



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

No. 144

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the Lord of the Harvest, we acknowledge that only by Your might can we live productive lives.

Inspire our lawmakers in their daily work to labor for Your glory. Give them the desire to please You even with their motives so that their thoughts, words, and deeds will honor You. Keep them from avoiding irksome and unpleasant issues, as they arrange their priorities to accomplish Your purposes.

Lord, guide them in the paths of justice and cooperation as understanding and forbearance prevail among them.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator

from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SASSE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STRANGE). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES. 49

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a joint resolution at the desk that is due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the joint resolution by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 49) condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.

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

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

HURRICANE HARVEY DISASTER RELIEF, FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT, AND PREVENTING A DEFAULT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, at the outset of the week, I outlined three issues we needed to address immediately: provide resources for Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma preparedness, ensure that the government remains funded, and ensure that a default is prevented so the emergency resources I mentioned can actually get to Americans who need them.

That is what the legislation I filed cloture on yesterday achieves, and it achieves it all together in one package. It will provide certainty and stability for first responders, State officials, and the many others involved in preparing for and recovering from these storms with critically needed emergency resources that will not be interrupted by the prospect of a shutdown or default.

The recovery effort for a record-setting storm like Harvey has strained resources to the limit already. The advance of another historic storm now makes the need for action even more urgent, so let's work together and act on this legislation very quickly.

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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, until 11 a.m.

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

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S5023

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to amend my previous consent request that it will be debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each until 11 a.m.

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

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

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

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 now be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT JOSEPH LEON GEORGE SHOULD BE HONORED FOR HEROISM AT PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII, ON DECEMBER 7, 1941

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, last month I spoke here about an amazing story I was told when I had the opportunity to host several veterans who survived the sinking of the USS *Arizona* during the attack on Pearl Harbor. They recalled to me the incredible story of a true American hero named Joe George, and I would like to briefly remind everyone of that story now.

On December 7, 1941, Joe was a 26-year-old boatswain's mate second class aboard the repair ship USS *Vestal* in Pearl Harbor, HI. That morning, the *Vestal* was moored alongside the USS *Arizona*.

At 7:48 a.m., many sailors, including Joe, had just finished their breakfast when the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked Pearl Harbor.

As we know, the *Arizona* suffered a direct hit by a Japanese bomb that detonated in the ship's powder magazine. The resulting explosion sank the ship and claimed the lives of 1,177 servicemen.

During this unimaginable chaos and carnage, Joe George displayed stunning composure and courage. Joe spotted six sailors trapped in the control tower of the sinking USS *Arizona*. These men were severely burned and were searching for a way to safety.

Those six wounded sailors were Seaman First Class Harold Kuhn, Seaman

First Class Russell Lott, Gunner's Mate Third Class Earl Riner, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Alvin Dvork, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton, and Fire Controlman Third Class Lauren Bruner.

Upon seeing these men, Joe threw a heaving line between the *Vestal* and the *Arizona* to rescue the wounded soldiers from the sinking ship. Suspended 40 feet in the air, the six sailors climbed 70 feet hand-over-hand across the rope to safety on board the *Vestal*. These sailors did all this while enduring injuries so severe that two would succumb to their wounds in the weeks following the attack. As they struggled across the heavy line, Joe George remained close by, all the while encouraging the men to push on.

The four soldiers who survived their injuries each returned to serve with honor during World War II, and then went on to live long lives. Joe George's legacy of heroism will remain alive forever in the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the four sailors who survived that infamous day thanks to Joe George's incredible bravery and service.

Joe George was never awarded a medal for his role in the rescue of these six sailors, although his commanding officer commended his courageous actions.

When I met one of the *Arizona* survivors who was rescued by Joe, he told me:

Joe George was never awarded anything for his bravery. He is no longer with us, but I believe in his memory he should be awarded the Navy Cross.

Lauren Bruner was another survivor Joe saved. He said to me:

The six of us would not have survived except for his courage, in spite of being at high risk himself. He fully deserves high commendations for his actions. I feel he should be recognized for this courage and presented the Navy Cross.

In his own words during an interview in 1978, Joe said:

I'll tell you, the only thing I could tell you about that day. . . . My conscience was my guide.

Well, his conscience was that of a hero. We need more people like Joe George in this world.

That is why today I am committed to honoring Joe and why I rise today with the honor and privilege to call for unanimous consent in the adoption of a resolution honoring Joseph Leon George.

Joe passed away in 1996, and it is long overdue that the Senate, the U.S. Navy, and a grateful nation honor the heroism of Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joseph Leon George.

God bless Joe George, whose immense courage and astounding composure serves as an example for the men and women in uniform who follow in his wake. Let us never forget their heroism and sacrifice.

I would like to thank my colleagues Senators GARDNER, LEE, COTTON, MCCASKILL, and BENNET for joining me

in this resolution and for helping to ensure its adoption here today.

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. 243.

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. 243) expressing the sense of the Senate that Joseph Leon George should be honored for heroism at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, 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. 243) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of August 2, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. FLAKE. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield back, and 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. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HURRICANE IRMA

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I am here to give a report on behalf of Florida to the Senate. Senator RUBIO and I were there all day yesterday in Miami and in other parts of South Florida, and we are preparing for what will be another Andrew.

Andrew was thought to be a category 4, but it actually was a category 5, with winds in excess of 155 miles per hour. Likewise, that is what we have now. I see the leader has come in. I will speak for just a few minutes, then, giving an update.

There are a number of things. I believe the Federal Government is prepared, unlike we were 25 years ago with Hurricane Andrew.

The Federal Government is certainly prepositioning supplies, but look at the situation with regard to FEMA. FEMA is stretched, and of all things, FEMA runs out of money unless we act by tomorrow.

Thus, I left Florida in the middle of the night to come back to make sure that it has my stamp of imprimatur on this legislation.

I am very glad that the majority leader has agreed to double the

amount, basically \$7.5 billion for FEMA and another \$7.5 billion for CDBG's, or community development block grants, both of which would be for natural disasters. Because of that, it gives the flexibility to FEMA that some of the money will be used in case Irma hits Florida. But there is also the fact that Irma has already devastated our fellow U.S. citizens in the Virgin Islands, as well as Puerto Rico. So as to this package, it is essential that we pass this legislation and pass it quickly, and especially pass it before tomorrow.

There are some needs that need to be called to the attention of FEMA. I have emailed yesterday to the Administrator of FEMA Brock Long. People are trying to get out, but they are stuck on the roads, and now they are running out of gasoline.

Looking at the pictures on anything going north out of Florida, the roads are jammed. The interstates and the turnpike are jammed. The phenomenon that is occurring is that people need gasoline and they are running out on the road, which adds all the more to the chaos. They are going to the gasoline stations and the gas stations are running out of gasoline. So I made an urgent plea yesterday, and I would make that to FEMA again, that we get gasoline into the State of Florida and down into the peninsula, so as the evacuation orders come along the coast, as the hurricane gets closer and closer, people will be able to flee.

This is an unusual one. Usually, we will see the tracks from the National Hurricane Center move around. Basically, the track of what is expected from the National Hurricane Center has stayed fairly steady for last 36 hours.

We will get our next update at 11 this morning, but it will hit South Florida somewhere in the Miami area, and it will go right up the coast. It will go on up the coast of Georgia, South Carolina, and into North Carolina. That is a massive population along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Finally, I would state that, as we consider this package, which I think we will pass, I want the Senate to be forewarned that this \$15 billion package is only temporary. It will probably only take us through mid-October, at the most. With the massive number of requirements in Texas, and add to that at least that much, if not more, for the eastern seaboard, particularly with not only water damage but wind damage that is being done and the destruction of the residences and people being homeless, what we have seen in Texas, unfortunately, with the terrible things that have happened there, that could almost be so overwhelmed by what could happen in Florida.

I urge the Senate—I implore the Senate, and I beg the Senate—to pass this package while recognizing that there is going to have to be a lot more to come.

Finally, congratulations to the minority leader, the Democratic leader. I

think of him as the majority leader. My congratulations to him. He is a consummate dealmaker, and I say that in the best sense of the word because, absolutely, that is what the American people want us to do. They want us to get together in a bipartisan way to get things done—to build bipartisan consensus to get results. Senator SCHUMER, the Democratic leader, has done that, and he has done it with flying colors.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENTING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATOR FROM FLORIDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank my friend from Florida for his kind words.

During these troubled times in the State of Florida—and we hope and pray that Irma will not do too much damage, although signs point in the other direction—the people of Florida could not have a stronger, more effective, more compassionate advocate than the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON. He knows how to get things done, and he knows how to inform people about what is going on. He is able to reach across the aisle, in a bipartisan way, to help in all times but, particularly, in times of need.

The people of Florida are lucky to have him as their Senator, particularly at this moment. I would say to my dear friend BILL NELSON.

HURRICANE HARVEY DISASTER RELIEF, THE DEBT CEILING, AND FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, the congressional leadership and the President reached a bipartisan deal on three crucial issues: short-term aid for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, the debt ceiling, and government funding.

Alongside the aid package for Texas and Louisiana, the Senate will take up and pass an extension of government funding and the debt ceiling, both to December 15, although that may be modified to December 8, as I understand it. We all agreed to work together to avoid a default in December as well.

This is a good agreement for the American people, and everyone should breathe a huge sigh of relief. This agreement takes the threat of a shutdown and default off the table this month and will help us quickly get resources to FEMA and other agencies that are helping with rescue and recovery in the wake of Harvey and that will, in all likelihood, be needed in the wake of Irma as well.

The Nation has been clamoring for bipartisanship—for the two parties to

work together to do the country's business—rather than to engage in needless brinksmanship. Yesterday's agreement was a ray of hope for both parties coming together on the big issues. Also, let it be a ray of hope that both parties can come together to help the Dreamers.

