 180-day period preceding the report in order to obtain information or documentation necessary to determine the claim, the name of the public agency, the date on which the subpoena was issued, and the dates on which the public agency was contacted by the Bureau before the issuance of the subpoena; and

“(xv) information on the compliance of the Bureau with the obligation to offset award amounts under section 1201(f)(3), including—

“(I) the number of claims that are eligible for compensation under both this part and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note; Public Law 107-42) (commonly referred to as the ‘VCF’);

“(II) for each claim described in subclause (I) for which compensation has been paid under the VCF, the amount of compensation paid under the VCF;

“(III) the number of claims described in subclause (I) for which the Bureau has made a final determination; and

“(IV) the number of claims described in subclause (I) for which the Bureau has not made a final determination.

“(3) Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

“(A) conduct a study on the compliance of the Bureau with the obligation to offset award amounts under section 1201(f)(3); and

“(B) submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subparagraph (A) that includes an assessment of whether the Bureau has provided the information required under subparagraph (B)(ix) of paragraph (2) of this subsection in each report required under that paragraph.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘nature of the claim’ means whether the claim is a claim for—

“(A) benefits under this subpart with respect to the death of a public safety officer;

“(B) benefits under this subpart with respect to the disability of a public safety officer; or

“(C) education assistance under subpart 2.”.

### SEC. 3. AGE LIMITATION FOR CHILDREN.

Section 1212(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796d-1(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “No child” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), no child”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DELAYED APPROVALS.—

“(A) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION.—If a claim for assistance under this subpart is approved more than 1 year after the date on which the application for such assistance is filed with the Attorney General, the age limitation under this subsection shall be extended by the length of the period—

“(i) beginning on the day after the date that is 1 year after the date on which the application is filed; and

“(ii) ending on the date on which the application is approved.

“(B) CLAIM FOR BENEFITS FOR DEATH OR PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY.—In addition to an extension under subparagraph (A), if any, for an application for assistance under this subpart that relates to a claim for benefits under subpart 1 that was approved more than 1 year after the date on which the claim was filed with the Attorney General, the age limitation under this subsection shall be extended by the length of the period—

“(i) beginning on the day after the date that is 1 year after the date on which the claim for benefits is submitted; and

“(ii) ending on the date on which the claim for benefits is approved.”.

### SEC. 4. DUE DILIGENCE IN PAYING BENEFIT CLAIMS.

Subpart 1 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 1206. DUE DILIGENCE IN PAYING BENEFIT CLAIMS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau, with all due diligence, shall expeditiously attempt to obtain the information and documentation necessary to adjudicate a benefit claim filed under this part, including a claim for financial assistance under subpart 2.

“(b) SUFFICIENT INFORMATION UNAVAILABLE.—If a benefit claim filed under this part, including a claim for financial assistance under subpart 2, is unable to be adjudicated by the Bureau because of a lack of information or documentation from a third party, such as a public agency, the Bureau may not abandon the benefit claim unless the Bureau has utilized the investigative tools available to the Bureau to obtain the necessary information or documentation, including subpoenas.”.

### SEC. 5. PRESUMPTION THAT OFFICER ACTED PROPERLY.

Section 1202 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796a) is amended—

(1) by striking “No benefit” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—No benefit”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) PRESUMPTION.—In determining whether a benefit is payable under this part, the Bureau shall—

“(1) presume that none of the limitations described in subsection (a) apply; and

“(2) have the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence that a limitation described in subsection (a) applies.”.

### SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by this Act shall—

(1) take effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to any benefit claim or application under part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.) that is—

(A) pending before the Bureau of Justice Assistance on the date of enactment; or

(B) received by the Bureau on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 5114.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2944, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program, and for other purposes.”.

**SA 5115.** Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 461, to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016”.

#### SEC. 2. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “Subtitle G—U.S. Customs and Border Protection Public Private Partnerships

#### “SEC. 481. FEE AGREEMENTS FOR CERTAIN SERVICES AT PORTS OF ENTRY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 13031(e) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(e)) and section 451 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1451), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, upon the request of any entity, may enter into a fee agreement with such entity under which—

“(1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide services described in subsection (b) at a United States port of entry or any other facility at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection provides or will provide such services;

“(2) such entity shall remit to U.S. Customs and Border Protection a fee imposed under subsection (h) in an amount equal to the full costs that are incurred or will be incurred in providing such services; and

“(3) if space is provided by such entity, each facility at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection services are performed shall be maintained and equipped by such entity, without cost to the Federal Government, in accordance with U.S. Customs and Border Protection specifications.

“(b) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The services described in this subsection are any activities of any employee or Office of Field Operations contractor of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (except employees of the U.S. Border Patrol, as established under section 411(e)) pertaining to, or in support of, customs, agricultural processing, border security, or immigration inspection-related matters at a

port of entry or any other facility at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection provides or will provide services.

“(C) MODIFICATION OF PRIOR AGREEMENTS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at the request of an entity who has previously entered into an agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the reimbursement of fees in effect on the date of enactment of this section, may modify such agreement to implement any provisions of this section.

“(d) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IMPACTS OF SERVICES.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

“(A) may enter into fee agreements under this section only for services that—

“(i) will increase or enhance the operational capacity of U.S. Customs and Border Protection based on available staffing and workload; and

“(ii) will not shift the cost of services funded in any appropriations Act, or provided from any account in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees, to entities under this Act; and

“(B) may not enter into a fee agreement under this section if such agreement would unduly and permanently impact services funded in any appropriations Act, or provided from any account in the Treasury of the United States, derived by the collection of fees.

“(2) NUMBER.—There shall be no limit to the number of fee agreements that the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may enter into under this section.

“(e) AIR PORTS OF ENTRY.—

“(1) FEE AGREEMENT.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a fee agreement for U.S. Customs and Border Protection services at an air port of entry may only provide for the payment of overtime costs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and salaries and expenses of U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement missions.

“(2) SMALL AIRPORTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), U.S. Customs and Border Protection may receive reimbursement in addition to overtime costs if the fee agreement is for services at an air port of entry that has fewer than 100,000 arriving international passengers annually.

“(3) COVERED SERVICES.—In addition to costs described in paragraph (1), a fee agreement for U.S. Customs and Border Protection services at an air port of entry referred to in paragraph (2) may provide for the reimbursement of—

“(A) salaries and expenses of not more than 5 full-time equivalent U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers beyond the number of such officers assigned to the port of entry on the date on which the fee agreement was signed;

“(B) salaries and expenses of employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, other than the officers referred to in subparagraph (A), to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement functions; and

“(C) other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to services described in subparagraph (B), such as temporary placement or permanent relocation of employees, including incentive pay for relocation, as appropriate.

“(f) PORT OF ENTRY SIZE.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall ensure that each fee agreement proposal is given equal consideration regardless of the size of the port of entry.

“(g) DENIED APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection denies a

proposal for a fee agreement under this section, the Commissioner shall provide the entity submitting such proposal with the reason for the denial unless—

“(A) the reason for the denial is law enforcement sensitive; or

“(B) withholding the reason for the denial is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(2) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Decisions of the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection under paragraph (1) are in the discretion of the Commissioner and are not subject to judicial review.

“(h) FEE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the fee to be charged under an agreement authorized under subsection (a) shall be paid by each entity requesting U.S. Customs and Border Protection services, and shall be for the full cost of providing such services, including the salaries and expenses of employees and contractors of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to provide such services and other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to such services, such as temporary placement or permanent relocation of such employees and contractors.

“(2) TIMING.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may require that the fee referred to in paragraph (1) be paid by each entity that has entered into a fee agreement under subsection (a) with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in advance of the performance of U.S. Customs and Border Protection services.

“(3) OVERSIGHT OF FEES.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop a process to oversee the services for which fees are charged pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a), including—

“(A) a determination and report on the full costs of providing such services, and a process for increasing such fees, as necessary;

“(B) the establishment of a periodic remittance schedule to replenish appropriations, accounts, or funds, as necessary; and

“(C) the identification of costs paid by such fees.

“(i) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—

“(1) ACCOUNT.—Funds collected pursuant to any agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a)—

“(A) shall be deposited as offsetting collections;

“(B) shall remain available until expended without fiscal year limitation; and

“(C) shall be credited to the applicable appropriation, account, or fund for the amount paid out of such appropriation, account, or fund for any expenses incurred or to be incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in providing U.S. Customs and Border Protection services under any such agreement and any other costs incurred or to be incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to such services.

“(2) RETURN OF UNUSED FUNDS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall return any unused funds collected and deposited into the account described in paragraph (1) if a fee agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a) is terminated for any reason or the terms of such fee agreement change by mutual agreement to cause a reduction of U.S. Customs and Border Protection services. No interest shall be owed upon the return of any such unused funds.

“(j) TERMINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall terminate the services provided pursuant to a fee agreement entered into under subsection (a) with an entity that, after receiving notice from the Commissioner that a fee under subsection (h) is due, fails to pay such

fee in a timely manner. If such services are terminated, all costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that have not been paid shall become immediately due and payable. Interest on unpaid fees shall accrue based on the rate and amount established under sections 6621 and 6622 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) PENALTY.—Any entity that, after notice and demand for payment of any fee under subsection (h), fails to pay such fee in a timely manner shall be liable for a penalty or liquidated damage equal to two times the amount of such fee. Any such amount collected under this paragraph shall be deposited into the appropriate account specified under subsection (i) and shall be available as described in such subsection.

“(3) TERMINATION BY THE ENTITY.—Any entity who has previously entered into an agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the reimbursement of fees in effect on the date of enactment of this section, or under the provisions of this section, may request that such agreement be amended to provide for termination upon advance notice, length, and terms that are negotiated between such entity and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(k) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

“(1) submit an annual report identifying the activities undertaken and the agreements entered into pursuant to this section to—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

“(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(F) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

“(G) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

“(H) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

“(2) not later than 15 days before entering into a fee agreement, notify the members of Congress that represent the State or Congressional District in which the affected port of entry or facility is located of such agreement.

“(l) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as imposing on U.S. Customs and Border Protection any responsibilities, duties, or authorities relating to real property.

#### “SEC. 482. PORT OF ENTRY DONATION AUTHORITY.

“(a) PERSONAL PROPERTY DONATION AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, may enter into an agreement with any entity to accept a donation of personal property, money, or nonpersonal services for the uses described in paragraph (3) only with respect to the following locations at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection performs or will be performing inspection services:

“(A) A new or existing sea or air port of entry.

“(B) An existing Federal Government-owned land port of entry.

“(C) A new Federal Government-owned land port of entry if—

“(i) the fair market value of the donation is \$50,000,000 or less; and

“(ii) the fair market value, including any personal and real property donations in



total, of such port of entry when completed, is \$50,000,000 or less.

“(2) LIMITATION ON MONETARY DONATIONS.—Any monetary donation accepted pursuant to this subsection may not be used to pay the salaries of U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees performing inspection services.

“(3) USES.—Donations accepted pursuant to this subsection may be used for activities of the Office of Field Operations set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 411(g)(3), which are related to a new or existing sea or air port of entry or a new or existing Federal Government-owned land port of entry described in paragraph (1), including expenses related to—

“(A) furniture, fixtures, equipment, or technology, including the installation or deployment of such items; and

“(B) the operation and maintenance of such furniture, fixtures, equipment, or technology.

“(b) REAL PROPERTY DONATION AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Administrator of the General Services Administration, as applicable, may enter into an agreement with any entity to accept a donation of real property or money for uses described in paragraph (2) only with respect to the following locations at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection performs or will be performing inspection services:

“(A) A new or existing sea or air port of entry.

“(B) An existing Federal Government-owned land port of entry.

“(C) A new Federal Government-owned land port of entry if—

“(i) the fair market value of the donation is \$50,000,000 or less; and

“(ii) the fair market value, including any personal and real property donations in total, of such port of entry when completed, is \$50,000,000 or less.

“(2) USE.—Donations accepted pursuant to this subsection may be used for activities of the Office of Field Operations set forth in section 411(g), which are related to the construction, alteration, operation, or maintenance of a new or existing sea or air port of entry or a new or existing Federal Government-owned land port of entry described in paragraph (1), including expenses related to—

“(A) land acquisition, design, construction, repair, or alteration; and

“(B) operation and maintenance of such port of entry facility.

“(3) LIMITATION ON REAL PROPERTY DONATIONS.—A donation of real property under this subsection at an existing land port of entry owned by the General Services Administration may only be accepted by the Administrator of General Services.

“(4) SUNSET.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to enter into an agreement under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The termination date referred to in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to carrying out the terms of an agreement under this subsection if such agreement is entered into before such termination date.

“(c) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

“(1) DURATION.—An agreement entered into under subsection (a) or (b) (and, in the case of such subsection (b), in accordance with paragraph (4) of such subsection) may last as long as required to meet the terms of such agreement.

