

to come forward they must be afforded protections from retaliation. Unfortunately, under current law, FBI employees who report waste or misconduct are not afforded the same whistleblower protections as all other Federal employees. That is why I worked closely with Senator GRASSLEY to author the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancements Act of 2016.

The bill Senator GRASSLEY and I drafted was a comprehensive package. Not only did it extend protections to FBI employees who report waste, fraud, or abuse to supervisors in their chain of command, but it also provided clear guidance on the investigation and adjudication of retaliation claims so that those same employees are not denied whistleblower protections without reason or without opportunity to appeal. Unfortunately, the bill we have passed today has been stripped of many of these worthy reforms. While I am pleased we will finally update the law to provide whistleblower protections for FBI employees who blow the whistle within their chain of command, I am disappointed that the bill we have before of contains only a fraction of the reform that Senator GRASSLEY and I worked so hard to move through the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This is a small but important step forward, but it is not sufficient. The Senate must work to pass comprehensive reform so that FBI employees are able to blow the whistle and not face repercussions for doing so. I hope we can revisit this important issue in the next Congress.

HOLOCAUST EXPROPRIATED ART RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 6130) to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

TIBOR RUBIN VA MEDICAL CENTER

The bill (H.R. 6323) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center," was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

TO REVISE THE BOUNDARIES OF CERTAIN JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM UNITS IN NEW JERSEY

The bill (H.R. 6400) to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

PROMOTING TRAVEL, COMMERCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 6431) to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Congress has now passed the bipartisan Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act. In 2015, I hailed the signing of a new agreement between the United States and Canada designed to improve cross-border travel, commerce, and security between our two countries. Since then, there has been legislation introduced in both the Senate and the House to allow for full implementation of that expanded Canada preclearance agreement. Thirty business associations both in the United States and Canada support this legislation, and the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Justice fully support its passage.

Let's be clear about one thing: U.S. preclearance operations are already under way, in Canada and elsewhere. Preclearance facilities allow travelers to pass through U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, inspections on foreign soil, prior to traveling to the United States. Preclearance operations relieve congestion at U.S. destination airports, facilitate commerce, save money, and strengthen national security. The United States currently stations CBP officers in select locations in Canada to inspect passengers and cargo bound for the United States before departing Canada. This legislation will pave the way for additional U.S. preclearance facilities in Canada in the marine, land, air and rail sectors. In particular, this legislation will advance important projects in Vermont: the creation of a preclearance facility at Montreal's Central Station, reestablishing train service between Vermont and Montreal; and improvements to air service between Burlington International Airport and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

This legislation will promote two key national goals: enhancing our national security and increasing efficiency for travelers and commercial exchanges. With respect to national security, by placing CBP personnel at the point of departure, screening occurs before a person boards a flight, increasing our ability to prevent those who should not be flying to the United States from doing so. In 2014, preclearance stopped more than 10,000 inadmissible travelers worldwide before they left foreign soil. And with respect to commerce, the United States and Canada enjoy one of the largest bilateral economic relationships in the world, with \$1.4 trillion in bilateral trade and investment and two-way trade in goods and services valued at \$759 billion in 2014. Each day, more than \$1.8 billion in goods and services and nearly 390,000 people cross

the U.S. Canadian border. Preclearance helps further facilitate this important economic relationship.

Preclearance is an issue about which both Democrats and Republicans can and do agree. It will enhance border security and stimulate economic growth. I look forward to the President signing this bill into law.

INSPECTOR GENERAL EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 6450) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, the Senate passed the Inspector General Empowerment Act. This is a crucial piece of legislation to enable inspectors general to function independently and to weed out waste, fraud, and abuse within the government. I thank Senator MCCAIN for working with me constructively to resolve the concerns he raised last week and for honoring the agreement we made in December 2015.

Following Senator MCCAIN's objection to my attempt to pass the IG bill by a live UC last Thursday, our staffs met and reached a compromise. We agreed to remove some provisions of the bill related to IG leave policy and IG reporting requirements. Although we disagreed on those provisions, I am glad that we agreed to preserve the most important parts of the bill.

Namely, we preserved the provisions of the bill that provide inspectors general with timely access to all records of the agency that they are charged with overseeing. In addition, the bill contains numerous other provisions that strengthen IG independence and equip IGs with the necessary tools to weed out waste, fraud, and abuse within the Federal Government.

The bill requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on prolonged IG vacancies and to provide recommendations for reducing these vacancies. It exempts IGs from getting computer matching agreements and from complying with the Paperwork Reduction Act, in order to ensure that IGs can obtain information and perform investigations without first obtaining agency approval. It improves the process by which IGs police the conduct of other IGs, to require that investigations are conducted in a more timely fashion. It promotes greater transparency by requiring IGs to report to Congress semiannually on impediments to their work, such as agency interference, reports that are not made otherwise available to the public, and whistleblower retaliation. Finally, it requires IGs to send IG recommendations to the heads of agencies and to Congress and to publicly post reports, unless otherwise prohibited by law.