We Democrats have said from the very beginning of this Congress that we are willing to work with our Republican colleagues and the President for the good of the country so long as we do not sacrifice our principles. We have never been for obstruction for obstruction's sake, and we will never be for that. This agreement is a reminder that we do not always have to wait until the eleventh hour—risking shutdown, risking default—in order to compromise and do the right thing. Importantly, this agreement gives Congress a way forward on what are some of the thorniest issues this month, allowing us to move to other vital work.

The 3-month agreement is a compromise. In the past, so many of our colleagues have said: "If the other party is President, we are not going to do anything to help." We did not want to say that. We did not want to say: "It is all on you." We wanted to compromise. A compromise is just that—not dictating what should happen but working together. I give the President credit for understanding that in the Oval Office when Leader PELOSI and I made the compromise suggestion. I thank him for it.

DREAM ACT AND OTHER WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, since President Trump's decision to end DACA on Tuesday, it is absolutely necessary that Congress move forward to pass a clean Dream Act while 800,000 Dreamers anxiously await action by this Congress. There is no reason to wait. Let's put a clean Dream Act on the floor, which I believe would pass by a significant margin, and tell these hard-working Dreamers that they belong in this country, too—the country they want to be part of desperately. If the majority leader and Speaker do not offer a clean Dream Act, we Democrats will find other legislative vehicles to attach it to until it passes.

Let me say this. I spoke once again to the President this morning. He called and said that he wanted to help with the Dream Act. There are many ways to help, and here are two. One is to persuade other Republican Senators to cosponsor the bill that has been introduced by Senators DURBIN and GRAHAM. We now have four Republican cosponsors, and we need more. There are many in the Senate who seem to be sympathetic to the Dream Act. Maybe the President can help them get to cosponsor. The second is to urge my friend, the Republican leader from Kentucky, and the Speaker of the House, Mr. RYAN, to put the Dream Act on the floor ASAP. We can get this

done and get it done quickly. We can end the anguish of so many Americans and make sure that our economy continues to move forward so that it is not needlessly ripped apart.

There is other work that we have to do in healthcare to shore up the marketplaces, particularly by guaranteeing the cost reduction programs. Discussions in the HELP Committee between my good friend, Chairman ALEXANDER, and our great ranking member, PATTY MURRAY, are proceeding in a bipartisan way in, perhaps, the new spirit of the moment—maybe longer than a moment, we hope and pray. I am hopeful that the full Senate, this month, will be able to take up and consider bipartisan legislation that emerges from the committee in order to stabilize and improve our healthcare system.

In a similar vein, we must consider a multiyear reauthorization of CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program. Chairman HATCH and Ranking Member WYDEN—again, in a bipartisan action—are having a hearing on CHIP today in the Finance Committee, and that should be another matter of immediate priority for this Senate.

Of course, as the people of Florida brace for Hurricane Irma, and the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have gone through it now, the Senate must be prepared to quickly respond to that storm just as we are doing with Harvey. We also have to take into account some of the other disasters that are occurring in States like Washington, Oregon, California, and Montana. Wildfires are raging out of control. They, too, will need disaster assistance. Because of the immediate and strong impact of Harvey and, it seems, Irma, we should not forget that our friends in the West will need disaster relief and will need it soon as well.

The deal we reached with Republican leaders and President Trump yesterday will allow Congress to work on all of these important items this month and in the following months without there being a looming specter of a shutdown or default on our debt. It should help to bring both sides together to, ultimately, get another deal on sequester relief, lower healthcare premiums, the Dreamers, and many other items in December. That is good for this Congress, and that is good for the American people—a ray of hope, as I said.

The majority leader has already filed cloture on this package. I hope that we can proceed quickly—hopefully, today—to ensure its passage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

DACA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to share with my colleagues a meeting that I had last Thursday in Montgomery County, MD, with CASA de Maryland. We put together a round-

table discussion to talk about immigration and the need for immigration reform and the concerns we had about the current status of people who are concerned about what is happening with immigration enforcement. That was before the President had made his announcement on terminating the DACA Program, which is the program that provides relief for the Dreamers—those who have been in this country for a long period of time and know only America as their home.

I must tell you that, at that discussion I had last Thursday in Montgomery County, MD, the fear of uncertainty was clear to me. I talked to many families who were concerned about how the Trump administration was enforcing our current laws, what would be the resolution of the temporary protective status, TPS, under which people are here legally, and I had a chance to see firsthand some of the Dreamers who are here under the protection of the DACA Program.

It was very clear to me that what the people in that meeting were looking for was leadership in Washington that recognized that it is in our national interest for us to provide the type of legal protection to these individuals who have made America their home—who took the risk to come here for a better life for their families.

These individuals came to this country—the Dreamers, who are the children, particularly—when they came with their parents. It was the parents' decision to try to find a better life for their children. They know only America as their country. They do not know the countries from which they have come. America is their own home. They have helped to build this great Nation. They have attended our schools. They have joined our military. They have joined our workforce. They are, truly, the future of America.

The DACA Program, which recently celebrated its fifth anniversary, provided protection for these Dreamers against their arbitrary removal. It applied only to those who had come to this country when they were younger than 16 years of age. They had to have been here before January 2007. They had to have gone through a background check to make sure that they had not violated any of our criminal statutes, and they had to have been enrolled in schools or our military. It was really dealing with young people who were innocent with regard to any of the violations of our immigration laws. It really dealt with individuals who had come to this country and had been part of America.

The DACA Program provided not only protection against their removal but gave them protection in the workforce. They were given documentation so that they could legally work here in the United States and get the protection of our labor laws and not be subjected to an underground economy or the abuses in the workforce that we sometimes see among immigrant fami-

lies. So 800,000 children have taken advantage of the DACA Program. In my State of Maryland, 10,000 are registered under the DACA Program.

Then came President Trump's decision this past week to terminate the program in 6 months—terminate it now, as far as new DACA registrations—but to terminate this program. That immediately created uncertainty and fear for 800,000 individuals in this country and their families.

President Trump's decision is tragic in three ways. First, it has the potential of ripping families apart—800,000 people here in the United States. It creates uncertainty for those who are currently in the DACA Program. It creates fear as to what tomorrow will bring, and it will drive many of these individuals into the shadows, into the underground, into protecting themselves against the enforcement of removal.

This decision by President Trump is tragic for a second reason. It will hurt our economy. The numbers in Maryland I think are somewhere around one-half of \$1 billion to our State GDP from the Dreamers alone.

The Dreamers are part of our economy. They are adding to our economy. I got a phone call from one of our major employers in Maryland expressing grave concern about President Trump's decision and the impact it will have on that company and on our economy. These are individuals who have been trained in our schools, who have gone to our colleges, who have served in our military, and who are now adding to the economic strength of America through their employment and their innovation. It makes no sense from the point of view of our economy.

The third reason the President's decision is tragic is one that speaks to the strength of America—what makes America the great Nation it is. Yes, we are proud of those who serve in our military. We know that we have the strongest military in the world, and we are very proud of the way our military protects this country and provides global leadership. Yes, we are very proud of our economy and what it produces and the economic growth it provides for the people in this country and its engagement in the global economy. But what really makes America the unique, strong Nation that it is are our values, including what we stand for, our democratic institutions, the fact that we are the beacon of hope for people all over the world for providing opportunity. People can come to this country with dreams, and those dreams can become reality. That is what America's values are about.

President Trump's decision to end the DACA Program runs afoul of the principles that have made America the great Nation it is—a safe haven for those who are seeking refuge from persecution, a nation that embraces diversity and recognizes diversity as our strength. President Trump's decision to end the DACA Program runs afoul of

America's core values. It weakens us as a nation and certainly weakens our ability to lead globally with our values as we present them to the global community.

So, as a result of that decision, what do we need to do? Each one of us needs to stand up and be counted, to speak out about America and what makes this Nation the great Nation it is. Then, collectively, we need to take action to show the American people that we will stand up not just for the Dreamers—and we need to stand up for the Dreamers—but we will also stand up for the values that have made America the great Nation it is.

I support S. 1615, a bipartisan bill that has been introduced by Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM. I thank both of our colleagues for their leadership in bringing that bill forward. That bill will provide protection for the Dreamers and for the DACA Program so that Congress can say: No, Mr. President, we do not want to terminate this program. This program is in our national security interests. This program is why America is the strong Nation that it is. It is not only right for 800,000 people; it is right for all people in this country.

This body showed great leadership a few years ago when we passed comprehensive immigration reform. I am for passing comprehensive immigration reform. Let's take care of and protect the Dreamers, and then let's work together to pass comprehensive immigration reform that we did just a few years ago that was never taken up in the House of Representatives.

Let me close by telling a few stories about Dreamers in Maryland. One story appeared in the Baltimore Sun. It begins:

Jesus Perez doesn't remember much about his journey to the United States two decades ago, beyond his parents using a simple phrase that would change the course of his life: "We're leaving."

Perez was 5 when he left Mexico. He's never been back.

Perez [is] now a 25-year-old research assistant at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

For Perez, the DACA program was a "relief" that allowed him to come out of the shadows. It also allowed him to take the job at Hopkins, and to get a standard driver's license.

"To now have it in limbo means that you either lose it all, and restart all over again—" Perez said, trailing off. "I'm not going to let that happen. We will win in the end."

I want Mr. Perez to know that we are going to fight here in the U.S. Senate, not just for his ability to remain here in the United States but for what that means for the strength of our country.

Our university community in Maryland has strongly supported the DACA Program. Dr. Loh, president of the University of Maryland, College Park, called the decision "antithetical to the core values" of higher education. He vowed in a letter to students and staff to "continue to identify all avenues available for offering support."

Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels and Provost Sunil Kumar

reaffirmed the university's support for DACA, saying that Johns Hopkins University students directly impacted by the decision will be given the aid they need to complete their degrees. President Daniels and Provost Kumar said: "The decision on DACA will not deter us from working to ensure that all members of our community can participate fully in our mission—the pursuit of excellence in education, discovery and service to the world."

As President Loh and President Daniels fight on behalf of the DACA children, we need to also let the American people know that we are going to fight for what makes this Nation the great Nation that it is.

The Baltimore Sun also told the story of Monica Perez, who is one of dozens of Dreamers from Maryland who rallied near the White House on Tuesday to protest the decision. The 23-year-old Baltimore woman came to the United States from Mexico when she was 7 years old.

Ms. Perez said DACA "gave us the opportunity to feel safe. We've already been in the shadows for so long." Ms. Perez works for CASA de Maryland. "I'm just scared for my parents, for myself, and for my whole community."

Mr. President, let us do the right thing and immediately extend the DACA Program. These are not 800,000 faceless individuals. I urge all of my colleagues to get to know the Dreamers and to understand their life story. It is heart-wrenching—the courage that they have shown, the obstacles they have overcome. Let's not put obstacles in their way. Let's allow their dreams to be able to come true. Let's stand up and be counted and fight for the Dreamers. Let's work together to protect their status, and then let's work together to fix our broken immigration system. That is our responsibility. This is our opportunity. Let's work together to get this done.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business, for debate only, be extended until 11:30 a.m.

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

DACA

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today as a proud Michigander, American, and the son of an immigrant. My mother Madeleine grew up in France and met my father Herb when he was serving overseas during World War II. They fell in love, were married, and she

had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States where she started a new life with my dad and was proud to become a new citizen of the United States of America.

She worked hard as a nurse's aide and a union steward, and she provided inspiration and opportunity for me and my sisters. And, because the Detroit Tigers don't have a game on TV at this moment, I hope that she is home in Rochester watching me speak right now.

My mother's American experience informs my views on the nearly 7,000 Michiganders who have benefited from the protection of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA.

Let's look at the facts. The young men and women known as Dreamers and who are helped by DACA are students, serve in the military, launch new businesses, create jobs, and boost economic growth. These Dreamers did not choose to come to this country; they were brought here by their parents. They have no meaningful connections to the foreign countries they left as children and often don't even speak the language. They know no home other than the United States of America, and they were raised as Americans.

They have passed extensive background checks, paid fines, and continue to pay taxes, which reduces our budget deficit. They pay into Social Security, which increases its solvency for all Americans.

According to the CATO Institute, deporting the more than 700,000 DACA participants would cost—yes, cost—the Federal Government over \$60 billion and reduce economic growth in this country by \$280 billion over the next decade.

Rescinding DACA is not just cruel and unfair, it is a terrible economic policy and a bad deal for the American taxpayer.

Numbers can only say so much, so I often tell the story of a fellow Michigander, Ola Kaso. Ola is pictured right here. Ola's family came to the United States legally but unsuccessfully seeking asylum in 1998. Ola was only 5 years old when she came to America. After 13 years in the country—13 years—the government attempted to deport her and her mother back to Albania, just weeks before she was set to graduate from high school. Backed by the support of fellow Michiganders, Ola's family was granted a stay of the deportation.

I am proud to report that Ola ultimately graduated as the valedictorian of her high school class. She recently graduated from the University of Michigan and plans to attend medical school. She is a beneficiary of the DACA Program.

Our Nation is facing a doctor shortage—especially in rural areas—and this young woman wants to dedicate her

life to caring for others. Deporting Ola makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. As a country that seeks the best and brightest, we should not spend taxpayer dollars to deport contributing members of our society, especially when they were brought here through no fault of their own and when they voluntarily came out of the shadows through DACA.

Let me be clear. I strongly disagree with President Trump's decision to rescind the DACA Program. Congress must provide leadership and help these young people who are giving back to our country. We must provide them with the certainty they deserve and take a positive step forward toward reforming our broken immigration system. We must move beyond the politics of scarcity and division.

The Dreamers are not taking away limited American jobs; they are creating new jobs and growing our economy. They are creating jobs with their own small businesses, helping American entrepreneurs grow their companies as they expand in their communities, and fighting to keep us safe as members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Our Nation needs more innovators, doers, and dreamers, not fewer.

I will fight for Ola and all of the Dreamers who make this country better, stronger, and more prosperous for all Americans—not just because it is good for our bottom line but because it is simply the right thing to do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HURRICANES HARVEY AND IRMA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, for better or worse, history repeats itself—sometimes much sooner than we would like. We now know that Florida officials, as well as those up the east coast of the United States, have begun ordering evacuations as Hurricane Irma has intensified into a category 5 storm which could make landfall this weekend.

It is my sincere hope that all residents of Florida will be safe, as well as those in other States affected by Irma, and that they take proper precautions. If there is one thing we learned from Hurricane Harvey, it is the importance of listening to local officials and leaders when it comes to evacuations and precautionary measures. But whatever happens, we are going to stand by the people of Florida and the Carolinas and others affected, just as they have stood by us in Texas and Louisiana as a result of Hurricane Harvey. In the meantime, we pray that Irma's trajectory changes.

Down in Texas, of course, we are still thinking about another hurricane, and

that is, of course, Hurricane Harvey. It is hard to believe, but not even 2 weeks have passed since the storm first tore through our towns, great and small. Of course, communities are still reeling from the devastation.

One I visited earlier this week is the Meyerland neighborhood in Houston. It has been flooded three times in 3 years. On Monday, I visited the home of a single mom who survived several recent storms unscathed, but this time, Harvey found her home and destroyed it. There is a pile of debris on her front lawn, ready to be picked up by dump trucks. As a matter of fact, as you drive down the street, house after house after house, there are piles of furniture, clothing, drywall, and other debris that has been pulled up and discarded and is ready to be picked up by the dump trucks. Throughout the region, there are piles like that stacked up in Rockport, Aransas Pass, Lake Jackson, and West Columbia. As recently as this week, let's remember, some of these places were still under mandatory evacuation orders as the rivers crested and higher waters moved downstream.

But here is my main point: As the rubble piles up and up and up, it is sometimes hard to see past the wreckage of the past weeks. Sometimes it is hard to see beyond what is right in front of you. That is why some simple words by historian David McCullough are good to keep in mind at times like this, as we continue to deal with Harvey's aftermath and worry what might follow with Irma.

McCullough said:

We think we live in difficult, uncertain times. We think we have worries. We think our leaders face difficult decisions. But so it has nearly always been.

He is right. We have been through tough times before. We certainly have been through tough times in storms like Harvey in Texas before. As a matter of fact, back almost a little over a century ago, on September 8, 1900, a hurricane like Harvey—a category 4 hurricane—slammed into the city of Galveston, with winds surpassing 135 miles per hour. Two-thirds of the city was destroyed, and approximately 10,000 people lost their lives—10,000 people. By comparison, so far the death toll of Harvey is 70. So we can be grateful the death toll that was experienced in Galveston was not repeated. Like Galveston, the city of Houston and the surrounding area will recover.

Of course, back in 1900, it took a couple of days for the world to find out what had happened because communication was not what it is now, but when word finally spread, America noticed. One little girl in Chicago sent 10 cents to help because that was all she had—10 cents. Well, that was probably worth a lot more back then than it is now, but it certainly is a lot for a little child. Her story reminds me of a 5-year-old boy in Philadelphia I heard about last week who set up a lemonade stand. Wearing a "Houston Texans"

hat, he raised more than \$400 for victims of Hurricane Harvey. How remarkable.

What has changed since Galveston? Quite a bit. One crucial difference is that we have gotten a lot better at disaster prediction and response. As a matter of fact, my State—from the Governor on down to our local officials—plans for disasters like these and anticipates them, and it is that planning which has reduced the loss of life and gotten people out of harm's way.

Houston's \$503 billion economy will hopefully bounce back quickly, and with our help, it should. The fourth largest city in the country is known for energy, and that is what we here in Washington must devote to ensuring that aid relief is expedited. Supplemental funding to aid the Harvey recovery needs to be voted on promptly. Our friends in the House did it yesterday, and now it will be our turn this afternoon.

The Senate will soon consider legislation that will keep the government's lights on until December 8 and increase the Nation's borrowing capacity. This is important because without lifting the debt limit, we couldn't vote for and send aid to the victims of Harvey because we would be bumping up against the debt ceiling.

More importantly, this afternoon we will consider \$15 billion in new emergency funds. These will be available to Texas families who, like the woman I met in Meyerland, are removing their rugs and furniture and rebuilding the very walls of their homes. These funds include \$7.4 billion to FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, as well as \$7.4 billion to HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program and \$450 million for the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program.

As large as these numbers are, with more than 100,000 people who have actually lost their homes, this is a downpayment, unfortunately, on what will be additional costs that Congress will have to vote on. As a matter of fact, after Hurricane Katrina, Congress voted on seven separate supplemental appropriations before the job was done. As I said, these are large numbers but not in the context of this unprecedented hurricane which dropped 50 inches of rain in 5 days on the city of Houston and the surrounding area. I hope my colleagues will keep in mind the scope of this catastrophe and deliver this funding to those whom Harvey has cost much more than just dollars.

Getting back to the Texas economy, which I mentioned just a second ago, I want to talk about how important it is to get my State back up and running, because it is so important to the U.S. economy.