“(2) CRITERIA.—In carrying out an agreement entered into under subsection (a) or (b), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall establish criteria regarding—

“(A) the selection and evaluation of donors;

“(B) the identification of roles and responsibilities between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the General Services Administration, and donors;

“(C) the identification, allocation, and management of explicit and implicit risks of partnering between the Federal Government and donors;

“(D) decision-making and dispute resolution processes; and

“(E) processes for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the General Services Administration, as applicable, to terminate agreements if selected donors are not meeting the terms of any such agreement, including the security standards established by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(3) EVALUATION PROCEDURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, shall—

“(i) establish criteria for evaluating a proposal to enter into an agreement under subsection (a) or (b); and

“(ii) make such criteria publicly available.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—Criteria established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall consider—

“(i) the impact of a proposal referred to in such subparagraph on the land, sea, or air port of entry at issue and other ports of entry or similar facilities or other infrastructure near the location of the proposed donation;

“(ii) such proposal's potential to increase trade and travel efficiency through added capacity;

“(iii) such proposal's potential to enhance the security of the port of entry at issue;

“(iv) the impact of the proposal on reducing wait times at that port of entry or facility and other ports of entry on the same border;

“(v) for a donation under subsection (b)—

“(I) whether such donation satisfies the requirements of such proposal, or whether additional real property would be required; and

“(II) how such donation was acquired, including if eminent domain was used;

“(vi) the funding available to complete the intended use of such donation;

“(vii) the costs of maintaining and operating such donation;

“(viii) the impact of such proposal on U.S. Customs and Border Protection staffing requirements; and

“(ix) other factors that the Commissioner or Administrator determines to be relevant.

“(C) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—

“(i) INCOMPLETE PROPOSALS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving the proposals for a donation agreement from an entity, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall notify such entity as to whether such proposal is complete or incomplete.

“(II) RESUBMISSION.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that a proposal is incomplete, the Commissioner shall—

“(aa) notify the appropriate entity and provide such entity with a description of all information or material that is needed to complete review of the proposal; and

“(bb) allow the entity to resubmit the proposal with additional information and material described in item (aa) to complete the proposal.

“(ii) COMPLETE PROPOSALS.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a completed proposal to enter into an agreement under subsection (a) or (b), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, with the concurrence of the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, shall—

“(I) determine whether to approve or deny such proposal; and

“(II) notify the entity that submitted such proposal of such determination.

“(4) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.—Except as required under section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, real property donations to the Administrator of General Services made pursuant to subsection (a) and (b) at a GSA-owned land port of entry may be used in addition to any other funding for such purpose, including appropriated funds, property, or services.

“(5) RETURN OF DONATIONS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, may return any donation made pursuant to subsection (a) or (b). No interest shall be owed to the donor with respect to any donation provided under such subsections that is returned pursuant to this subsection.

“(6) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) regarding the acceptance of donations, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, may not, with respect to an agreement entered into under either of such subsections, obligate or expend amounts in excess of amounts that have been appropriated pursuant to any appropriations Act for purposes specified in either of such subsections or otherwise made available for any of such purposes.

“(B) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Before accepting any donations pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a) or (b), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall certify to the congressional committees set forth in paragraph (7) that the donation will not be used for the construction of a detention facility or a border fence or wall.

“(7) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in collaboration with the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, shall submit an annual report identifying the activities undertaken and agreements entered into pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) to—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

“(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(G) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

“(H) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

“(I) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

“(J) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

“(d) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit an annual report to the congressional committees referred to in subsection (c)(7) that evaluates—

“(1) fee agreements entered into pursuant to section 481;

“(2) donation agreements entered into pursuant to subsections (a) and (b); and

“(3) the fees and donations received by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to such agreements.

“(e) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Decisions of the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Administrator of the General Services Administration under this section regarding the acceptance of real or personal property are in the discretion of the Commissioner and the Administrator and are not subject to judicial review.

“(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, nothing in this section may be construed as affecting in any manner the responsibilities, duties, or authorities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the General Services Administration.

**“SEC. 483. CURRENT AND PROPOSED AGREEMENTS.**

“Nothing in this subtitle or in section 4 of the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016 may be construed as affecting—

“(1) any agreement entered into pursuant to section 560 of division D of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6) or section 559 of title V of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (6 U.S.C. 211 note; Public Law 113-76), as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this subtitle, and any such agreement shall continue to have full force and effect on and after such date; or

“(2) a proposal accepted for consideration by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to such section 559, as in existence on the day before such date of enactment.

**“SEC. 484. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this subtitle:

“(1) DONOR.—The term ‘donor’ means any entity that is proposing to make a donation under this Act.

“(2) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ means any—

“(A) person;

“(B) partnership, corporation, trust, estate, cooperative, association, or any other organized group of persons;

“(C) Federal, State or local government (including any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof); or

“(D) any other private or governmental entity.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end of the list of items relating to title IV the following:

“Subtitle G—U.S. Customs and Border Protection Public Private Partnerships

“Sec. 481. Fee agreements for certain services at ports of entry.

“Sec. 482. Port of entry donation authority.

“Sec. 483. Current and proposed agreements.

“Sec. 484. Definitions.”.

**SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF EXISTING REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

Section 907(b) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) the program for entering into reimbursable fee agreements with U.S. Customs and Border Protection established under section 481 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.”.

**SEC. 4. REPEALS.**

(a) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Section 560 of division D of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6) is repealed.

(b) PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 559 of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (6 U.S.C. 211 note; Public Law 113-76) is repealed.

**SEC. 5. WAIVER OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT APPLICANTS.**

Section 3 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-376; 6 U.S.C. 221) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(2) in subsection (a)(1), as redesignated, by inserting “(except as provided in subsection (b))” after “Border Protection”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) WAIVER.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the polygraph examination requirement under subsection (a)(1) for any applicant who—

“(1) is deemed suitable for employment;

“(2) holds a current, active Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information Clearance;

“(3) has a current Single Scope Background Investigation;

“(4) was not granted any waivers to obtain his or her clearance; and

“(5) is a veteran (as defined in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code).”.

**SA 5116.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. REID)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3438, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following

major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic, life safety, and utilities upgrades and expansion of clinical services in Reno, Nevada, in an amount not to exceed \$213,800,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$317,300,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account \$531,100,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in subsection (a) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2017 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2017 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2017 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 29, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

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

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 29, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

**FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS**

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Pat Roberts:									
England .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
Total .....			5,085.86						5,085.86

SENATOR PAT ROBERTS,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Oct. 7, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
William Todd:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		796.82						796.82
Lithuania .....	Euro .....		290.02						290.02
Romania .....	Leu .....		500.00						500.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				16,331.49				16,331.49
Mary Colleen Gaydos:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		796.82						796.82
Lithuania .....	Euro .....		290.02						290.02
Romania .....	Leu .....		500.00						500.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,388.51				13,388.51
Laura Friedel:									
Haiti .....	Gourde .....		619.00						619.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,810.79				3,810.79
Sarah Boliek:									
Haiti .....	Gourde .....		619.00						619.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,810.79				3,810.79
Jeff Reczek:									
Haiti .....	Gourde .....		619.00						619.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,810.79				3,810.79
Lisa Bernhardt:									
Haiti .....	Gourde .....		375.00						375.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,651.00				1,651.00
Senator Richard Shelby:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,132.66				7,132.66
Senator Thad Cochran:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,673.76				7,673.76
Kay Webber Cochran:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,673.76				7,673.76
Linda Good:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
Brian Potts:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
Jacqui Russell:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
Jeremy Weirich:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
Jean Toal Eisen:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
United States .....	Dollar .....				561.86				561.86
Virginia Boney:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		5,085.86						5,085.86
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		3,715.16						3,715.16
Anne Caldwell:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		4,985.86						4,985.86
United States .....	Dollar .....				596.86				596.86
Rachel Santos:									
Tanzania .....	Shilling .....		1,341.50		3,562.00				4,903.50
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,367.76				11,367.76
Patrick Carroll:									
Tanzania .....	Shilling .....		1,341.50		3,562.00				4,903.50
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,367.76				11,367.76
Carlisle Clarke:									
Tanzania .....	Shilling .....		1,341.50		3,562.00				4,903.50
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,367.76				11,367.76
David Gillies:									
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,361.00						1,361.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				8,623.66				8,623.66
Kate Kaufer:									
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,361.00						1,361.00
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		559.00						559.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				33,509.26				33,509.26
United States .....	Dollar .....				146.81				146.81
Allen Cutler:									
France .....	Euro .....		674.00		170.00				844.00
Belgium .....	Euro .....		272.00						272.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,719.00				11,719.00
Alexander Carnes:									
Sudan .....	Pound .....		1,856.00		192.42				2,048.42
Djibouti .....	Franc .....						20.00		20.00
Ethiopia .....	Birr .....		818.05						818.05
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,632.88				1,632.88
Robert Henke:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		859.32						859.32
Luxembourg .....	Euro .....		392.56						392.56
Poland .....	Zloty .....		271.92						271.92
Estonia .....	Euro .....		226.00						226.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,403.17				12,403.17
Patrick Magnuson:									
Germany .....	Euro .....		859.32						859.32
Luxembourg .....	Euro .....		392.56						392.56
Poland .....	Zloty .....		271.92						271.92
Estonia .....	Euro .....		226.00						226.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,403.17				12,403.17
Tom Mancinelli:									
Morocco .....	Dirham .....		576.00						576.00
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....		389.89						389.89
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		737.26						737.26
Estonia .....	Euro .....		235.49						235.49
Iceland .....	Krona .....		383.00						383.00
William Todd:									
Jordan .....	Dinar .....		355.41						355.41
Djibouti .....	Franc .....		230.00						230.00
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		788.80						788.80
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,385.76				12,385.76
Senator Brian Schatz:									
Korea .....	Won .....		790.18						790.18
Philippines .....	Peso .....		344.00						344.00
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,586.00		1,235.76				2,821.76
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Korea .....	Won .....		790.18						790.18
Philippines .....	Peso .....		344.00						344.00
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,586.00						1,586.00
Alec Johnson:									
Korea .....	Won .....		790.18						790.18
Philippines .....	Peso .....		344.00						344.00
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,586.00						1,586.00
Chris Hall:									
Korea .....	Won .....		790.18						790.18
Philippines .....	Peso .....		344.00						344.00
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,586.00						1,586.00
Jennifer Santos:									
Korea .....	Won .....		790.18						790.18
Philippines .....	Peso .....		344.00						344.00
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,586.00						1,586.00
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Canada .....	Dollar .....		922.15						922.15
United States .....	Dollar .....				721.14				721.14
Jean Toal Eisen:									
Canada .....	Dollar .....		584.43						584.43
United States .....	Dollar .....				720.84				720.84
Jason Wheelock:									
Japan .....	Yen .....		507.00						507.00
Vietnam .....	Dong .....		1,304.00		257.85				1,561.85
Timor-Leste .....	Dollar .....		519.75		835.00				1,354.75
Indonesia .....	Rupiah .....		833.00						833.00
Hong Kong .....	Dollar .....		534.52						534.52
United States .....	Dollar .....				4,588.46				4,588.46
Paul Grove:									
Japan .....	Yen .....		908.00						908.00
Republic of Korea .....	Won .....		345.00						345.00
Philippines .....	Peso .....		580.03						580.03
Australia .....	Dollar .....		323.00						323.00
Timor-Leste .....	Dollar .....		574.89						574.89
Indonesia .....	Rupiah .....		724.00						724.00
Hong Kong .....	Dollar .....		1,069.04						1,069.04
United States .....	Dollar .....				23,751.26				23,751.26
* Delegation expenses:									
Tanzania .....	Shilling .....					241.11			241.11
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....					17,669.42			17,669.42
Japan .....	Yen .....					2,542.31			2,542.31
Romania .....	Leu .....					247.00			247.00
Germany .....	Euro .....					1,635.00			1,635.00
Canada .....	Dollar .....					3,462.18			3,462.18
Germany .....	Euro .....					138.98			138.98
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....					275.01			275.01
Jordan .....	Dinar .....					199.49			199.49
Japan .....	Yen .....					6,026.69			6,026.69
Philippines .....	Peso .....					1,637.53			1,637.53
Korea .....	Won .....					2,756.76			2,756.76
Sudan .....	Pound .....					354.55			354.55
Japan .....	Yen .....					9.47			9.47
Vietnam .....	Dong .....					1,094.99			1,094.99
Timor-Leste .....	Dollar .....					692.84			692.84
Indonesia .....	Rupiah .....					65.00			65.00
Hong Kong .....	Dollar .....					1,676.55			1,676.55
Philippines .....	Peso .....					387.40			387.40
Iceland .....	Krona .....					32.50			32.50
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....					93.97			93.97
Estonia .....	Euro .....					248.83			248.83
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....					142.32			142.32
Morocco .....	Dirham .....					515.83			515.83
Total .....			101,330.15		236,527.99		42,165.73		380,023.87

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1997.