As columnist Brett Stephens wrote last week, "Economic growth isn't just a matter of parking lots paving over paradise." Companies oftentimes do real, tangible good. What matters for us today is that they underwrite safety

standards and fund scientific research, and they develop new technologies to warn us of impending storms and engineer new materials that make buildings more secure. That is probably one of the biggest reasons why the damage from Hurricane Harvey didn't compare to the damage from the Galveston hurricane of 1900—because of building standards, building codes, and new materials that have been devised to help make buildings more secure. That is why Harvey wasn't like Galveston in 1900, and in the days and weeks ahead, we need to remember how far we have come. That is not to say we still don't have a long way to go.

While the strong Texas economy is crucial to recovery efforts, education will be too. Thousands of Texas schoolchildren have been displaced by Hurricane Harvey, and many public school children are still wondering when their classrooms will be opened, if at all, or whether they will simply be transferred to other schools because their schools literally do not exist anymore.

Yesterday, I spoke with Mike Morath, commissioner of Texas public education, who told me about the many challenges schools in Texas are now facing. For example, an entire school district in Rockport, TX, is closed indefinitely, leaving more than 3,000 students without friends and teachers to go to school with. In the Houston Independent School District, more than 200 schools were affected by the flooding, with at least 50 suffering extensive damage.

Our healthcare facilities are also dealing with other concerns. Bill McKeon, president of the Texas Medical Center—one of the largest medical centers in the world—told us that his employees had problems getting to work due to road closures, debris, and families without homes and vehicles. When your office is in the world's biggest medical complex and employs more than 100,000 people, that is a big problem. It is a big problem, but we are going to deal with it.

Like Galveston in 1900, like New Orleans after Katrina, these storms humble us but provide us the way to show the human spirit and ingenuity that so routinely follows as we rebuild and recover.

Once again, David McCullough's words are useful. He said: "A sense of history is an antidote to self-pity and self-importance."

Colleagues, let's keep in mind those wise words of David McCullough as we weather this storm and brace ourselves for the next.

I yield the floor.

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

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

NORTH KOREA

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I am here today to urge the White House and the National Security Council to develop and deliver to Congress a clear, comprehensive U.S. strategy to address the urgent threat posed by North Korea's nuclear missile program.

I have submitted an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act—the annual national defense bill that we will consider soon—requiring that strategy within 90 days, and I hope all of my colleagues will support it when the time comes.

I am honored to colead two Senate panels that have been focused on this threat for years: the Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces—where I work with my colleague Senator FISCHER to oversee our Nation's nuclear arsenal, missile defense systems, and nuclear nonproliferation programs—and the Banking Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance, where I work with Senator BEN SASSE to oversee the development and enforcement of U.S. sanctions laws.

In my role on these two panels, I have traveled to South Korea, the DMZ, and China. I have met with U.S. forces and foreign leaders to discuss our challenges and our options for overcoming them. I have worked with colleagues—both Republican and Democratic—to shape legislation to improve our homeland defenses, strengthen our military, and expand our sanctions in response to Kim Jong Un's dangerous behavior. I have sat in dozens of meetings, hearings, and classified briefings on the subject of North Korea's nuclear program and what we can do about it.

Just yesterday, every Member of the Senate had the opportunity to attend one of these briefings and hear from the leaders of the Pentagon, the State Department, and the Intelligence Community about our various efforts against Kim Jong Un. I am sorry to say I walked away from yesterday's briefing with the same concern I had after every briefing on this subject in the past 8 months. We have operational plans for our military and scattered talks among our diplomats, but we need a substantive strategy.

With each passing week—at times, with each passing day—North Korea is making its intentions clear and its progress toward a nuclear-capable ICBM known to the entire world. We see missile tests with growing ranges, warhead tests with growing yields, test shots that fly over the territory of our allies, and threats that target U.S. territories. Kim Jong Un says he wants to shoot a nuclear-armed missile into the U.S. mainland. I take him at his word, as we all should.

In times like this, it is critical every move we make be a deliberate one that moves the ball forward toward the outcome we want, the outcome we need to achieve. We should be doing everything in our power to do that in a way that

will not put America's sons and daughters, moms and dads, brothers and sisters who make up our Nation's military in harm's way unnecessarily.

There are more than 20,000 U.S. servicemembers in South Korea. At last count, more than 300 of them were from my home State of Indiana. Another 40,000 U.S. troops are in Japan and nearly 4,000 on Guam, not to mention the thousands of sailors and marines aboard our vessels at sea in the region.

I have every confidence in the ability of these men and women to defend our Nation, but we owe it to them to make every appropriate effort to end this conflict in a way that doesn't unnecessarily put their lives at risk.

We talk a lot about a whole-of-government effort. That is not what we are seeing right now when it comes to our response to North Korea. I see a Treasury Department that needs to dramatically step up its sanctions enforcement to not just induce pain but to cripple North Korea's ability to progress further on its nuclear program.

I see a diplomatic corps grappling with the top national security priority in the Pacific—bar none—lacking the resources, the guidance, and the backing from Washington to do their jobs. I see a U.S. Embassy in Seoul with no Ambassador. I see a State Department without key positions filled in various areas, including arms control, nonproliferation, and Asian affairs. I see a Defense Department without an Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities—or, for that matter, an Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs.

We can do better, and we must do better. This is not a partisan critique. It is not fearmongering. It is not a call to arms. This is my effort to speak on this floor, before my colleagues and the country—a request we have all made to the White House many times. Give us a strategy on North Korea and let our country unite behind it.

The country is looking for leadership on this. The world is looking for leadership. Let's define our objectives based on the best interest and safety of our country and our allies and develop our strategy to achieve it. Let us work together across departments and agencies, across branches of government, and across party lines to get there.

This is way too important to not do that. No more mixed messages. No more bluster. We have to act. We can't afford to waste our efforts in chaos and disarray. We have to continue improving our missile defenses and be prepared to use them to protect our territory, the territory of our allies, and all of our people.

We have to sanction Chinese banks that do business with North Korea. We have to cut off the lifelines of the Kim regime, including oil supplies and foreign currency—not to topple the government but to eliminate their ability to continue down this murderous path.

We have to be doing far more to get our partners in the region to do more— allies and competitors alike—in service of a goal we all share. There is ample support for all of these efforts in Congress.

Senator FISCHER and I worked together to provide even more funding for missile defense than the President requested because it is so important. Senator SASSE and I have worked together to gather options from some of the Nation's best and brightest minds on how to shape sanctions that could actually impact North Korea's ability to continue their nuclear program, whether Kim Jong Un agrees to it or not.

I believe there will be ample support among our allies—and even our adversaries—around the world if we provide the kind of clear, forceful, and effective leadership America has always been known for in the past.

There is not a nation on Earth that is safer with the existence of North Korea's nuclear weapons program, and that includes North Korea itself. However hard the path forward may be, we can all agree that the status quo is not enough. It is not even close and will not continue to work.

We cannot fix that without a strategy. I am here today asking the administration—once again, reaching out our hand to them—to take that first essential step forward and asking my colleagues to support my amendment to the national defense bill to require the administration to submit a North Korea strategy to Congress within 90 days. We can do this together.

I yield back.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business, for debate only, be extended until 12 noon.

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

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

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

FINDING COMMON GROUND

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, before we adjourned for the recess, I came to this lectern to issue a call for comity, cooperation, and compromise. My message that day was simple: If we are serious about legislating—if we are truly committed to doing the work the American people sent us here to do—then we must look beyond the horizon of our differences and find common ground.

Since January, this Congress has been its own worst enemy. It has been mired in the muck of its own making, bogged down by partisan squabbles and gripped by gridlock—the likes of which I have never seen in all my years of public service. I wish I could say the situation across the country is better, but sadly it isn't. The polarization we see in the Senate is only indicative of the division we see all around the Nation. The events of August threw that division into sharp relief, but it also showed us our ability to heal—our remarkable capacity to lay aside superficial differences in moments of crisis to come together as one.

In Charlottesville and Houston, August brought us a tale of two cities—one that showed us at once both the weaknesses and strengths of our great country.

In Charlottesville, we saw the worst of America on full display. In the violence, vitriol, and vulgar racism of Nazi demonstrators, we stared evil in the face, and in the terrorist attack that ensued, we saw the ideology of hatred brought to its logical endpoint. None of us will soon forget this attack on innocent civilians. I am sure, in the stagnant human air of that hot summer's day, we caught a glimpse of the darkness buried deep in the soul of America.

Charlottesville was more than a tragic event. It was a gut-check moment for all Americans. It was a national low point that demanded all of us to take stock of where we are as a society and where our rhetoric is taking us.

The men who perpetrated this horrific act of violence—whether by their words or by their actions—represent the dregs of a dying culture, but if the violence in Charlottesville showed America at its worst, then the rescue and recovery efforts in hurricane-ravaged Houston showed our country at its best.

Just 2 weeks after the brutality in Charlottesville, our Nation again watched in horror as Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, unleashing a flood of biblical proportions. Relentless rainfall battered the coast for days, leaving in its wake a trail of destruction and shattered life.

Harvey left behind unprecedented devastation, but it also gave us countless stories of hope and heroism. On national TV, we saw a weatherman rushing to the aid of a stranded driver, pulling the man to safety before the current could take him away. We saw everyday Texans wade in the neck-deep waters to form a human chain, saving the life of a stranger trapped in his car. We watched as three teenage boys navigated the streets of Houston in a fishing boat, driving from house to house to rescue their neighbors as the floodwaters poured in.

These are just a few stories among thousands more. These stories remind us of the hope and humanity borne of tragedy. They bear testament to the innate goodness of the American peo-

ple, and they show us that, in moments of crisis, our capacity to come together for the good of our communities is really unparalleled.