SENATOR THAD COCHRAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 25, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Georgia .....	Lari .....		1,316.67						1,316.67
Italy .....	Euro .....		1,118.19						1,118.19
Joseph Lai:									
Georgia .....	Lari .....		896.67						896.67
Italy .....	Euro .....		707.53						707.53
* Delegation Expenses:									
Georgia .....	Lari .....					300.00			300.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joni Ernst:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,949.36				10,949.36
Kosovo .....	Euro .....		65.03						65.03
Greece .....	Euro .....		238.77						238.77
Kurt Freshley:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				14,802.46				14,802.46
Kosovo .....	Euro .....		93.85						93.85
Greece .....	Euro .....		238.77						238.77
Brenda Safranski:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,949.36				10,949.36
Kosovo .....	Euro .....		65.03						65.03
Greece .....	Euro .....		238.77						238.77
* Delegation Expenses:									
Kosovo .....	Euro .....					1,153.35			1,153.35
Greece .....	Euro .....					900.00			900.00
Senator John McCain:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				20,688.72				20,688.72
Israel .....	Shekel .....		436.00						436.00
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		9.00						9.00
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		48.20						48.20
Kathryn Wheelbarger:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				20,688.72				20,688.72
Israel .....	Shekel .....		466.00						466.00
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		36.00						36.00
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		5.50						5.50
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				20,688.72				20,688.72
Israel .....	Shekel .....		466.00						466.00
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		36.00						36.00
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		5.50						5.50
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				29,249.02				29,249.02
Israel .....	Shekel .....		436.00						436.00
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		15.64						15.64
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		27.00						27.00
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		559.22						559.22
Craig Abele:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				20,688.72				20,688.72
Israel .....	Shekel .....		436.00						436.00
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		9.00						9.00
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		27.00						27.00
Senator Joe Donnelly:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				24,402.48				24,402.48
Israel .....	Shekel .....		473.66						473.66
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		168.69						168.69
* Delegation Expenses:									
Israel .....	Shekel .....					4,929.84			4,929.84
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....				5,011.67				5,011.67
Daniel Lerner:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,901.84				12,901.84
France .....	Euro .....		1,712.57						1,712.57
* Delegation Expenses:									
France .....	Euro .....				733.00				733.00
Senator Roger Wicker:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		4,985.86						4,985.86
Joseph Lai:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		4,985.86						4,985.86
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		4,464.26						4,464.26
Anthony Lazarski:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		4,591.56						4,591.56
Senator Mike Rounds:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		4,133.86						4,133.86
Dan Adelstein:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		4,133.86						4,133.86
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....					5,579.81			5,579.81
Daniel Lerner:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,079.76				10,079.76
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		2,041.09						2,041.09
* Delegation Expenses:									
Singapore .....	Dollar .....				314.00	534.00			848.00
Christian Brose:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				23,447.94				23,447.94
Japan .....	Yen .....		589.27						589.27
South Korea .....	Won .....		360.54						360.54
Philippines .....	Peso .....		427.76						427.76
Australia .....	Dollar .....		971.79						971.79
* Delegation Expenses:									
Japan .....	Yen .....				281.18				281.18
South Korea .....	Won .....				287.42				287.42
Philippines .....	Peso .....				326.24				326.24
Australia .....	Dollar .....				251.66				251.66
Cord Sterling:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				18,656.52				18,656.52
Poland .....	Zloty .....		213.53						213.53
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		778.92						778.92
Romania .....	Leu .....		450.79						450.79
* Delegation Expenses:									
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....					120.18			120.18
Romania .....	Leu .....				322.80				322.80
Adam Barker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				14,001.58				14,001.58
Cameroon .....	Franc .....		690.02						690.02
Thomas Goffus:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				18,244.86				18,244.86
Germany .....	Euro .....		31.00						31.00
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....		317.00						317.00
Georgia .....	Lari .....		616.00						616.00
Armenia .....	Dram .....		289.00						289.00
Austria .....	Euro .....		95.00						95.00
Bosnia & Herzegovina .....	Marka .....		493.00						493.00
Montenegro .....	Euro .....		525.00						525.00
Albania .....	Lek .....		205.00						205.00
Serbia .....	Dinar .....		361.00						361.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Macedonia .....	Denar .....		262.00						262.00
Kosovo .....	Euro .....		420.00						420.00
Kathryn Wheelbarger:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				18,330.86				18,330.86
Germany .....	Euro .....		82.00						82.00
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....		317.00						317.00
Georgia .....	Lari .....		604.00						604.00
Armenia .....	Dram .....		289.60						289.60
Austria .....	Euro .....		95.00						95.00
Bosnia & Herzegovina .....	Marka .....		495.00						495.00
Montenegro .....	Euro .....		523.00						523.00
Albania .....	Lek .....		204.00						204.00
Serbia .....	Dinar .....		350.00						350.00
Macedonia .....	Denar .....		266.00						266.00
Kosovo .....	Euro .....		433.00						433.00
Dustin Walker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				18,547.66				18,547.66
Germany .....	Euro .....		7.50						7.50
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....		233.00						233.00
Georgia .....	Lari .....		540.20						540.20
Armenia .....	Dram .....		290.00						290.00
Austria .....	Euro .....		95.00						95.00
Bosnia & Herzegovina .....	Marka .....		482.50						482.50
Montenegro .....	Euro .....		425.10						425.10
Albania .....	Lek .....		154.00						154.00
Serbia .....	Dinar .....		333.20						333.20
Macedonia .....	Denar .....		175.50						175.50
Kosovo .....	Euro .....		322.05						322.05
Mariah McNamara:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				18,244.86				18,244.86
Germany .....	Euro .....		58.00						58.00
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....		342.00						342.00
Georgia .....	Lari .....		629.00						629.00
Armenia .....	Dram .....		290.00						290.00
Austria .....	Euro .....		95.00						95.00
Bosnia & Herzegovina .....	Marka .....		495.00						495.00
Montenegro .....	Euro .....		548.00						548.00
Albania .....	Lek .....		198.00						198.00
Serbia .....	Dinar .....		372.00						372.00
Macedonia .....	Denar .....		256.00						256.00
Kosovo .....	Euro .....		433.00						433.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....						287.94		287.94
Georgia .....	Lari .....						510.82		510.82
Armenia .....	Dram .....				480.28				480.28
Bosnia & Herzegovina .....	Marka .....						320.33		320.33
Montenegro .....	Euro .....						668.00		668.00
Serbia .....	Dinar .....				168.00				168.00
Kosovo .....	Euro .....						402.58		402.58
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				18,773.96				18,773.96
Kazakhstan .....	Tenge .....		572.96						572.96
Armenia .....	Dram .....		305.82						305.82
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		580.00						580.00
Moldova .....	Leu .....		616.04						616.04
Belarus .....	Ruble .....		381.00						381.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Armenia .....	Dram .....				258.64				258.64
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....				257.17				257.17
Cord Sterling:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,094.82				15,094.82
Philippines .....	Peso .....		504.00						504.00
Australia .....	Dollar .....		893.33						893.33
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		743.00						743.00
Kathryn Wheelbarger:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,094.82				15,094.82
Philippines .....	Peso .....		504.00						504.00
Australia .....	Dollar .....		715.00						715.00
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		768.00						768.00
David E. Sayers:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,094.82				15,094.82
Philippines .....	Peso .....		504.00						504.00
Australia .....	Dollar .....		715.00						715.00
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		768.00						768.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Australia .....	Dollar .....				241.00				241.00
Singapore .....	Dollar .....				551.00				551.00
Senator Bill Nelson:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				900.20				900.20
Morocco .....	Dirham .....		667.83						667.83
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		303.27						303.27
Estonia .....	Euro .....		285.49						285.49
Iceland .....	Krona .....		316.14						316.14
Mathew Williams:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				900.20				900.20
Morocco .....	Dirham .....		691.29						691.29
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		262.86						262.86
Estonia .....	Euro .....		207.57						207.57
Iceland .....	Krona .....		306.52						306.52
* Delegation Expenses:									
Morocco .....	Dirham .....						1,031.65		1,031.65
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....				241.63				241.63
Estonia .....	Euro .....				476.66				476.66
Iceland .....	Krona .....						74.28		74.28
Senator Angus King:									
Denmark .....	Krone .....				905.38				905.38
Stephen Smith:									
Denmark .....	Krone .....		905.25						905.25
Morgan Cashwell:									
Denmark .....	Krone .....		895.67						895.67
Delegation Expenses:									
Denmark .....	Krone .....				3,928.23				3,928.23
Alex Wong:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				6,255.57				6,255.57
Norway .....	Krone .....		1,297.07						1,297.07



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Sweden .....	Krona .....		725.00						725.00
Latvia .....	Euro .....		743.11						743.11
* Delegation Expenses:									
Norway .....	Krone .....				1,458.74				1,458.74
Sweden .....	Krona .....				533.50		493.50		1,027.00
Latvia .....	Euro .....				255.64				255.64
Senator Martin Heinrich:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,178.08				12,178.08
Djibouti .....	Franc .....		398.03						398.03
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		949.49						949.49
Iraq .....	Dinar .....		61.00						61.00
Austria .....	Euro .....		370.24						370.24
Tony Samp:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,178.08				12,178.08
Djibouti .....	Franc .....		398.03						398.03
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....		949.49						949.49
Iraq .....	Dinar .....		61.00						61.00
Austria .....	Euro .....		370.24						370.24
* Delegation Expenses:									
Kuwait .....	Dinar .....						309.69		309.69
Iraq .....	Dinar .....				3,450.00				3,450.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,357.76				13,357.76
Italy .....	Euro .....		1,945.27						1,945.27
* Delegation Expenses:									
Italy .....	Euro .....				1,025.64				1,025.64
Anish Goel:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,861.36				1,861.36
Sweden .....	Krona .....		61.49						61.49
Adam Barker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,441.46				12,441.46
Germany .....	Euro .....		580.88						580.88
Italy .....	Euro .....		411.88						411.88
* Delegation Expenses:									
Germany .....	Euro .....				600.00				600.00
Italy .....	Euro .....				488.51				488.51
Anish Goel:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,030.62				3,030.62
Peru .....	Sol .....		1,167.38						1,167.38
James B. Hickey:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,407.66				7,407.66
Estonia .....	Euro .....		210.94						210.94
Latvia .....	Euro .....		727.33						727.33
Germany .....	Euro .....		194.55						194.55
Poland .....	Zloty .....		687.69						687.69
* Delegation Expenses:									
Latvia .....	Euro .....				668.90				668.90
James B. Hickey:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				9,950.46				9,950.46
Latvia .....	Euro .....		10.00						10.00
Lithuania .....	Euro .....		829.65						829.65
* Delegation Expenses:									
Latvia .....	Euro .....				269.97				269.97
Lithuania .....	Euro .....						37.80		37.80
Total .....			84,779.28		493,870.17		17,653.77		596,303.22

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Nov. 2, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Ben Sasse:									
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		28.50						28.50
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		28.50						28.50
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,621.66				13,621.66
Total .....			57.00		13,621.66		0.00		13,678.66

SENATOR RICHARD C. SHELBY,  
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Oct. 25, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
B. Bailey Edwards:									
Greenland .....	Krone .....		739.59						739.59
Iceland .....	Krona .....		244.00						244.00
Nicholas Cummings:									
Greenland .....	Krone .....		684.59						684.59
Iceland .....	Krona .....		304.00						304.00
Total .....			1,972.18		0.00		0.00		1,972.18

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,  
Nov. 7, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
David Gillers:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				2,539.06				2,539.06
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		1,330.90						1,330.90
Total .....			1,330.90		2,539.06		0.00		3,869.96

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 5, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Cory A. Booker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				9,116.29				9,116.29
Iraq .....	Dinar .....				4,550.00				4,550.00
Jordan .....	Dinar .....		523.31						523.31
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,932.00						1,932.00
Sophia Lalani:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				9,467.49				9,467.49
Iraq .....	Dinar .....		6.00		4,550.00				4,550.00
Jordan .....	Dinar .....		635.22						635.22
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,951.58						1,951.58
Matthew B. Klapper:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				9,116.29				9,116.29
Iraq .....	Dinar .....				4,550.00				4,550.00
Jordan .....	Dinar .....		477.41						477.41
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,846.00						1,846.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Jordan .....	Dinar .....					881.39			881.39
Israel .....	Shekel .....					10,440.13			10,440.13
Total .....			7,371.52		41,350.07		11,321.52		60,043.11