Tragedies like those in Houston strip us of all that is superfluous, leaving behind only our common humanity. In the moments of peril that moved tens of thousands of Texans to band together to save their city, considerations of race, religion, class, or creed fell into complete irrelevance. The first responders, volunteers, and Good Samaritans who put their own lives at risk to rescue others served indiscriminately. They took no thought for whom they were helping—what their background or beliefs were. Houston's heroes saw only lives that needed saving, and they went to work.

If there is any good that comes of tragedy, it is that for a brief but beautiful moment, we are able to see each other as we truly are—not as Republicans or Democrats, rich or poor, Black or White, but as members of the same community, partakers of the same human condition and children of the same God. For a brief moment, we are able to see each other as Americans.

I pray that the hope of Houston may inspire all of us here in the Senate. I pray that we may look to the city's example in the work we have before us, setting aside our petty partisan differences to come together for the good of the Nation. I pray that, as Senators, we might see each other as friends and equals, partners and patriots, anxiously engaged in the important work of legislating. I pray that we can esteem each other by our mutual love for this great country, not by the R or D that follows our names.

Now, more than ever, we need strength and unity here in the Senate. The challenges we have before us are enormous. In the next few weeks alone, we need to secure emergency relief funding for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, raise the debt ceiling, fix our broken Tax Code, and find a way forward on immigration reform. Our to-do list just keeps growing.

Each of these items taken on its own is challenging, but taken as a whole, our agenda is daunting. But I truly believe we are up to the task. I truly believe we can step up to the plate, just as the people of Texas did, to tackle the challenges before us.

As I said before we broke for recess, the Senate is capable of so much more. I know because I have seen the Senate at its best. I have seen the Senate when it truly lived up to its reputation as the world's greatest deliberative body. I believe we can again see this body at its best.

My central message today is simple. We can do hard things. I know because we have done them before. So let's make laws, not excuses. Let's move forward on an agenda that puts the needs of America's families front and center.

This is an important pivotal time in our Nation's history. It is up to us to

make that pivotal time an important time, a successful time, and one where we are brought together to work as colleagues, rather than as opponents, which it has been far too much, as far as I am concerned, over the last number of years.

I hope that we can all get together and do a better job for America.

I yield the floor

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

DACA

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak for just a few minutes about the Dreamers in our country, the young people about whom we have had a debate recently and will continue to debate about with regard to the so-called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known by the acronym DACA.

The United States is a proud nation of immigrants, and ending this program does not make sense either morally or in terms of our economy. Rescinding the program will cost the United States jobs. It will hurt our national security, and it is a total betrayal of the trust of the Federal Government.

Dreamers are young people who have lived in our country for a long time, since they were children. They have been law-abiding residents, they have learned English, and they pay taxes. They have secured jobs that support themselves and their families.

Our Government promised them that they would be protected if they came forward, and now the administration is breaking that promise. President Trump's actions with regard to DACA are an insult to America and are an insult to American values. This action is unjust, it is immoral, and it is without regard for basic fairness. Tearing apart the lives of these young people will make our Nation less safe and will harm our economy.

Ending DACA also does not make sense financially. In Pennsylvania alone, estimates are that ending DACA would cost Pennsylvania \$357 million per year in GDP losses. Nationwide, the number is \$460 billion from the GDP over the next decade. Ending DACA would remove approximately 685,000 workers from the U.S. economy. According to the Cato Institute, deporting DACA residents would cost more than \$60 billion. Finally, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that 1.3 million young people enrolled in or eligible for DACA pay some \$2 billion each year in State and local taxes.

Let me just share one story of many about a Dreamer that I met. In this case, it was back in April of this year. I was proud to meet with this individual from Lancaster. Her name is Audrey Lopez. Audrey is one of those Dreamers. She came to the United States as a child with her parents, who were seeking a better life for her and

for her family. She grew up in Pennsylvania and graduated from college. The United States is the only home she knows.

When I met Audrey, she was worried about the debate about immigration and immigration policy. The debate that we have been having in Washington mostly since January of this year was causing great fear and uncertainty in her community. Audrey is obviously concerned about the immigration debate and, in particular, what happens with DACA.

She has worked with Church World Services, an organization that helps resettle hundreds of refugees each year in Pennsylvania. They provide services to help new arrivals adjust to their new home and become successful members of their local neighborhoods.

Audrey is now a student at American University, pursuing her master's degree in international development—of course, after getting a college education as well.

This is America. This is who we are as a nation, where young people like Audrey have a chance to work hard and to succeed, to get an education and to contribute to the American economy and to the fabric of our society. We are a country in which hard-working young people who are working to better themselves and their community are given a chance to do so, in a sense, fulfilling or living that dream.

This program, DACA, has allowed almost 800,000 young people whose stories are very similar to Audrey's to grow up and thrive in America. It makes no sense to heartlessly remove Dreamers from a country they call home.

In response to President Trump's decision to end DACA, Congress should move immediately to pass a bipartisan Dream Act. This bill will allow Dreamers to become permanent residents if they meet the very stringent qualifications outlined in the bill. In Pennsylvania alone, 5,900 people have been granted DACA status. Passing the Dream Act will give these people the security they need and a future they can count on. We should be focused on humane and commonsense solutions that keep our Nation safe and allow it to thrive. I was proud to vote for the DREAM Act in 2007 and 2010. I hope we will have a clean vote on the Dream Act very soon.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

REINFORCING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 601, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 601, a bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment (No. 6) to the bill with McConnell amendment No. 808 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment (No. 6) to the bill), in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 809 (to amendment No. 808), to change the enactment date.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 816

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to refer the House message on H.R. 601 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with the Paul amendment No. 816.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to refer the House message to accompany H.R. 601 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back forthwith to the Senate with an amendment numbered 816.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act:

(1) no supplemental appropriation shall be made to the "Community Development Fund";

(2) the "Disaster Relief Fund" shall be increased by \$7,400,000,000,

(3) \$15,250,000,000 of unobligated funds previously made available to the United States Agency for International Development shall be rescinded; and

(4) The emergency designations in Division B in this Act shall have no force or effect.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 817

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 817 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment.”

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 818 TO AMENDMENT NO. 817

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 818 to amendment No. 817.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “2” and insert “3”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

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

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, like all of us, I would like to join with our fellow citizens and colleagues in expressing our deep condolences to the victims of Hurricane Harvey. All Americans stand with the people of Texas who have been devastated by this terrible storm as they work to recover and rebuild their communities.

My thoughts and prayers are also with the people of Florida as they prepare for Hurricane Irma. I urge everyone in the path of this horrible storm to pay attention to instructions from local officials to stay safe.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, I am pleased that the legislation before us includes \$15 billion in emergency funding to help the people of Texas put their lives back together. Congress should and must provide this needed relief.

In due time, if the devastation of Irma is anywhere near as bad as predicted, obviously I and others will support sending Federal funding to assist the people of Florida with recovery. That is clearly a requirement and function of government.

Madam President, I also support increasing the debt ceiling as a necessary way to prevent default on our government debt. However, I cannot in good conscience support those very important pieces of this legislation if it also means supporting a continuing resolution.

I have come to this floor many times to talk about the harmful effects of continuing resolutions on our military. Year after year, we have lurched from one short-term fix to another without doing the hard work of governing and budgeting. And year after year, I have

reminded my colleagues that continuing resolutions are not only no way to fund the government, they inflict great harm upon those Americans we are constitutionally obliged to provide for, and that is our men and women in uniform.

Our defense leaders have also sounded the alarm. For the last several years, our senior military and civilian leaders have come to the Senate Armed Services Committee and asked for the same thing: that Congress provide stable, predictable funding and that we provide it on time. Is that a lot to ask, stable and predictable funding, and providing it on time?

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee this year, Secretary Mattis pointed out that “during nine of the past ten years, Congress has enacted 30 separate Continuing Resolutions to fund the Department of Defense, thus inhibiting our readiness and adaptation to new challenges.” He asked Congress to “pass a FY 2018 budget in a timely manner to avoid yet another harmful Continuing Resolution.”

Let me explain. A continuing resolution just continues and continues at previous years’ levels. I will talk about some of the impacts continuing resolutions have had.

The Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dunford, also stated that “without sustained, sufficient, and predictable funding, I assess that within 5 years we will lose our ability to project power; the basis of how we defend the homeland, advance U.S. interests, and meet our alliance commitments.”

My friends and colleagues, that doesn’t come from Senator JOHN McCAIN, it comes from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that without predictable funding, within 5 years, we will lose our ability to project power, the basis of how we defend the homeland, et cetera.

I shouldn’t have to remind everyone that threats are on the rise around the world. Global terrorist networks, increasing great power competition with Russia and China, malign Iranian influence spreading across the Middle East, a North Korean dictator racing to acquire missiles that can hit the United States with nuclear weapons—the threats to our national security have not been more complex or daunting than at any time in the past seven decades.

Let us not forget that we are a nation at war. There are brave young men and women serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places. We must always ask ourselves, are we really doing all we can to support them?

There is no point to discussing our strategy for Afghanistan or North Korea or ISIS or any of the other myriad of threats we are currently facing if we are simply going to fund the military through a continuing resolution.

My friends, the state of our military is dire. The overwhelming majority of

our forces are not fit for combat in the near term. Three out of our fifty-nine Army brigades are combat-ready. Four of sixty-four Air Force squadrons are ready to “fight tonight”—that means fully combat ready. Fewer than half of the Marine and Navy planes are ready for combat. The Air Force has a pilot shortfall of 1,500, 1,000 of whom are fighter pilots. The Navy has a maintenance backlog of 5.4 million man-days scheduled for 2017.

The hard truth is, our military is declining. The President of the United States campaigned with a full commitment of rebuilding our military. If we do a continuing resolution, we are not only not rebuilding our military, we are harming our military.