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES INHOFE,  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 27, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tim Scott:									
Israel .....	Shekel .....		770.00						770.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,683.39				10,683.39
Jennifer DeCasper:									
Israel .....	Shekel .....		770.00						770.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,835.39				11,835.39
Brian Goff:									
Israel .....	Shekel .....		770.00						770.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,683.39				10,683.39
Christopher Campbell:									
Canada .....	Dollar .....		3,008.00						3,008.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				984.99				984.99
Everett Eissenstat:									0.00
Switzerland .....	Swiss Franc .....		1,657.01		11,959.06				13,616.07
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,959.06				11,959.06
Shane Warren:									
Switzerland .....	Swiss Franc .....		1,674.39						1,674.39
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,959.06				11,959.06
Christopher Campbell:									
Thailand .....	Thai Bhat .....		809.18						809.18
Brunei .....	Brunei Dollar .....		347.00						347.00
Singapore .....	Singapore Dollar .....		744.47						744.47
United States .....	Dollar .....				33,795.22				33,795.22
Everett Eissenstat:									
India .....	Rupee .....		464.17						464.17
Thailand .....	Thai Bhat .....		526.12						526.12
Brunei .....	Brunei Dollar .....		352.14						352.14
Singapore .....	Singapore Dollar .....		1,034.36						1,034.36
United States .....	Dollar .....				32,656.90				32,656.90
Shane Warren:									
India .....	Rupee .....		450.59						450.59
Thailand .....	Thai Bhat .....		562.94						562.94
Brunei .....	Brunei Dollar .....		347.00						347.00
Singapore .....	Singapore Dollar .....		1,120.54						1,120.54
United States .....	Dollar .....				32,656.90				32,656.90
Jay Khosla:									
India .....	Rupee .....		450.14						450.14
Thailand .....	Thai Bhat .....		559.02						559.02
Brunei .....	Brunei Dollar .....		347.00						347.00
Singapore .....	Singapore Dollar .....		1,068.49						1,068.49
United States .....	Dollar .....				32,321.90				32,321.90
* Delegation Expenses									
United States .....	Dollar .....					2,180.91			2,180.91

Total .....	17,832.56 .....	201,495.26 .....	2,180.91 .....	221,508.73 .....
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\* Delegation Expenses include transportation, embassy overtime, as well as official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

SENATOR ORRIN HATCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 26, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
United Arab Emirates .....	Dirham .....		285.00 .....						285.00 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,894.60 .....				15,894.60 .....
Charles Ziegler:									
United Arab Emirates .....	Dirham .....		285.00 .....						285.00 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,788.16 .....				15,788.16 .....
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Arab Emirates .....	Dirham .....						513.92 .....		513.92 .....
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Morocco .....	Dirham .....		578.89 .....						578.89 .....
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....		113.29 .....						113.29 .....
Estonia .....	Kroon .....		574.93 .....						574.93 .....
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		199.62 .....						199.62 .....
Iceland .....	Kronur .....		319.88 .....						319.88 .....
Christy Gleason:									
Morocco .....	Dirham .....		574.99 .....						574.99 .....
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....		387.75 .....						387.75 .....
Estonia .....	Kroon .....		573.05 .....						573.05 .....
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		236.46 .....						236.46 .....
Iceland .....	Kronur .....		327.37 .....						327.37 .....
* Delegation Expenses:									
Morocco .....	Dirham .....						802.38 .....		802.38 .....
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....						284.64 .....		284.64 .....
Estonia .....	Kroon .....						497.66 .....		497.66 .....
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....						130.24 .....		130.24 .....
Iceland .....	Kronur .....						452.00 .....		452.00 .....
Senator Edward Markey:									
Cabo Verde .....	Escudo .....		182.24 .....						182.24 .....
Senegal .....	CFA Franc .....		889.32 .....						889.32 .....
Liberia .....	Liberian dollar .....		685.62 .....						685.62 .....
Nigeria .....	Nairas .....		1,050.84 .....						1,050.84 .....
Spain .....	Euro .....		315.33 .....						315.33 .....
Phillip McGovern:									
Cabo Verde .....	Escudo .....		142.71 .....						142.71 .....
Senegal .....	CFA Franc .....		678.68 .....						678.68 .....
Liberia .....	Liberian dollar .....		645.54 .....						645.54 .....
Nigeria .....	Nairas .....		787.52 .....						787.52 .....
Spain .....	Euro .....		281.62 .....						281.62 .....
* Delegation Expenses:									
Cabo Verde .....	Escudo .....						259.01 .....		259.01 .....
Senegal .....	CFA Franc .....						1,107.00 .....		1,107.00 .....
Nigeria .....	Nairas .....						2,115.75 .....		2,115.75 .....
Spain .....	Euro .....						521.52 .....		521.52 .....
Sarah Downs:									
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		580.00 .....						580.00 .....
Nicaragua .....	Cordoba .....		424.14 .....						424.14 .....
Costa Rica .....	Costa Rican Colon .....		561.80 .....						561.80 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,719.18 .....				1,719.18 .....
Caleb McCarry:									
Honduras .....	Lempira .....		580.00 .....						580.00 .....
Nicaragua .....	Cordoba .....		424.14 .....						424.14 .....
Costa Rica .....	Costa Rican Colon .....		561.80 .....						561.80 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,719.18 .....				1,719.18 .....
* Delegation Expenses:									
Honduras .....	Lempira .....						985.00 .....		985.00 .....
Nicaragua .....	Cordoba .....						365.51 .....		365.51 .....
Costa Rica .....	Costa Rican Colon .....						994.65 .....		994.65 .....
Heather Flynn:									
Burundi .....	Burundi Francs .....		597.00 .....						597.00 .....
Ethiopia .....	Birr .....		2,105.00 .....						2,105.00 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,780.66 .....				5,780.66 .....
* Delegation Expenses:									
Burundi .....	Burundi Francs .....						1,108.89 .....		1,108.89 .....
Chris Ford:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		1,364.20 .....						1,364.20 .....
France .....	Euro .....		677.13 .....						677.13 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,427.46 .....				3,427.46 .....
Jim Greene:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		1,451.70 .....						1,451.70 .....
Belgium .....	Euro .....		948.55 .....						948.55 .....
Germany .....	Euro .....		699.94 .....						699.94 .....
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		1,388.26 .....						1,388.26 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,263.96 .....				3,263.96 .....
Jonathan Tsentas:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		1,468.41 .....						1,468.41 .....
Belgium .....	Euro .....		988.55 .....						988.55 .....
Germany .....	Euro .....		685.82 .....						685.82 .....
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		929.00 .....						929.00 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,263.96 .....				3,263.96 .....
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....						108.14 .....		108.14 .....
Belgium .....	Euro .....						235.44 .....		235.44 .....
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....						345.61 .....		345.61 .....
Josh Klein:									
Greenland .....	Danish Krone .....		687.00 .....						687.00 .....
Norway .....	Norwegian Krone .....		1,140.83 .....						1,140.83 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,798.26 .....				1,798.26 .....
Charlotte Oldham-Moore:									
Kenya .....	Shilling .....		1,155.00 .....						1,155.00 .....
Democratic Republic of Congo .....	Congolese Franc .....		515.00 .....						515.00 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				6,054.08 .....				6,054.08 .....
* Delegation Expenses:									
Kenya .....	Shilling .....						275.00 .....		275.00 .....
Democratic Republic of Congo .....	Congolese Franc .....						224.10 .....		224.10 .....
Damian Murphy:									
Afghanistan .....	Afghanis .....		134.15 .....						134.15 .....
Pakistan .....	Rupees .....		207.00 .....						207.00 .....
United States .....	Dollar .....				2,742.76 .....				2,742.76 .....
Margaret Taylor:									
Afghanistan .....	Afghanis .....		20.00 .....						20.00 .....

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Pakistan .....	Rupees .....		407.00						407.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				2,742.76				2,742.76
* Delegation Expenses:									
Pakistan .....	Rupees .....						249.03		249.03
Morgan Vina:									
Rwanda .....	Rwandan Francs .....		642.00						642.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
Rwanda .....	Rwandan Francs .....						268.50		268.50
Total .....			31,459.07		64,195.02		11,843.99		107,498.08

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 27, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Thomas R. Carper:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,219.79				1,219.79
Guatemala .....	Quetzal .....		92.00						92.00
El Salvador .....	Dollar .....		44.17						44.17
Holly Idelson:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,509.39				1,509.39
Guatemala .....	Quetzal .....		24.00						24.00
El Salvador .....	Dollar .....		50.17						50.17
Senator Tammy Baldwin:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		318.54						318.54
Israel .....	Shekel .....		979.80						979.80
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		447.73						447.73
Turkey .....	Lira .....		306.62						306.62
Senator Heidi Heitkamp:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		364.94						364.94
Israel .....	Shekel .....		847.18						847.18
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		495.30						495.30
Turkey .....	Lira .....		356.78						356.78
Senator Cory Booker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,160.26				3,160.26
Austria .....	Euro .....		330.14						330.14
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,100.00						1,100.00
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		509.33						509.33
Turkey .....	Lira .....		100.51						100.51
Senator Gary Peters:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		360.19						360.19
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,081.50						1,081.50
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		490.55						490.55
Turkey .....	Lira .....		352.03						352.03
Tessa Coult:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		374.30						374.30
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,095.61						1,095.61
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		504.65						504.65
Turkey .....	Lira .....		366.13						366.13
Eric Feldman:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		297.51						297.51
Israel .....	Shekel .....		936.77						936.77
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		482.17						482.17
Turkey .....	Lira .....		370.53						370.53
Jeremy Steslicki:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		318.54						318.54
Israel .....	Shekel .....		976.80						976.80
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		447.73						447.73
Turkey .....	Lira .....		306.60						306.60
William "Bill" Murat:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		318.84						318.84
Israel .....	Shekel .....		977.40						977.40
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		448.03						448.03
Turkey .....	Lira .....		306.92						306.92
Matthew Klapper:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		330.14						330.14
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,100.00						1,100.00
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		509.33						509.33
Turkey .....	Lira .....		128.84						128.84
Sophia Lalani:									
Austria .....	Euro .....		330.14						330.14
Israel .....	Shekel .....		1,100.00						1,100.00
Saudi Arabia .....	Riyal .....		509.33						509.33
Turkey .....	Lira .....		246.68						246.68
Jose "Joske" Bautista:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,855.07				1,855.07
Brazil .....	Real .....		580.00						580.00
Argentina .....	Peso .....		691.61						691.61
Uruguay .....	Peso .....		231.00						231.00
Senator Ben Sasse:									
Burma .....	Kyat .....		676.00						676.00
Thailand .....	Baht .....		468.21						468.21
Germany .....	Euro .....		917.21						917.21
* Delegation Expenses:									
El Salvador .....							931.69		931.69
Total .....			24,998.50		7,744.51		931.69		33,674.70

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs,  
Sept. 23, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jose Bautista:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				1,005.56				1,005.56
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		1,527.98						1,527.98
Brooke Ericson:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,771.76				10,771.76
South Korea .....	Won .....		804.59						804.59
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		1,170.82						1,170.82
David Luckey:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,771.76				10,771.76
South Korea .....	Won .....		801.59						801.59
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		1,166.82						1,166.82
Gabrielle D'Adamo:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,771.76				10,771.76
South Korea .....	Won .....		777.51						777.51
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		1,230.85						1,230.85
Gabrielle Batkin:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,771.76				10,771.76
South Korea .....	Won .....		909.59						909.59
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		691.00						691.00
Stephen Vina:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,771.76				10,771.76
South Korea .....	Won .....		814.65						814.65
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		1,203.40						1,203.40
Senator Gary Peters:									
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		513.63						513.63
Estonia .....	Euro .....		172.38						172.38
Iceland .....	Krona .....		237.00						237.00
Morocco .....	Dirham .....		487.04						487.04
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....		354.93						354.93
David Weinberg:									
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		541.71						541.71
Estonia .....	Euro .....		193.42						193.42
Iceland .....	Krona .....		266.82						266.82
Morocco .....	Dirham .....		503.33						503.33
Czech Republic .....	Koruna .....		439.89						439.89
* Delegation Expenses:									
South Korea .....	Won .....						1,193.88		1,193.88
Total .....			14,808.95		54,864.36		1,193.88		70,867.19

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs,  
Oct. 18, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Cornyn:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,601.86				13,601.86
Iraq .....	Dinar .....		61.00		1,725.00				1,786.00
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		83.00						83.00
Qatar .....	Rial .....		319.65						319.65
Carter Burwell:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,997.86				12,997.86
Iraq .....	Dinar .....		61.00		1,725.00				1,786.00
Afghanistan .....	Afghani .....		83.00						83.00
Qatar .....	Rial .....		319.65						319.65
* Delegation Expenses:									
Qatar .....	Rial .....						244.76		244.76
United Arab Emirates .....	Dirham .....						113.61		113.61
Total .....			927.30		30,049.72		358.37		31,335.39

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 25, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Peter Oppenheim:									
South Africa .....	Rand .....		2,040.00						2,040.00
Mary Sumpter Lapinski:									
South Africa .....	Rand .....		1,978.00						1,978.00
* Delegation Expenses:									
South Africa .....	Rand .....						303.13		303.13
Total .....			4,018.00				303.13		4,321.13

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179, agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER,  
Chairman, Committee on Health, Labor, and Pensions, Oct 25, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator David Vitter:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		3,207.39						3,207.39
United States .....	Dollar .....				15,111.66				15,111.66
Meredith West:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....		2,969.38						2,969.38
United States .....	Dollar .....				21,961.72				21,961.72
Total .....			6,176.77		37,073.38		0.00		43,250.15