The hard truth is, the military is declining. For evidence of this, we need look no further than all the headlines about ship collisions and aviation accidents during peacetime training operations—incidents that have tragically taken the lives of dozens of our brave men and women in uniform. The incident involving USS *McCain*, which killed 10 young sailors, is only the latest example.

So how did we get here? How did we get into this position? Uncertain budgets that are consistently late. Continuing to increase the operational tempo for our military despite not having sufficient money to pay for it. Making cuts elsewhere to stay afloat, like training and maintenance. And we are about to do the same thing. Apparently, watching as young men and women die for entirely avoidable reasons seems not to be enough for us to change.

To be sure, while the budget alone will not fix all of the underlying causes of the recent incidents, the military cannot improve without timely and growing budgets. Yet that is exactly what a CR—a continuing resolution—will not provide. A continuing resolution will lock the Department of Defense into last year’s funding levels, it will prevent them from reprogramming funding to meet emerging needs, and it will prohibit the start of new programs to modernize for future threats. Perhaps worst of all, a continuing resolution will mandate a level of spending \$52 billion less than the President’s budget request.

The military cannot fix its readiness problems without more funding. The military cannot grow its forces to meet the expanding requirements of a global threat environment under a continuing resolution. A continuing resolution will not allow our military to modernize its forces to ensure we maintain our strategic advantage over our competitors.

While the President and this Congress understand that the military does have a need for additional funding to rebuild the military, we are asking them to keep treading water for 3 months for no reason whatsoever. A continuing resolution is a crutch we

rely on when we cannot pass actual appropriations bills. It is a temporary solution to avoid the worst possible outcome—a Federal shutdown—and to allow us more time to reach a solution for funding the government.

The majority of us can agree that passing continuing resolutions is not the proper way of funding government. Congress cannot perform oversight by passing continuing resolutions. The Federal Government cannot execute effectively or efficiently when locked into last year's funding bills. Having to pass a continuing resolution, by all accounts, is a failure by the Congress of the United States to fund the Federal Government.

I understand the need to use these from time to time as bipartisan spending agreements are not always easy to come by. What I do not understand is why we are voting on a continuing resolution 3 weeks before the actual start of the next year without having spent any time in the Senate on actually trying to pass an appropriations bill or negotiating a bipartisan budget agreement. How is it that we are voting on a continuing resolution—a mechanism of last resort—before we have even made a single attempt at funding the government?

There has been no discussion of a bipartisan budget deal. There has not even been a fiscal year 2018 budget resolution. We have not called up a single 2018 appropriations bill—not a single one for 2018. Quite simply, we have not been doing our jobs. If we are going to call ourselves the world's greatest deliberative body, we have to do one heck of a lot better. We have 3 weeks before we need to pass fiscal year 2018 funding. Why have we given up before having even tried? We could be spending this month debating a bipartisan budget deal we all know we will now need to pass in December.

Attaching emergency funding for hurricane relief to a must-pass continuing resolution and debt limit increase is irresponsible and a dereliction of our most routine duties. It is the result of yet another self-inflicted—I repeat, self-inflicted—crisis. Instead of returning to the regular order by moving individual spending bills to fund our government and our national security priorities, with ample time for debate and amendments, we are shirking our responsibilities and kicking the can down the road. All of us are responsible for the detriment to the men and women serving in our military during a time of incredible global uncertainty.

I would like to vote to provide assistance to the people of Texas. I cannot vote for another continuing resolution that will harm our men and women in uniform. Quite often, I go to where we have conflicts—Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries in the region. I can tell you that these young men and women who are serving in uniform, under difficult and challenging circumstances, are not being provided with the support, the weapons, the

strategy, or, most of all, the funding that is necessary.

Yes, we have been in this conflict for many years. The main reason the conflict is not over is, we never had a strategy by which to win. Now we have a national security team that has a strategy to win, but they cannot do it without the tools they need to win but also do their best to protect the lives of these young men and women who are literally placing their lives on the line.

Meanwhile, what do we do? We decide that by December 15, maybe we will take up a continuing resolution. We may take certain action. Meanwhile, we are not providing the men and women in the military with what they need not only to win but to do everything we can to ensure that we have provided them with every possible means of protecting their own health and welfare.

I say to my colleagues, we have seen this movie before. We are lurching down the road to December 15—December 8, I think it has been changed to now—when everybody will be eager to get out of town and go home for one's undeserved Christmas holiday break. The point is, today we should be taking up the budget, taking up our appropriations bills, and moving forward. If people want to block it, fine. Then let's stay in tonight. Let's stay in on Friday and Saturday and Sunday. Let's do something really unusual. The men and women who are serving over there, whom we are supposed to be taking care of, do not leave on Thursday afternoon and go back on Monday. They are out there, putting themselves on the line for us every single hour of every single day, and they deserve a lot better than what they are getting from this administration and this Congress, where the Republican Party has the majority.

I urge my colleagues again. Why don't we sit down? Why don't we move forward with these appropriations bills? Why don't we take care of the men and women who are serving? There are so many things we can do for them and for the country that we are not doing today. I urge my colleagues to sit down together, and let's move forward because the American people deserve it, and our oath of office makes it incumbent on us to practice it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 816

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, in Washington, we have a disease—or a syndrome rather. I call it the dinosaur syndrome: big hearts, small brains. Unfortunately, it is a recurring problem year after year, bill after bill, day after day.

In Washington, it is argued that you are more compassionate if you give away more of someone else's money. I would argue that true compassion is in giving your own money away. I would argue that truly rational policy is giving away money that you have. It is

one thing to give away other people's money. It is another thing to give away money you do not even possess. As a country, we have a \$20 trillion debt. We borrow \$1 million every minute. Yet we are putting forward a bill to allocate \$15 billion to those who are suffering from Harvey without paying for it and without finding the money from anywhere. We are simply adding it to our tab—adding it to our \$20 trillion bill.

How did we get to \$20 trillion in debt? Big hearts, small brains. Nobody has the courage to ask: Why don't we pay for it? Why don't we be legislators and stand up like men and women and say: Let's set priorities.

If it is a priority to help those in Texas—and I have great sympathy for those in Texas. My family is there. I have family members with 2 feet of water in their house so I have great sympathy for those who are in need, but there is no reason to be foolish. We shouldn't just borrow the money. Why don't we take the money from something less important?

My amendment, the America first amendment, would take the money from money we are going to send to foreign countries. We send billions and billions of dollars to countries that hate us. We send billions and billions of dollars to countries that burn our flag. I think it is a very simple choice, when we are looking at helping those in need in our country, that we quit sending money to other countries.

What my amendment would do would be to pay for the \$15 billion in aid by taking it out of the foreign aid account. Who gets the money in the foreign aid account? What is it spent on? I will give you a couple of examples of what we spend our foreign aid on.

We spent billions of dollars—I think it is over \$100 billion—on building roads in Afghanistan, blowing up roads in Afghanistan, building schools, blowing up schools, and then rebuilding all of them. Sometimes we blow them up, and sometimes someone else blows them up, but then we always go back and rebuild them. What about rebuilding our country? Why don't we look at our country and rebuild our infrastructure and rebuild our roads? For those who are flooded in Texas, let's help them, but let's help them by not sending the money to Pakistan and to other countries that do not even like us.

In the foreign aid account, we spent \$273 million last year teaching people how to apply for more of our money. So it is not bad enough that they take your money and send it to foreign countries that do not even like us, but we teach these people how to apply for more of our money.

We had a televised cricket league that we spent \$1 million on in Afghanistan—a televised cricket league. The only problem is, they don't really have any televisions. Why it is our obligation? Why is the U.S. taxpayer asked to pay for a cricket league in Afghanistan?

We spent \$45 million on a natural gas, gas station in Afghanistan—\$45 million. It was estimated to cost a half a million dollars—86 times cost overruns. What does it serve up? Gasoline. Natural gas. Who has a car that runs on natural gas in Afghanistan? Nobody. So we bought them cars. We bought them cars that run on natural gas. Then they had no money with which to buy the natural gas so we gave them credit cards to buy the natural gas. That is where your money is going. If you want to help the people in Texas or those people who may be hurt in Florida, why don't we quit sending the money overseas? These are the people who chant "Death to America," and we send more money to them.

We spent money on home mortgages in Nigeria. We are spending money on home mortgages in Nigeria? We spent money on tourism in Albania. This is one of my favorites: We spent money teaching people in Kenya how to use Facebook.

All I am asking is, Why don't we stand up like men and women, like real legislators? If we are going to have compassion for those in Texas, why don't we have the good wisdom not to just simply add it to our debt? In hysteria—everyone is hysterical—we must give, give, give someone else's money but not only that. We must give, give, give money we do not have. We are going to destroy our country. There have been people who have argued that our \$20 trillion debt is the No. 1 threat to our national security.

So what I am asking is, Why don't we pay for this? Why don't we simply take some money that we were going to spend somewhere else, for something not as valuable in another country, and spend it here? You realize what is going to happen. I will proffer this amendment, and in all likelihood, the swamp—the establishment—will vote this down because they never want to cut a dime of spending. They are always compassionate. They have big hearts. They are willing to give away everybody else's money, but they are never ever willing to pay for it. This is both parties—both the Republican Party and the Democrat Party. Watch the vote and see who is a conservative and who says we should pay for the aid for Harvey and who says, oh, no, that we should add it to the tab.

Where is the \$15 billion going to come from? This year, we are going to run a \$500 billion debt. There is no money. They are giving away your grandchildren's money to help people. People will say that is compassion, that we are going to help people now. Yet we are stealing it from our kids' futures, and we are stealing it from the future and the soundness of our country, and we are threatening the very security of our country with this enormous and elaborate debt.