SENATOR DAVID VITTER,  
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,  
Oct. 27, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), U.S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Chad Tanner:									
.....			600.00						600.00
.....			516.00						516.00
.....					226.00				226.00
.....							452.00		452.00
Randy Bookout:									
.....			984.13						984.13
.....							136.66		136.66
Paul Matulic:									
.....			984.13						984.13
.....							136.66		136.66
Ryan White:									
.....			984.13						984.13
.....							136.66		136.66
Chris Joyner:									
.....			1,052.00						1,052.00
.....							251.66		251.66
.....			680.03						680.03
.....							362.24		362.24
.....			395.00						395.00
.....							287.42		287.42
John Matchison:									
.....			1,137.00						1,137.00
.....					7,900.00				7,900.00
.....							150.00		150.00
Jongsun Kim:									
.....			1,137.00						1,137.00
.....					7,900.00				7,900.00
.....							150.00		150.00
Senator Tom Cotton:									
.....			250.00		6,921.46				250.00
.....									6,921.46
Ryan Tully:									
.....			250.00		6,921.46				250.00
.....									6,921.46
Paul Matulic:									
.....			1,074.00						1,074.00
.....			1,236.00						1,236.00
.....					4,520.00				4,520.00
Hayden Milberg:									
.....			1,074.00						1,074.00
.....			1,236.00						1,236.00
.....					4,520.00				4,520.00
Senator James Lankford:									
.....			480.00						480.00
.....					1,400.00				1,400.00
.....							835.00		835.00
Emily Harding:									
.....			480.00						480.00
.....					1,400.00				1,400.00
.....							835.00		835.00
Adam Farris:									
.....			480.00						480.00
.....					1,400.00				1,400.00
.....							835.00		835.00
Brian Walsh:									
.....			142.00						142.00
.....			332.00						332.00
.....			135.00						135.00
.....					12,847.26				12,847.26
Randy Bookout:									
.....			142.00						142.00
.....			332.00						332.00
.....			135.00						135.00
.....					12,847.26				12,847.26
Walter Weiss:									
.....			497.00						497.00
.....			641.00						641.00
.....			409.50						409.50
.....					8,722.16				8,722.16
Mike Pevzner:									
.....			497.00						497.00
.....			641.00						641.00
.....			409.50						409.50
.....					8,722.16				8,722.16
Senator Tom Cotton:									
.....			534.00						534.00
.....			189.00						189.00
.....			537.00						537.00
.....					12,495.86				12,495.86
Ryan Tully:									
.....			534.00						534.00



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), U.S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
.....	.....	.....	189.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	189.00
.....	.....	.....	537.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	537.00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,495.86	.....	.....	.....	12,495.86
Total .....	.....	.....	21,862.42	.....	111,239.48	.....	4,568.30	.....	137,670.20

SENATOR RICHARD BURR,  
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Nov. 7, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ambassador David Killian:									
Georgia .....	Lari .....	.....	885.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	885.00
Italy .....	Euro .....	.....	1,110.42	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,110.42
United States .....	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
* Delegation Expenses:									
Georgia .....	Lari .....	.....	2,490.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,490.00
Italy .....	Euro .....	.....	305.22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	305.22
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....	.....	1,487.25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,487.25
Austria .....	Euro .....	.....	1,029.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,029.00
United States .....	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	13,193.56	.....	.....	.....	13,193.56
* Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom .....	Pound .....	.....	779.72	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	779.72
Austria .....	Euro .....	.....	1,001.70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,001.70
Poland .....	Zloty .....	.....	2,253.44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,254.44
United States .....	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	9,522.96	.....	.....	.....	9,522.96
* Delegation Expenses:									
Poland .....	Zloty .....	.....	72.92	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72.92
Total .....	.....	.....	11,414.67	.....	22,716.52	.....	.....	.....	34,131.19

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER F. WICKER,  
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,  
Oct. 11, 2016.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2016

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States .....	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	27,610.86	.....	.....	.....	27,610.86
Australia .....	Dollar .....	.....	932.31	.....	1,007.00	.....	.....	.....	1,939.31
Philippines .....	Peso .....	.....	560.33	.....	1,166.87	.....	199.25	.....	1,926.45
South Korea .....	Won .....	.....	395.00	.....	862.27	.....	.....	.....	1,257.27
Japan .....	Yen .....	.....	888.30	.....	1,124.71	.....	.....	.....	2,013.01
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States .....	Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	13,100.86	.....	.....	.....	13,100.86
Norway .....	Krone .....	.....	749.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	749.50
Sweden .....	Krona .....	.....	652.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	652.00
Latvia .....	Euro .....	.....	793.11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	793.11
Total .....	.....	.....	4,970.55	.....	44,872.57	.....	199.25	.....	50,042.37

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, Nov. 18, 2016.

## AUTHORIZING RETURN OF PAPERS REQUEST

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to request the return of the papers with respect to H. Con. Res. 122 so that the enrolling clerk may make a technical correction.

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

## PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 513, S. 2944.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2944) to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefit program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 2944

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2016”.

### SEC. 2. REPORTS.

Section 1205 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “Rules, regulations, and procedures issued under this part may include regulations based on standards developed by another Federal agency for programs related to public safety officer death or disability claims.” [after “before the Bureau.”;] *before the last sentence;*

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” before “In making”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) In making a determination under section 1201, the Bureau shall give substantial weight to the evidence and all findings of fact presented by a State, local, or Federal administrative or investigative agency regarding eligibility for death or disability benefits.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1)(A) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau information on all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

“(B) Not less frequently than once per week, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau updated information with respect to all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

“(C) The information made available under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) for each pending claim—

“(I) the date on which the claim was submitted to the Bureau;

“(II) the State of residence of the claimant;

“(III) an anonymized, identifying claim number; and

“(IV) the nature of the claim; and

“(ii) the total number of pending claims that were submitted to the Bureau more than 1 year before the date on which the information is made available.

“(2)(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 180 days thereafter, the Bureau shall submit to Congress a report on the death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part during the 180-day period preceding the report.

“(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include information on—

“(i) the total number of claims, and the nature of each claim, submitted to the Bureau;

“(ii) the number of claims for which a final determination has been made;

“(iii) the number of claims for which a final determination has not been reached and the basis for the delay;

“(iv) the amount of time required to process each claim for which a final determination has been made [and, for any claim which could not be processed within 1 year of being submitted to the Bureau, the basis for any delay];

“(v) the number of claims submitted that are related to exposure due to the September 11th, 2001, terrorism attacks and the average award amount for any such claims for which a final determination has been made;

“(vi) the result of each claim for which a final determination was made during the 180-day period, including the number of claims rejected and the basis for any denial of benefits;

“(vii) the number of claims [that were appealed] for which a final determination was made and appealed during the 180-day period;

“(viii) the average number of claims processed per reviewer of the Bureau; and

“(ix) the average amount of time each agency takes to submit all required information and documents to the Bureau.]

“(ix) information on the compliance of the Bureau with the obligation to offset award amounts under section 1201(f)(3), including—

“(I) the number of claims that are eligible for compensation under both this part and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note; Public Law 107-42) (commonly referred to as the ‘VCF’);

“(II) for each claim described in subclause (I) for which compensation has been paid under the VCF, the amount of compensation paid under the VCF;

“(III) the number of claims described in subclause (I) for which the Bureau has made a final determination; and

“(IV) the number of claims described in subclause (I) for which the Bureau has not made a final determination.

“(3) Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

“(A) conduct a study on the compliance of the Bureau with the obligation to offset award amounts under section 1201(f)(3); and

“(B) submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subparagraph (A) that includes an assessment of whether the Bureau has provided the information required under subparagraph (B)(ix) of paragraph (2) of this subsection in each report required under that paragraph.

“[3](4) In this subsection, the term ‘nature of the claim’ means whether the claim is a claim for—

“(A) benefits under this subpart with respect to the death of a public safety officer;

“(B) benefits under this subpart with respect to the disability of a public safety officer; or

“(C) education assistance under subpart 2.”

#### SEC. 3. AGE LIMITATION FOR CHILDREN.

Section 1212(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796d-1(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “No child” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), no child”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DELAYED APPROVALS.—

“(A) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION.—If a claim for assistance under this subpart is approved more than 1 year after the date on which the application for such assistance is filed with the Attorney General, the age limitation under this subsection shall be extended by the length of the period—

“(i) beginning on the day after the date that is 1 year after the date on which the application is filed; and

“(ii) ending on the date on which the application is approved.

“(B) CLAIM FOR BENEFITS FOR DEATH OR PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY.—In addition to an extension under subparagraph (A), if any, for an application for assistance under this subpart that relates to a claim for benefits under subpart 1 that was approved more than 1 year after the date on which the claim was filed with the Attorney General, the age limitation under this subsection shall be extended by the length of the period—

“(i) beginning on the day after the date that is 1 year after the date on which the claim for benefits is submitted; and

“(ii) ending on the date on which the claim for benefits is approved.”

#### SEC. 4. DUE DILIGENCE IN PAYING BENEFIT CLAIMS.

Subpart 1 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 1206. DUE DILIGENCE IN PAYING BENEFIT CLAIMS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau, with all due diligence, shall expeditiously attempt to obtain the information and documentation necessary to adjudicate a benefit claim filed under this part, including a claim for financial assistance under subpart 2.

“(b) SUFFICIENT INFORMATION UNAVAILABLE.—If a benefit claim filed under this part,

including a claim for financial assistance under subpart 2, is unable to be adjudicated by the Bureau because of a lack of information or documentation from a third party, such as a public agency, the Bureau may not abandon the benefit claim unless the Bureau has utilized the investigative tools available to the Bureau to obtain the necessary information or documentation, including subpoenas.”

#### SEC. 5. PRESUMPTION THAT OFFICER ACTED PROPERLY.

Section 1202 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796a) is amended—

(1) by striking “No benefit” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—No benefit”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) PRESUMPTION.—In determining whether a benefit is payable under this part, the Bureau shall—

“(1) presume that none of the limitations described in subsection (a) apply; and

“(2) have the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence that a limitation described in subsection (a) applies.”

#### SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by this Act shall—

(1) take effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to any benefit claim or application under part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.) that is—

(A) pending before the Bureau of Justice Assistance on the date of enactment; or

(B) received by the Bureau on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate reiterates its commitment to our Nation's law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders. Forty years ago, we created the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, PSOB, to support first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice. We have now passed legislation to make much needed improvements to the claims adjudication process, which for too long has been plagued by red tape and delays.

Today's legislation builds upon my past efforts to improve the PSOB program. In 2003, I worked with a bipartisan group of senators to pass the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act, which recognized that law enforcement officers who suffer fatal heart attacks or strokes in the line of duty also deserve benefits. In 2009, I introduced the Dale Long Emergency Medical Service Providers Protection Act, which became law in 2012 and extended PSOB benefits to nonprofit Emergency Medical Service, EMS, providers. This change covered an estimated 1,200 EMS personnel in Vermont alone. Today's legislation will add transparency to the PSOB's decisionmaking process and should help expedite the review of applications for benefits.

The legislation also includes an amendment I offered in the Judiciary Committee that improved this bill in three important ways. First, it ensured that children are not disqualified from receiving education benefits due to delays within the PSOB program, which can approach 10 years. At a Senate Judiciary hearing in April, a law enforcement official described this as unconscionable. I agree. My amendment ensures it will never happen

again. Second, a fallen officer or first responder's family should not have their claim denied simply because their employer fails to provide necessary paperwork to the PSOB office. My amendment requires that the PSOB office use every investigative tool it has to obtain what it needs from third parties to process a claim. This will ensure that officers and their families who are entitled to benefits are not further victimized by delays beyond their control. Finally, as originally drafted, this legislation only applied to claims filed after it becomes law. I want these improvements to help those currently stuck in the backlog, and my amendment fixed this issue.

One hundred twenty-three law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty so far in 2016. These families deserve a working and responsive PSOB program. This legislation, while only a modest step, demonstrates our shared commitment to those officers and their families. I urge the House of Representatives to quickly pass this legislation and send it to the President for signature.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be withdrawn; that the Grassley substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the Grassley title amendment be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendments were withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5113) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 2944), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The amendment (No. 5114) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program, and for other purposes."

#### CROSS-BORDER TRADE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 559, S. 461.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 461) to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee

on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. REPEAL AND TRANSITION PROVISION.

(a) REPEAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), section 560 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (division D of Public Law 113-6; 127 Stat. 378) and section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (division F of Public Law 113-76; 6 U.S.C. 211 note) are repealed.

(b) AGREEMENTS IN EFFECT.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), nothing in this Act may be construed as affecting in any manner an agreement entered into pursuant to section 560 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2013 (division D of Public Law 113-6; 127 Stat. 378) or section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (division F of Public Law 113-76; 6 U.S.C. 211 note) that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, and any such agreement shall continue to have full force and effect on and after such date.

(c) PROPOSED AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), nothing in this Act may be construed as affecting in any manner a proposal accepted for consideration and further development by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the General Services Administration pursuant to section 559 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014 (division F of Public Law 113-76; 6 U.S.C. 211 note) that was accepted prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" mean the General Services Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" mean the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) COMMISSIONER.—The term "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(4) DONATION AGREEMENT.—The term "donation agreement" means an agreement made under section 5(a).

(5) FEE AGREEMENT.—The term "fee agreement" means an agreement made by the Commissioner under section 4(a)(1).

(6) PERSON.—The term "person" means—

(A) an individual;

(B) a corporation, partnership, trust, estate, association, or any other private or public entity;

(C) a Federal, State, or local government;

(D) any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a Federal, State, or local government; or

(E) any other governmental entity.

(7) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "relevant committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(C) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

#### SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO FEE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN SERVICES OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.

(a) FEE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY FOR FEE AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 13031(e) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(e)) and section 451 of the

Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1451), the Commissioner may, upon the request of any person, enter into an agreement with that person under which—

(A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection will provide the services described in paragraph (4) at a port of entry or any other facility where U.S. Customs and Border Protection provides or will provide services;

(B) such person will remit a fee imposed under subsection (b) to U.S. Customs and Border Protection in an amount equal to the full costs incurred or that will be incurred in providing such services; and

(C) any additional facilities at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection services are performed or deemed necessary for the provision of services under an agreement entered into under this section shall be provided, maintained, and equipped by such person, without additional cost to the Federal Government, in accordance with U.S. Customs and Border Protection specifications.

(2) CRITERIA.—The Commissioner shall establish criteria for entering into a partnership under paragraph (1) that include the following:

(A) Selection and evaluation of potential partners.

(B) Identification and documentation of roles and responsibilities between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Administration, and private and government partners.

(C) Identification, allocation, and management of explicit and implicit risks of partnering between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Administration, and private and government partners.

(D) Decision-making and dispute resolution processes in partnering arrangements.

(E) Criteria and processes for U.S. Customs and Border Protection to terminate agreements if private or government partners are not meeting the terms of such a partnership, including the security standards established by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) PUBLICATION.—The Commissioner shall make publicly available the criteria established under paragraph (2), and shall notify the relevant committees of Congress not less than 15 days prior to the publication of the criteria and any subsequent changes to such criteria.

(4) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—Services described in this paragraph are any services related to, or in support of, customs, agricultural processing, border security, or inspection-related immigration matters provided by an employee or contractor of U.S. Customs and Border Protection at ports of entry or any other facility where U.S. Customs and Border Protection provides or will provide services.

(5) MODIFICATION OF PRIOR AGREEMENTS.—The Commissioner, at the request of a person who has previously entered into an agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the reimbursement of fees in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, may modify such agreement to implement any provisions of this Act.

(6) LIMITATION.—The Commissioner may not enter into a reimbursable fee agreement under this subsection if such agreement would unduly and permanently impact services funded in this Act or any appropriations Act, or provided from any account in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees.

(7) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Except as provided in paragraphs (8) and (9), there shall be no limit to the number of fee agreements that may be entered into by the Commissioner.

(8) AUTHORITY FOR NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(A) RESOURCE AVAILABILITY.—If the Commissioner finds that resource or allocation constraints would prevent U.S. Customs and Border Protection from fulfilling, in whole or in part, requests for services under the terms of existing or proposed fee agreements, the Commissioner shall impose annual limits on the number of new fee agreements.

(B) **ANNUAL REVIEW.**—If the Commissioner limits the number of new fee agreements under this paragraph, the Commissioner shall annually evaluate and reassess such limits and publish the results of such evaluation and affirm any such limits that shall remain in effect in a publicly available format.

(9) **AIR PORTS OF ENTRY.**—

(A) **CERTAIN COSTS.**—A fee agreement for U.S. Customs and Border Protection services at an air port of entry may only provide for the reimbursement of—

(i) salaries and expenses of not more than 5 full-time equivalent U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers;

(ii) costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the payment of overtime to employees;

(iii) the salaries and expenses of employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (other than officers specified in clause (i)) to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement functions at air ports of entry, including primary and secondary processing of passengers; and

(iv) other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to services described in paragraph (4), such as temporary placement or permanent relocation of such employees, including incentive pay for relocation where appropriate.

(B) **PRECLEARANCE.**—The authority in the section may not be used to enter into new preclearance agreements or initiate the provision of U.S. Customs and Border Protection services outside of the United States.

(C) **PERMANENT RELOCATION.**—Any fee agreement under this Act to provide for the reimbursement of the permanent relocation of an employee of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall certify that the terms of the agreement—

(i) cannot otherwise be sufficiently met by the person and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(ii) would not unduly impact U.S. Customs and Border Protection services at the port of entry from which the relocation of the employee is proposed;

(iii) would be consistent with other applicable laws and regulations regarding the relocation of employees of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(iv) all costs of the relocation have been apportioned by the person.

(10) **PORT OF ENTRY SIZE CONSIDERATION.**—The Commissioner shall—

(A) ensure that each fee agreement proposal is given equal consideration regardless of the size of the port of entry; and

(B) report to the relevant committees of Congress on the number of fee agreement proposals that the Commissioner did not enter into due to numerical limits on the number of fee agreements, if the Commissioner adopts such limits.

(11) **DENIED APPLICATION.**—If the Commissioner denies a proposal for a fee agreement, the Commissioner shall provide the person who submitted the proposal the reason for the denial, unless the reason for the denial involves a law enforcement matter or national security interest.

(12) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(A) to require a person entering into a fee agreement to cover costs that are otherwise the responsibility of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection or any other agency of the Federal Government and are not incurred, or expected to be incurred, to cover services specifically covered by an agreement entered into under authorities provided by this Act; or

(B) to unduly and permanently reduce the responsibilities or duties of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to provide services at ports of entry that have been authorized or mandated by law and are funded in any appropriation Act or from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees.

(13) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—Decisions of the Commissioner under this subsection are in the discretion of the Commissioner and not subject to judicial review.

(b) **FEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A person who enters into a fee agreement shall pay a fee pursuant to such agreement in an amount equal to the full cost of U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

(A) of the salaries and expenses of individuals employed or contracted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to provide such services; and

(B) of other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection related to providing such services, such as temporary placement or permanent relocation of employees, including incentive pay for relocation where appropriate.

(2) **ADVANCE PAYMENT.**—The Commissioner, with approval from a person requesting services of U.S. Customs and Border Protection services pursuant to a fee agreement, may accept the fee for services prior to providing such services.

(3) **OVERSIGHT OF FEES.**—The Commissioner shall develop a process to oversee the activities for which fees are charged pursuant to a fee agreement that includes the following:

(A) A determination and report on the full cost of providing services, including direct and indirect costs, as well as a process, through consultation with affected parties and other interested stakeholders, for increasing such fees as necessary.

(B) The establishment of a periodic remittance schedule to replenish appropriations, accounts or funds, as necessary.

(C) The identification of costs paid by such fees.

(4) **DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.**—Amounts collected pursuant to a fee agreement shall—

(A) be deposited as an offsetting collection;

(B) remain available until expended, without fiscal year limitation; and

(C) be credited to the applicable appropriation, account, or fund for the amount paid out of that appropriation, account, or fund for—

(i) any expenses incurred or to be incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in providing such services; and

(ii) any other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to such services.

(5) **TERMINATION BY THE COMMISSIONER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commissioner shall terminate the services provided pursuant to a fee agreement with a person that, after receiving notice from the Commissioner that a fee imposed under the fee agreement is due, fails to pay such fee in a timely manner.

(B) **EFFECT OF TERMINATION.**—At the time services are terminated pursuant to subparagraph (A), all costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection which have not been paid, will become immediately due and payable.

(C) **INTEREST.**—Interest on unpaid fees will accrue based on the quarterly rate(s) established under sections 6621 and 6622 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(D) **PENALTIES.**—Any person that fails to pay any fee incurred under a fee agreement in a timely manner, after notice and demand for payment, shall be liable for a penalty or liquidated damage equal to 2 times the amount of such fee.

(E) **AMOUNT COLLECTED.**—Any amount collected pursuant to a fee agreement shall be deposited into the account specified under paragraph (4) and shall be available as described therein.

(F) **RETURN OF UNUSED FUNDS.**—The Commissioner shall return any unused funds collected under a fee agreement that is terminated for any reason, or in the event that the terms of such agreement change by mutual agreement to cause a reduction of U.S. Customs and Border Protection services. No interest shall be owed upon the return of any unused funds.

(6) **TERMINATION BY THE SPONSOR.**—Any person who has previously entered into an agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection

for the reimbursement of fees in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, or under the provisions of this Act, may request that such agreement make provision for termination at the request of such person upon advance notice, the length and terms of which shall be negotiated between such person and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—The Commissioner shall—

(1) submit to the relevant committees of Congress an annual report that identifies each fee agreement made during the previous year; and

(2) not less than 15 days before entering into a fee agreement, notify the members of Congress that represent the State or district in which the affected port or facility is located.

(d) **MODIFICATION OF EXISTING REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Section 907(b) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) the program for entering into reimbursable fee agreements for the provision of U.S. Customs and Border Protection services established by the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016.”

## **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR PORTS OF ENTRY.**

(a) **AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.**—

(1) **COMMISSIONER.**—The Commissioner, in collaboration with the Administrator as provided under subsection (e), may enter into an agreement with any person to accept a donation of real or personal property, including monetary donations, or nonpersonal services, for activities in subsection (b) at a new or existing land, sea, or air port of entry, or any facility or other infrastructure at a location where U.S. Customs and Border Protection performs or will be performing services within the United States.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—Where the Administrator has custody or control of a new or existing land port of entry, facility, or other infrastructure at a location where U.S. Customs and Border Protection performs or will be performing inspection services, the Administrator, in collaboration with the Commissioner, may enter into an agreement with any person to accept a donation of real or personal property, including monetary donations, or nonpersonal services, at that location for activities set forth in subsection (b).

(b) **USE.**—A donation made under a donation agreement may be used for activities related to construction, alteration, operation or maintenance, including expenses related to—

(1) land acquisition, design, construction, repair, and alteration;

(2) furniture, fixtures, equipment, and technology, including installation and the deployment thereof; and

(3) operation and maintenance of the facility, infrastructure, equipment, and technology.

(c) **LIMITATION ON MONETARY DONATIONS.**—Any monetary donation accepted pursuant to a donation agreement may not be used to pay the salaries of employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection who perform inspection services.

(d) **TERM OF DONATION AGREEMENT.**—The term of a donation agreement may be as long as is required to meet the terms of the agreement.

(e) **ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR.**—The Administrator's role, involvement, and authority under this section is limited with respect to donations made at new or existing land ports of entry, facilities, or other infrastructure owned or leased by the Administration.

(f) **EVALUATION PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCEDURES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Administrator as appropriate, shall issue procedures for evaluating proposals for donation

agreements on a year-round basis and otherwise consistent with the requirements of this section.

(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—The procedures issued under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public.

(3) **COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS.**—In issuing the procedures under paragraph (1), the Commissioner, in consultation with the Administrator, shall evaluate the use of authorities provided under this section to enter into cost-sharing or reimbursement agreements with eligible persons and determine whether such agreements may improve facility conditions or inspection services at new or existing land, sea, or air ports of entry.

(g) **DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after receiving a proposal for a donation agreement, the Commissioner, and Administrator if applicable, shall notify the person that submitted the proposal as to whether it is complete or incomplete.

(2) **INCOMPLETE PROPOSALS.**—If the Commissioner, and Administrator if applicable, determines that a proposal is incomplete, the person that submitted the proposal shall be notified and provided with—

(A) a detailed description of all specific information or material that is needed to complete review of the proposal; and

(B) allow the person to resubmit the proposal with additional information and material described under subparagraph (A) to complete the proposal.

(3) **COMPLETE APPLICATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving a completed and final proposal for a donation agreement, the Commissioner, and Administrator if applicable, shall—

(A) make a determination whether to deny or approve the proposal; and

(B) notify the person that submitted the proposal of the determination.

(4) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In making the determination under paragraph (3)(A), the Commissioner, and Administrator if applicable, shall consider—

(A) the impact of the proposal on reducing wait times at that port of entry or facility and other ports of entry on the same border;

(B) the potential of the proposal to increase trade and travel efficiency through added capacity;

(C) the potential of the proposal to enhance the security of the port of entry or facility;

(D) the funding available to complete the intended use of a donation under this section;

(E) the costs of maintaining and operating such donation;

(F) whether such donation, if real property, satisfies the requirements of such proposal, or whether additional real property would be required;

(G) an explanation of how such donation, if real property, was secured;

(H) the impact of such proposal on staffing requirements; and

(I) other factors that the Commissioner or Administrator determines to be relevant.

(h) **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.**—Any property, including monetary donations and nonpersonal services, donated pursuant to a donation agreement may be used in addition to any other funds, including appropriated funds, property, or services made available for the same purpose.

(i) **RETURN OF DONATION.**—If the Commissioner or the Administrator does not use the property or services donated pursuant to a donation agreement, such donated property or services shall be returned to the person that made the donation.