Simply pay for it. Simply say: Do you know what? This year, we cannot be so compassionate to people who are wanting to get healthcare in Cambodia.

We have USAID money going to Cambodia to help them get cost-effective or lower cost insurance. We could not even do anything with the healthcare in our country. We failed to act on it, but we are sending money to Cambodia to help them with their healthcare. Why don't we act here at home? Why don't we take care of our own problems before we think we can take care of everybody else's problems everywhere around the world?

So we will get a chance to vote today. My amendment will come up shortly, and it will simply say, yes, we are a big, rich country. We can help those in Texas, but we will pay for it by taking the money away from somewhere else in the budget that is less of a priority. We give hundreds of millions—really billions—of dollars to Pakistan. How much do they like us? Sometimes they help us, but sometimes they harbor the enemy. Sometimes they harbor whole networks of people who are plotting to kill us.

What do they think of Christianity in Pakistan? Asia Bibi is a Christian. She has been in jail for 5 years—on death row—for being a Christian. What do they think of helping us with bin Laden? They did not raise a finger to help us with bin Laden. Bin Laden lived among them for years and years and years, and when we finally got bin Laden, we got bin Laden with information from a doctor named Shakil Afridi. What did Pakistan do to reward the doctor who helped us get bin Laden? Pakistan has him locked up for life in prison.

Really, we need to requestion whether this aid works at all to foreign countries, whether it is counterproductive, and whether we have it in the first place, but we should also ask an important question: Maybe that aid ought to be better spent at home. Maybe we ought to start rebuilding our country instead of always thinking we have to rebuild everybody else's country.

I think this amendment is so easy to decide, and I think the American people are behind me on this amendment. If we were to take this to a huge vote of the entire American public, I think 75 to 80 percent of the American public would say: Do you know what? Let's take care of our problems at home; let's don't send our money abroad. And I think we would win this battle.

Watch this vote because in Washington you will see the opposite. You will see three-fourths of this body or more say: Oh, no, we are not going to cut any spending to anyone. We could never cut foreign aid or welfare for foreign countries. We are just going to add it on to the tab. I, for one, want to be a loud voice to say that it is risking our country's future. It is risking the security of the United States to keep adding to a \$20 trillion debt, no matter how good the cause is.

Remember, the next time a politician tells you that they are so compassionate because they want to give away more of someone else's money, ask

them how much they gave of their own money if you want to judge their true compassion.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. SASSE. Madam President, Hurricane Harvey is a horrible tragedy. It has ruthlessly taken lives. It has taken diplomas and baby albums. It has taken homes and gardens and playgrounds. It has also given us many new pictures of volunteerism, heroism, and neighborliness, and God bless those many helping hands. It has also revealed the willingness, the advanced planning, and the hard work of many government employees in the State and local governments, in the National Guard, in FEMA, and beyond.

So what are we doing here today in this body? And what should we be doing? What is the specific duty of the U.S. Congress at this moment? We should provide emergency funding relief. We should provide emergency funding for FEMA and for related agencies. They are doing important work, and they need it.

The amount agreed upon by the administration and the House of Representatives on Tuesday—just 48 hours ago—was \$7.8 billion. It passed noncontroversially. The vote was 419 to 3. They did the right thing. So let's approve it. Let's do the exact same thing. Let's let FEMA spend that \$7 billion. It is important money. There is a genuine emergency. There is real need. I am a small government guy, but there is a clear and urgent governmental role in this moment, so we should do it.

But what we should not do are unrelated things that we will pretend are hurricane relief. We should not fool ourselves into pretending that the legislation on the floor today is actually doing what it says it does just because it has a certain name on the top of the legislation. What we are actually considering doing today in this body is much, much larger, much clunkier, and much less explicable or defensible to you and my constituents.

Do your constituents know, for example, that far less than half of all of the spending in this bill before us today is in any way related to emergency relief for Hurricane Harvey? Think about that. Do your constituents know that far less than half of the spending is actually related to hurricanes? Shouldn't they know that? Shouldn't they know that the vast majority of the money this body is going to spend today, under the pretend guise of an emergency in the Schumer-Pelosi-Trump bill, is not actually emergency spending at all?

Do your constituents know that we are using the hurricane as an excuse to extend the debt ceiling? Translated, that means we can't pay our credit card bill, so we are just going to take over the credit card company and change our credit limit without any discussion. We are not going to have any conversation about the fact that

we constantly spend more money than we have, and we have to borrow to do it.

There is a mechanism by which, when we hit up against our debt limit, we are supposed to pause and have a conversation, but we are not going to do that today. We are going to use the hurricane as an excuse to hide from that truth.

What we are really doing right now is borrowing from our kids. There is no other explanation for what we are doing. What we are doing is we are intergenerationally stealing. We are passing on debt to the next generation for current spending. We are not funding infrastructure here. We are not funding roads and bridges and IT systems and weapons systems. These are not things that could be called investments in the future.

Again, I am not talking about the hurricane spending. We should do all of the hurricane spending. But mostly what this bill is going to do is spend current priorities—current-year money—month over month, as we always do, but we are going to pass the price tag and the debt on to our kids, and we are going to hide from our constituents what we are actually doing. We are not going to admit it. We are not going to have a conversation about it. We are not going to have an honest accounting about how much money we are going to spend. What we are going to do is increase the odds that we will have a debt crisis soon. At the moment that comes, we will have another emergency that we will be able to use as an excuse to do things that we then also will not want accountability for.

We should separate these two things. We should do all of the hurricane spending. We should not do things that are not hurricane spending but, rather, are excuses to kick the can down the road on the nature of the obligations we are constantly incurring beyond our ability to pay.

What we are not doing in this body today is draining the swamp. What we are doing is running a whole bunch of hoses to the edge of the swamp, turning them on to the highest possible volume flow, and then turning our backs on the swamp and shouting that there is nothing to see here. That is what we are doing. We are doing the opposite of draining the swamp today.

Finally, do your constituents know that what we are doing today actually increases the likelihood of both a government shutdown and a government default in December? The odds of a government shutdown are up and the odds of a government default are up in December.

Do your constituents know that CHUCK SCHUMER—whose title is minority leader, not majority leader—just made himself the most powerful man in America for the month of December? CHUCK SCHUMER has made himself the key man in all negotiations in December because of the legislation we are going to pass today.

Do your voters know that real and fundamental tax reform is going to get less likely because of today?

What is going to happen today is that the calendar for the next 90 days will be laser-beam focused on that December shutdown and showdown, and CHUCK SCHUMER and NANCY PELOSI now hold most of the cards for when we get to December. This is an embarrassing moment for a Republican-controlled Congress and a Republican administration.

Here is the good news. We still have an off-ramp before us. We can do better, and we have a legislative pathway to do better.

I have a motion at the table that is simple. It funds all of the emergency relief that the administration has requested for Hurricane Harvey. Hear that clearly. What the House did yesterday morning that they negotiated Tuesday night funds all \$7.8 billion that the administration says they need for hurricane relief. It passed 419 to 3. We can still pass that same legislation. That is it. That is what my legislation does. It doesn't do anything that is not hurricane relief and pretend it is hurricane relief; it just goes back to the bill that funds all of the hurricane relief that the administration says they need.

I am not offering lots of other stuff. I am not kicking the can down the road on the conversation that we should have tonight and tomorrow and Saturday and Sunday about the debt crisis we face. All I am trying to do is make a bill that says it is about hurricane relief, actually be about hurricane relief instead of a majority of other stuff masquerading as hurricane relief.

In short, if you want hurricane relief, this amendment is your vehicle to get to hurricane relief, not other pretend stuff calling itself hurricane relief. Just as the House did earlier this week in a 419-to-3 vote, we can do hurricane relief clear, plain, and simple, and we don't have to hide a whole bunch of other stuff in it.

Thank you, Madam President. I thank this body for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 816

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to table the motion to refer, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 189 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Baldwin	Feinstein	Murphy
Barrasso	Fischer	Murray
Bennet	Franken	Nelson
Blumenthal	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Gillibrand	Peters
Booker	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Reed
Brown	Harris	Roberts
Burr	Hassan	Rounds
Cantwell	Hatch	Sanders
Capito	Heinrich	Sasse
Cardin	Heitkamp	Schatz
Carper	Hirono	Schumer
Casey	Hoeben	Shaheen
Cassidy	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johnson	Stabenow
Collins	Kaine	Strange
Coons	Kennedy	Tester
Corker	King	Thune
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Udall
Cotton	Manchin	Van Hollen
Crapo	Markey	Warner
Daines	McCain	Warren
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Duckworth	McConnell	Wicker
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Enzi	Moran	Young

NAYS—10

Cruz	Lankford	Scott
Flake	Lee	Toomey
Heller	Paul	
Inhofe	Risch	

NOT VOTING—3

Menendez	Rubio	Sullivan
----------	-------	----------

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all of our colleagues, the next vote will be on the motion to table the Sasse motion on disaster funding. With a little bit of cooperation, we will then set two votes after lunch to get to passage of the bill this afternoon so it can be sent over to the House today. Senators should expect additional votes right after lunch.

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SASSE, I move to refer the House message on H.R. 601 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to refer the House message to accompany H.R. 601 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the Senate with changes that (1) are in the jurisdiction of such committee; and, (2) do not include any provision that was not contained in the House message accompanying the bill H.R. 601.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to table the motion to refer and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 190 Leg.]