(j) **INTEREST PROHIBITED.**—No interest may be owed on any donation returned to a person under this subsection.

(k) **PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN FUNDING.**—The Commissioner, in collaboration with the Administrator if applicable, with respect to an agreement authorized under this section, may not obligate or expend amounts in excess of the value of the donations.

(1) **ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—The Commissioner, in collaboration with the Administrator if applicable, shall—

(1) submit to the relevant committees of Congress an annual report that identifies each donation agreement made during the previous year; and

(2) not less than 15 days before entering into a donation agreement, notify the members of Congress that represent the State or district in which the affected port or facility is located.

(m) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) as affecting in any manner the responsibilities, duties, or authorities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the Administration;

(2) to create any right or liability of the parties referred to in this section, except as otherwise set forth in any donation acceptance agreement entered into under this section; or

(3) as affecting any consultation requirement under any other law.

#### **SEC. 6. WAIVER OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT APPLICANTS.**

Section 3 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-376; 6 U.S.C. 221) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary”;

(2) in subsection (a)(1), as redesignated, by inserting “(except as provided in subsection (b))” after “Border Protection”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **WAIVER.**—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the polygraph examination requirement under subsection (a)(1) for any applicant who—

“(1) is deemed suitable for employment;

“(2) holds a current, active Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information Clearance;

“(3) has a current Single Scope Background Investigation;

“(4) was not granted any waivers to obtain his or her clearance; and

“(5) is a veteran (as such term is defined in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code).”.

#### **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE PERIOD.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (c), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be in effect during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **AGREEMENTS IN EFFECT.**—Any agreement made pursuant to this Act that is in effect on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act shall continue to have full force and effect on and after such date and remain in effect under the terms of such agreement.

(c) **PERMANENT PROVISIONS.**—Section 2, the amendments made by section 2, and the amendments made by section 6 shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Cornyn substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported substitute amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5115) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 461), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third read-

ing, was read the third time, and passed.

#### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4419, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4419) to update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts and to make other improvements to the District of Columbia courts.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 4419) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### **PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUITY SUPPLEMENT FOR CERTAIN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5785, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5785) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 5785) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### **RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 607.

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. 607) recognizing the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on its 20th anniversary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 607) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 29, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 8, 2016, AS "40 YEARS OF WOMEN CADETS AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY DAY"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 611.

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. 611) supporting the designation of October 8, 2016, as "40 Years of Women Cadets at the United States Air Force Academy Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 611) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 29, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 622, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 622) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children

and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent 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. 622) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE THE CIVIL AIR PATROL HAS PLAYED, AND CONTINUES TO PLAY, IN SUPPORTING THE HOMELAND SECURITY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 623, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 623) recognizing the vital role the Civil Air Patrol has played, and continues to play, in supporting the homeland security and national defense of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent 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. 623) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CARRY OUT A MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN RENO, NEVADA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3438 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3438) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Heller-Feinstein substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 5116) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic, life safety, and utilities upgrades and expansion of clinical services in Reno, Nevada, in an amount not to exceed \$213,800,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$317,300,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account \$531,100,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in subsection (a) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2017 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2017 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2017 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

The bill (S. 3438), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for



their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate 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.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:44 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### *To be rear admiral*

REAR ADM. (LH) BRET C. BATCHELDER

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

#### *To be lieutenant colonel*

CHRISTOPHER S. BESSER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

#### *To be major*

CHAD C. BLACK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### *To be colonel*

THOMAS D. STARKEY

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

#### *To be major*

JOSHUA D. FITZGARRALD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

#### *To be lieutenant colonel*

ANTHONY C. LYONS

### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR IN RECOGNITION OF ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD:

STEPHEN DONALD MULL, OF VIRGINIA  
VICTORIA JANE NULAND, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

ROBERT L. ADAMS, OF TEXAS  
BRIAN C. AGELE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TANYA CECELIA ANDERSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MICHAEL ADAM BARKIN, OF FLORIDA  
STANLEY H. BENNETT, OF MINNESOTA  
RANDY WILLIAM BERRY, OF COLORADO  
TIMOTHY A. BETTS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
VIRGINIA MEADE BLASER, OF VIRGINIA  
STEVEN CRAIG BONDY, OF VIRGINIA  
MARIA ELENA BREWER, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIDGET A. BRINK, OF MICHIGAN  
JOHN LESLIE CARWILE, OF VIRGINIA  
CARMEN MARGARITA CASTRO, OF VIRGINIA  
CRAIG LEWIS CLOUD, OF FLORIDA

THEODORE RAYMOND COLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
MARIE CHRISTINE DAMOUR, OF VIRGINIA  
NICHOLAS JULIAN DEAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBIN D. DIALLO, OF MARYLAND  
JOHN WALTER DINKELMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL J. DODMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CHRISTINE ANN ELDER, OF WASHINGTON  
MICHELLE M. ESPERDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
NINA MARIA FITTE, OF VIRGINIA  
BRADLEY ALAN FREDEN, OF ARIZONA  
REBECCA ELIZA GONZALES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALYSON LYNN GRUNDER, OF NEW YORK  
TODD PHILIP HASKELL, OF FLORIDA  
JEFFREY J. HAWKINS, JR., OF MARYLAND  
PETER MARK HAYMOND, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN GEORGE HEATH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JONATHAN HENICK, OF CALIFORNIA  
ELIZABETH ANN HOPKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

VIRGINIA IDELLE KEENER, OF MARYLAND  
KEVIN J. KILPATRICK, OF INDIANA  
DOUGLAS A. KONEFF, OF CONNECTICUT  
DONALD WILLIAM KORAN, OF VIRGINIA  
STEVEN HERBERT KRAFT, OF VIRGINIA  
SUZANNE I. LAWRENCE, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS H. LLOYD, OF VIRGINIA  
NAJIB MAHMOOD, OF VIRGINIA  
JEAN ELIZABETH MANES, OF FLORIDA  
JOSEPH MANSO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JENNIFER ALLYN MCINTYRE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DAVID MEALE, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN S. MORETTI, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHERINE ANNE MUNCHMEYER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MICHAEL JOHN MURPHY, OF VIRGINIA  
MIREMBE L. NANTONGO, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN BUTLER NIBLOCK, OF MARYLAND  
FRANCISCO LUIS PALMIERI, OF CONNECTICUT  
CHARISSE MELANIE PHILLIPS, OF FLORIDA  
BETH L. POISSON, OF MARYLAND  
LYNETTE JOYCE POULTON, OF VIRGINIA  
WAYNE F. QUILLIN, OF NEW YORK  
JOSEPH N. RAWLINGS, OF GEORGIA  
KURT R. RICE, OF VIRGINIA  
JOAN MARIE RICHARDS, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER J. SANDROLINI, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHEN M. SCHWARTZ, OF MARYLAND  
DOROTHY CAMILLE SHEA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GEORGE N. SIBLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
ADNAN A. SIDDIQI, OF VIRGINIA  
ADAM H. STERLING, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHANIE FAYE SYPTAK-RAMNATH, OF VIRGINIA  
MELINDA C. TABLER-STONE, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN STEPHEN TAVENNER, OF TEXAS  
DEAN THOMPSON, OF MARYLAND  
LISA ANNETTE VICKERS, OF CALIFORNIA  
SAMUEL R. WATSON III, OF VIRGINIA  
EUGENE STEWART YOUNG, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

DEANNA HANEK ABDEEN, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHEN ANDERSON, OF MONTANA  
KEITH MIMS ANDERTON, OF VIRGINIA  
DOUGLAS JOSEPH APOSTOL, OF CALIFORNIA  
CONSTANCE C. ARVIS, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER L. BACHUS, OF KANSAS  
DORON D. BARD, OF WASHINGTON  
NICHOLAS R. BERLINER, OF VIRGINIA  
MARCIA P. BOSSHARDT, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID NOEL BRIZZEE, OF IDAHO  
DANA M. BROWN, OF CALIFORNIA  
ROBERT G. BURESS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CAROL-ANNE CHANG, OF VIRGINIA  
ANGELA COLYVAS-MCGINNIS, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ROBERT E. COFFEY, OF COLORADO  
CHAD PARKER CUMMINS, OF CALIFORNIA  
JAMES R. DAYRINGER, OF MONTANA  
JOHN C. DOKERY, OF TEXAS

JOEL EHENDREICH, OF NEW YORK  
JEWELL ELIZABETH EVANS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALAN E. EYRE, OF MARYLAND  
ERIC A. FICHTE, OF WASHINGTON  
TROY DAMIAN FITRELL, OF VIRGINIA  
RICHARD HARRIS GLENN, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW EUGENE GOSKO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RAMOND F. GREENE III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
THERESA GRENCIK, OF MARYLAND  
ANNE E. GRIMES, OF VIRGINIA  
EDWARD G. GRULICH, OF VIRGINIA  
MARGARET HAWTHORNE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JOHN HENNESSEY-NILAND, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTINA MARIA HUTH HIGGINS, OF VIRGINIA  
MELANIE HARRIS HIGGINS, OF FLORIDA  
LISA S. KENNA, OF MARYLAND  
JONATHAN STUART KESSLER, OF VIRGINIA  
CYNTHIA A. KIERSCHT, OF MINNESOTA  
MICHAEL F. KLEINE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CHRISTOPHER M. KRAFFT, OF VIRGINIA  
HELEN GRACE LAFAYE, OF VIRGINIA  
ADAM DUANE LAMOREAUX, OF OREGON  
GREGORY F. LAWLESS, OF VIRGINIA  
PHILLIP LINDERMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLES LUOMA-OVERSTREET, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL MACY, OF FLORIDA  
JERROLD L. MALLORY, OF CALIFORNIA  
BETTINA A. MALONE, OF VIRGINIA  
ANN BARROWS MCCONNELL, OF CALIFORNIA

MEREDITH CLARE MCEVOY, OF VIRGINIA  
RICHARD MEL JR., OF KENTUCKY  
ALAN D. MELTZER, OF VIRGINIA  
JANE S. W. MESSENGER, OF MARYLAND  
JOAQUIN F. MONSERRATE, OF PUERTO RICO  
MITCHELL R. MOSS, OF VIRGINIA  
PHILLIP R. NELSON, OF MONTANA  
ELISHA NYMAN, OF MARYLAND  
GARY GLENN OBA, OF ARKANSAS  
MARTHA E. PATTERSON, OF TEXAS  
ROY ALBERT PERRIN, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID D. POTTER, OF VIRGINIA  
VIRGINIA SHER RAMADAN, OF VIRGINIA  
WALTER SCOTT REID, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFREY JAMES ROBERTSON, OF CALIFORNIA  
HUGO F. RODRIGUEZ, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RUSSELL A. SCHIEBEL, OF TEXAS  
JONATHAN A. SCHOOLS, OF TEXAS  
MICAELA A. SCHWEITZER-BLUHM, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK WAYNE SEIBEL, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
JONATHAN L. SHRIER, OF NEW YORK  
SUSAN MARIE SHULTZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
EUGENIA M. SIDERAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DAVID W. SIMONS, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFERSON D. SMITH, OF TEXAS  
MATTHEW D. SMITH, OF NEW YORK  
WILLARD TENNEY SMITH, OF VIRGINIA  
LINDA S. SPECHT, OF VIRGINIA  
GAVIN A. SUNDWALL, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
REBECCA T. BROWN THOMPSON, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT BRIAN TICKNOR, OF VIRGINIA  
ALAN R. TOUSIGNANT, OF VIRGINIA  
PAMELA M. TREMONT, OF VIRGINIA  
STEWART D. TUTTLE, JR., OF CALIFORNIA  
HEATHER CATHERINE VARIAVA, OF VIRGINIA  
AMY HART VRAMPAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JOANNE WAGNER, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN M. WALSH, OF RHODE ISLAND  
EVA ANNE WEIGOLD SCHULTZ, OF VIRGINIA  
EDWARD ANTHONY WHITE, OF FLORIDA  
ALEISHA WOODWARD, OF UTAH

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

WENDY A. BASHNAN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
JOHN C. BREWER, OF ALABAMA  
JULIE S. CABUS, OF VIRGINIA  
CORNELL CHASTEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
NATALIE CROPPER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
JAIME ESQUIVEL, OF VIRGINIA  
YURI P. FEDORENKO, OF MICHIGAN  
DONALD E. GONNEVILLE, JR., OF VIRGINIA  
MARCIA K. HENKE, OF ALABAMA  
PAUL R. HOUSTON, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSHUA D. MCDONALD, OF WASHINGTON  
GEORGE M. NAVADSL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MICHAEL BRITTON PHILLIPS, OF MARYLAND  
LARRY D. ROBERTS, JR., OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER R. ROOKS, OF VIRGINIA  
BEHZAD SHAHAZIAN, OF MARYLAND  
HARTAJE K. THIAAR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JEFFREY A. THOMAS, OF VIRGINIA  
TRACY JO THOMAS, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER S. TSENG, OF COLORADO  
THOMAS R. VANDENBRINK, OF VIRGINIA  
JUDITH VARDY, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2016:

LAURA ANN GRIESMER, OF WASHINGTON

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

ROBERT STEPHEN BEECROFT, OF CALIFORNIA  
ARNOLD A. CHACON, OF VIRGINIA  
TRACEY ANN JACOBSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
GEOFFREY R. PYATT, OF CALIFORNIA  
MARIE L. YOYANOVITCH, OF CONNECTICUT

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

TRISTAN J. ALLEN, OF ARIZONA  
CHARLES A. BENTLEY, OF FLORIDA  
LADISLAV BERANEK, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL C. BONFIELD, OF TEXAS  
ANDREW CHIRA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JAMES P. CHYNOWETH, OF FLORIDA  
RACHAEL M. CULLINS, OF INDIANA  
KRISTEN A. FARRELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RYLAN A. P. FEEBACK, OF INDIANA  
JULIANA K. FINUCANE, OF CALIFORNIA  
BENJAMIN M. GULLETT, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHRISTOPHER J. HALLETT, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
MAXWELL S. HARRINGTON, OF CALIFORNIA  
JANET ADELE HEG, OF WASHINGTON  
MATTHEW R. HERGOTT, OF COLORADO  
CHADWICK D. HOUGHTON, OF FLORIDA  
RICHARD T. KERR, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
MICHAEL W. LEACH, OF TEXAS  
BOA LEE, OF MINNESOTA  
BIC HOANG LEU, OF CONNECTICUT  
NATHANIAL S. LINDSEY, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT S. MACINTOSH, OF MONTANA

CHRISTOPHER T. MCKINNEY, OF TEXAS  
DAVID E. MERRELL, OF UTAH  
MONIQUE A. NOWICKI, OF VIRGINIA  
JESSICA E. PANCHATHA, OF CONNECTICUT  
ROBERT M. PASTORE, OF NEW YORK  
HILDE LYNN PEARSON, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL R. PROSSER, OF FLORIDA  
ZAHID M. RAJA, OF TEXAS  
ANNE M. REDALEN FRASER, OF MINNESOTA  
INGRID K. SPECHT, OF GEORGIA  
JOSHUA E. STERN, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN SZYPULA, OF COLORADO  
ELIE M. TEICHMAN, OF MARYLAND  
JEFFREY S. VANDORN, OF KANSAS  
JESSE C. WALTER, OF WISCONSIN  
SHANTHINI M. B. WATSON, OF GUAM  
CHRISTINA C. WEST, OF TEXAS  
DORI ENDERLE WINTER, OF TEXAS  
MARION JOHANNA WOHLERS, OF WASHINGTON  
WILLIAM F. ZEMAN, OF CONNECTICUT

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ANTHONY ABBA, OF VIRGINIA  
TESSIE ANNE ABRAHAM, OF TEXAS  
JONATHAN PAUL ACKLEY, OF WASHINGTON  
MICHAEL OLUGBENGA AKINWOLEMIWA, OF VIRGINIA  
GABRIEL ALLISON, OF VIRGINIA  
DIVAH JEANNE ALSHAWA, OF VIRGINIA  
GARY PHILLIP ANTHONY, OF NEW YORK  
MARYAM K. ARENA, OF VIRGINIA  
YARED RIYADH ASNAKE, OF CALIFORNIA  
SILVIA CAROLINA ARDON AYALA, OF FLORIDA  
KRISTIN D. BAILEY, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHELLE MARIE BAILEY, OF VIRGINIA  
LAVONDA TANE'E BALDWIN, OF NEW JERSEY  
JAMES V. BARR, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK BASSOTTI, OF VIRGINIA  
JESSE ROSE MACERA BEAUMIER, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES RAYMOND BEHYMER, OF VIRGINIA  
ADAM K. BENABDALLAH, OF VIRGINIA  
CRAIG D. BENNETT, OF VIRGINIA  
EVE SARAH COPELAND BENTOVIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STEPHEN CAREY BIRMINGHAM II, OF CALIFORNIA  
JASON BOND, OF OKLAHOMA  
ERIC J. BRADSHAW, OF VIRGINIA  
HEATHER DAWN BROOKS, OF FLORIDA  
PAUL D. BUCKLEW, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK GENE BURLINGAME, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHAEL D. BURRIS, OF VIRGINIA  
KRISTIN CATHERINE BYRD BUSHBY, OF MARYLAND  
MICHAEL BUSTAMANTE, OF NEW YORK  
TERRY B. CARWILE, OF VIRGINIA  
KAREN ELIZABETH CASTRO, OF OHIO  
GEOFFREY BAYLISS CAUSEY, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN I. CHESLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER DANIELLE CLARK, OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLES MEDFORD CLATANOFF, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID ROSS CONCEPCION, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHRYN EILEEN CORRIDAN, OF VIRGINIA  
EVAN MITCHELL CORZINE, OF VIRGINIA  
LISA COSGROVE, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK DANIEL COUGHLIN, OF NEW YORK  
JAYSON CHRISTOPHER CRIDDLE, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH EVAN DE BERNARDO, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN JOSEPH DELANEY, OF VIRGINIA  
KEYSHA DORCH, OF VIRGINIA  
ADAM M. DUNIGAN, OF VIRGINIA  
DAWN M. DYETTE, OF VIRGINIA  
AARON COOPER EASLICK, OF MICHIGAN  
JOEL ELLISON, OF VIRGINIA  
SONIA FERNANDES, OF NEW YORK  
GREGORY DAVID FERRIS, OF VIRGINIA  
ALAN JOSEPH MICHAEL FLESH, OF OKLAHOMA  
MARTA ALYSSA FOLIO, OF VIRGINIA  
MILYNDA RAE FOUSHEE, OF VIRGINIA  
ELISABETH M. FRENCH, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES E. FRITTER, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER S. FULLERTON, OF VIRGINIA  
BRYAN J. FURMAN, OF NEW JERSEY  
ANDREW R. GALLUCCI, OF VIRGINIA  
PAUL ROBERT GIBLIN, OF ARIZONA  
SHEIMALIZ ELIZKA GLOVER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
MATTHEW BERNARD GONZALEZ, OF VIRGINIA

CHARLES H. GRIFFIN, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID CALDERON GUTIERREZ, OF GEORGIA  
SAMA EMAD HABIB, OF NEW YORK  
ANDREW A. HACKMANN, OF VIRGINIA  
LISA M. HAHN, OF CALIFORNIA  
SALMAN HAJI, OF NEW MEXICO  
GHASSAN HALAWANI, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDRA BREANNE HALL, OF GEORGIA  
ROBERT JOSEPH HALLIDAY, OF VIRGINIA  
BRITTANY CHERELLE HARDY, OF ARIZONA  
MICHELLE R. HARRIG, OF VIRGINIA  
KYLE ELIZABETH HARTWELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BENJAMIN ROBERT HARVEY, OF MISSOURI  
RYAN ROBERT HEGER, OF VIRGINIA  
NELL GARDENIA GULLE HIDALGO, OF VIRGINIA  
CARL R. HILL, OF VIRGINIA  
KRISTINA LOUISE HILLMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ANDREW WILLIAM HILLSTROM, OF TEXAS  
NICOLE STILLWELL HOLLER, OF MARYLAND  
JOHN M. HORTON, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFREY PETER HOULE, OF VIRGINIA  
JOCELYN DYAN HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA  
DEBRA SUE HUNGERFORD, OF VIRGINIA  
PORTER ILLI, OF UTAH  
ELIZABETH ATKINSON ISAMAN, OF COLORADO  
COLE LIHAU JACKSON, OF HAWAII  
KEVIN W. JACOBS, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSHUA PAUL JOHNSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TIMOTHY ALLEN JOHNSON, OF CALIFORNIA  
TIMOTHY C. JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT OWEN KEANE, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DONALD D. KIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JENNIFER CARTER KIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IAN MIKAEL KITTERMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SARAH L. KNOBLOCH, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL CHARLES KRUGER, OF VIRGINIA  
CHAD R. LAMB, OF VIRGINIA  
BRITTANY MARTHA LANING, OF VIRGINIA  
LELAND MARCELLUS LAZARUS, OF NEW YORK  
JESSICA LEIGH LILLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
JAIME DIANE LODA, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
CHADWICK W. LUCK, OF VIRGINIA  
ORIANA LUQUETTA, OF TEXAS  
LEAH NICOLE MAINIERO, OF VIRGINIA  
ARMANDO JONATHAN MALDONADO, OF VIRGINIA  
TOYA E. MARKS, OF VIRGINIA  
TRAVIS B. MARSHALL, OF VIRGINIA  
LUIS JAVIER MARTINEZ, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT EDWARD MCGRAW, JR., OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN J. MCHUGH, OF VIRGINIA  
MOISES DAVID MENDOZA, OF OREGON  
STEPHEN R. MENDOZA, OF VIRGINIA  
DENISE MARTON MENENDEZ, OF FLORIDA  
KATHLEEN M. MINOR, OF VIRGINIA  
KARI ELIZABETH MOORE, OF VIRGINIA  
KEVIN SINCLAIR MOSS, OF FLORIDA  
CAITLIN ELISE NETTLETON, OF FLORIDA  
HUGH PERALTA, OF VIRGINIA  
SHANNON BLOTNER PINE, OF VIRGINIA  
ANNA MARIA PLACANICA, OF VIRGINIA  
DONALD C. PLAISTED, OF VIRGINIA  
NICOLE MICHELLE PORTER, OF CALIFORNIA  
MATTHEW WILLIAM PRIEST, OF MICHIGAN  
DAVID WILLIAM PUCCI, OF VIRGINIA  
SUZANNE C. PULKKINEN, OF VIRGINIA  
JESS A. PURDY, OF VIRGINIA  
MARY-KATHERINE REAM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JENNIFER IDA REGAN, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER RIGO, OF VIRGINIA  
CLAYTON EARL ROBINSON, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES TRIPOLI ROBINSON, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSHUA RASPLICA RODD, OF COLORADO  
PEDRO JOSE RODRIGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHANIE Z. RODRIGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA  
KYLE JAMES ROHRICH, OF NEBRASKA  
MELISSA B. ROMO, OF VIRGINIA  
NICOLAS ADAM ROSER, OF VIRGINIA  
SHAWN DAVID ROSLIN, OF VIRGINIA  
MEGHAN ASHLEY WINSOR ROTH, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT ANTHONY ROWE, OF VIRGINIA  
SKARIN RYNNINE, OF FLORIDA  
EDDY SANTANA, OF ILLINOIS  
JASON W. SCHREYER, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER STARR SHELTON, OF KANSAS

TIMOTHY J. SHINGLER, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM MASSIE SIEBER, OF DELAWARE  
RENNIE ALON SILVA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RASHELLE B. SIMONSON, OF VIRGINIA  
COREY RAY SKELTON, OF VIRGINIA  
AUSTIN T. SLAYMAKER, OF OKLAHOMA  
CHRISTINE A. SOLLINGER, OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLES LEE SPECHT, OF ILLINOIS  
JORDAN MICHAEL STEELMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
VICTORIA FISHER STEFFES, OF VIRGINIA  
LUCAS M. STELLAR, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHELLE NICOLE STOKES, OF TEXAS  
KENNETH L. TARPLEY, JR., OF VIRGINIA  
BRIDGET TAYLOR, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL TEMPLEMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ANTHONY DOUGLAS TEUSCHER, OF VIRGINIA  
BRANDON SCOTT THOMPSON, OF TEXAS  
CODY MICHAEL THOMPSON, OF COLORADO  
MELISSA ANN TREBIL, OF VIRGINIA  
CARDIEL ADRIAN TREVIZO, OF VIRGINIA  
ELIZABETH MELODY TROBAUGH, OF WASHINGTON  
GREGORY C. TRUNZ, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES LEVERING TYSON III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ALAN R. VAN TASSEL, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM HARVEY WAGNER, OF VIRGINIA  
JERICA J. WARD, OF MARYLAND  
SCOTT A. WEISEL, OF VIRGINIA  
AMANDA B. WHATLEY, OF ALABAMA  
JASON L. WILCOX, OF VIRGINIA  
KEVIN M. WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT FREDERICK WILLIS, OF VIRGINIA  
COOPER J. WIMMER, OF VIRGINIA  
BRUCE L. WOODYARD, OF VIRGINIA  
NICHOLAS ZEIGLER, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL DAVID ZGODA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

#### AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SETH HARRIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

JEFFREY R. MORELAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

#### CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

RACHEL A. MEIDL, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MARK A. GRIF-FON, RESIGNED.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL P. LEARY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, VICE PATRICK P. O'CARROLL, JR., RESIGNED.

#### BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

RICHARD STENGEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2017, VICE SUSAN MCCUE, RESIGNED.

RICHARD STENGEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS, VICE JEFFREY SHELL.

#### FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

PATRICK K. NAKAMURA, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2022. (REAPPOINTMENT)

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT P. STORCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY. (NEW POSITION)