YEAS—72

Alexander	Duckworth	Murray
Baldwin	Durbin	Nelson
Bennet	Feinstein	Peters
Blumenthal	Franken	Reed
Blunt	Gillibrand	Roberts
Booker	Graham	Rounds
Boozman	Harris	Sanders
Brown	Hassan	Schatz
Burr	Heinrich	Schumer
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Scott
Capito	Hirono	Shaheen
Cardin	Hoeben	Shelby
Carper	Isakson	Stabenow
Casey	Kaine	Tester
Cassidy	King	Thune
Cochran	Klobuchar	Tillis
Collins	Leahy	Udall
Coons	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	McCaskill	Warren
Cotton	McConnell	Whitehouse
Crapo	Merkley	Wicker
Cruz	Murkowski	Wyden
Donnelly	Murphy	Young

NAYS—25

Barrasso	Hatch	Paul
Corker	Heller	Perdue
Daines	Inhofe	Portman
Enzi	Johnson	Risch
Ernst	Kennedy	Sasse
Fischer	Lankford	Strange
Flake	Lee	Toomey
Gardner	McCain	
Grassley	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Menendez	Rubio	Sullivan
----------	-------	----------

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture occur at 1:45 p.m.; further, that the time until 1:45 p.m. be for debate only; finally, that if cloture is invoked, the McConnell amendment No. 809 be withdrawn and all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment with further amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I encourage folks to take a close look at this picture of a forest ablaze in Oregon. Right now, there are innumerable fires burning across our State. Some of them are called complexes—a fire complex. Maybe it is referred to as a single fire complex, but that means there may be 10 or 20 different fires within that area.

What we are seeing more and more with the changing climate, with climate disruption, is that we have light-

ning storms that sweep over our forests, will light up and create multiple fires at one time, and then, because the forest is so much drier, they burn fiercely.

Just last week, Mary and I were hoping to spend a couple days out on the Pacific Crest Trail. This is the trail that runs from Mexico to Canada, and we were planning to go down to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and experience some of that, but we couldn't because of the intense smoke from fires burning.

Fires in the middle of the State had shut down some of the Pacific Crest Trail near Jefferson, so we decided to go up to the northern end of the trail, the trail that plunges into the Columbia River at a place called Bridge of the Gods, Cascade Locks, and walk south. The plan was to go about 18 miles or so and then pick up the Eagle Creek Trail and come right back through to where we had started. But posted at the start of the Pacific Crest Trail was that the Eagle Creek Trail had been closed and that the loop was shut down due to the Indian Springs fire.

Well, we decided, OK, we can still at least do the first half and maybe continue walking on through to Lolo Pass on Mount Hood and then get a ride and come back around to where we were. The point is that all across Oregon, there were either blazes or smoke from blazes.

Oregon State is a plain, and it is not the only State. California, Washington, Montana, and parts of Idaho are burning up, and it is getting worse each year.

As we were considering how we were going to progress, we had to bypass a campground at Wahtum Lake because it was shut down. We had to camp on the side of a ridge that was just on the edge of the fire containment area. So we pitched our tent on a steep slope that had a little rock outcropping and a little bit of flat ground, basically about 3 feet by 6 feet. We settled down after a long day of hiking. We were absolutely exhausted.

About 1 in the morning, I woke up and I got a strong whiff of smoke. So I leapt out of the tent, and down below us on the slope last week was this glow. Immediately I was concerned that fire had leapt into the valley below us, and you do not want to be on a steep slope upstream from a fire, especially when that is the direction the wind is blowing—as it was.

I said to Mary: Wake up. Get out of the tent. We may have to make a run for it. And she jumped up.

The glow just stayed the same, and it turned out it wasn't a fire. It turned out that it was a landslide, and the Moon was illuminating that landslide and creating that glow on the slope below us. But we were terrified. You can imagine, if you are hiking through Oregon and suddenly there is a forest fire on the slope below you, you are going to run like crazy.

Well, there were a bunch of folks who were on that Eagle Creek Trail that I referred to, and they were on a section very near the Columbia gorge—that section that hadn't been shut down. They were walking south, but they couldn't go on through the Tunnel Falls area. They could go only a few miles in. But a couple of teenagers went up that trail and started throwing firecrackers, fireworks off the edge of a cliff, and it set the gorge on fire on that Eagle Creek Trail.

You can see how the Cascade Mountains plunge down to the Columbia River, and you can see here how that Eagle Creek Trail was lit up. There were 140 hikers trapped by this fire and the fire that Mary and I were dodging—the Indian Springs fire—and they had to retreat to the section of trail that actually goes through a tunnel that is drilled through the basalt. It has a waterfall next to it, and they were dropped supplies overnight before they could be brought out and escape this fire. This fire was raging so much, it had leapt the river—the Columbia River, the largest river by river flow volume in the United States of America. It had leapt this river to the State of Washington. These are just two of the fires of the many that are burning across the State of Oregon.

There is also the Chetco Bar fire, which is even larger than the Eagle Creek fire. The Chetco Bar fire has continued and now has burned 176,000 acres of Douglas fir and oak and manzanita brush fields. There are 1,700 people working to contain this fire right now and, as of yesterday, it was just 5 percent contained. And, as of yesterday, the Eagle Creek Trail was just 5 percent contained.

Fires are a big problem that is just getting bigger. There are 65 large fires burning across the United States; 19 of those are in Oregon. You can see how they are spaced out here. Both the Indian Springs fire and the Eagle Creek fire that I referred to are here, and you can see its position and how it leapt across the Columbia River into Washington State.

There are more in Washington State and more in California and Idaho and Montana going this way. Nineteen of those 65 big fires are represented right here. Another 23 are in nearby Montana.

Over the last decade, we have seen an average of about 50,000 forest fires in America each year, with an average of about 5½ million acres being burned. This year, we are already over 8 million acres, with a lot more acreage that will be burned in the weeks ahead. In Oregon, we have seen an average of about 493,000 acres a year burn. We are over 550,000 acres now—and counting.

So what happens during these intense fire years? What happens is we run out

of money to fight these fires, and then we engage something called fire borrowing. There is no FEMA for fires—no Federal Emergency Management Agency for fires. So the Forest Service says: Well, we must fight these fires. I can tell you that a tremendous number of helicopters and planes and ground crews are involved in this effort. It is very expensive to fight them.

We run out of money, and the Forest Service has to borrow from other accounts—from the hazardous fuels fund, which tries to reduce the amount of fuels that will create fires on the front end, so we decrease our effort on the front end in order to fight the fires on the back end.

Forest management funds, forest restoration funds, forest conservation funds, road maintenance funds, and funds that are designed to prepare for future timber sales—all of those are borrowed from. So I have been pushing, I have been fighting for us to get the funds now, right now, to make sure we don't engage in fire borrowing to have to address this challenge, and we have a compromise that has been worked out that is going to help. In the continuing resolution, the funds are based not on the amount the administration wanted but on the fiscal year 2017 level that included \$400 million of buffer funds. One-quarter of what was authorized in fiscal year 2017 is now going to be available—and available retroactively—so that it can be used and spent in September, which is still in fiscal year 2017, so in immediate moments we will not have to engage in fire borrowing. That is a victory.

I thank the cochairs of the Appropriations Committee for working so hard to help us get this provision that will stop the fire borrowing problem in the short term. But in the near future, after we are into fiscal year 2018—into October—we will be short funds that were spent for fiscal year 2017, so that will be a challenge we will have to continue to address in the year to come.

We are all thinking a lot about Harvey and its impact on Houston and Texas, and we are all worried about Irma and the fact that it is hitting Puerto Rico, and it is aimed for Florida. But let's not forget the fires burning all over the United States at an unprecedented rate, which we need to make sure we address as well.

Under this provision I just mentioned—this compromise that will be helpful in the short term—the Office of Management and Budget has control, and we need to make sure they actually exercise that control and release those funds, so we will have to keep pushing.

I see my colleague is here. I do want to talk a little bit about fisheries, but I will defer to him if my colleague from Vermont would like to speak.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to continue for 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I strongly support the disaster relief package that is before us today. It is going to provide much needed assistance to the thousands of families and communities who were devastated by Hurricane Harvey. As vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I looked at it very carefully, and I know it provides a short-term increase to the debt limit to ensure the U.S. Government has access to the resources it needs. It funds the government with a continuing resolution through December 8, enabling Congress to work to complete the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bills. It is a responsible approach to addressing the needs of our Nation.

As a Vermonter, as a human being, it was heart-wrenching to watch the devastation march through Texas as Hurricane Harvey made landfall, only to see it turn toward Louisiana. Now, Hurricane Irma has struck Puerto Rico and continues on its path toward Florida and the east coast. Hurricanes Jose and Katia are swirling in the Atlantic. They are threatening our coast. This is a horrific time.

My fellow Vermonters and I are all too familiar with these images. It was only 6 years ago that Tropical Storm Irene tore through our small, special Green Mountain State and left a wound we are still trying to heal today.

A disaster of this magnitude demands the full support of the U.S. Government, and that includes all of us here. I am glad this disaster relief package is before us today. My Appropriations Committee staff has worked so hard on it. If we don't act and act fast, FEMA exhausts its funds by the end of this week.

Republicans and Democrats in the Senate stood by my side in 2011 and in the following years to help Vermont rebuild after Irene, and I will stand in support of Texans and Louisianans now. And I will stand in support of Floridians, if and when they need it. This is only a fraction of what we will need to help recover and rebuild after these storms. It is going to require years of Federal support, and we cannot let our commitment fade.

We live in a world where 100-year storms seem to occur every year, so we have to invest in technology, conservation, and infrastructure that will mitigate further damage and make our communities more resilient in these crises.

Our ability to respond doesn't just depend on emergency assistance. Each year, in the annual appropriations bills, we fund programs that help us prevent and respond to severe weather events and invest in the necessary infrastructure. The National Weather Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Sea Grant program, the Flood Map Modernization Program, Watershed Flood Prevention Operations, Regional Coastal Resilience Grants, Community

Development Block Grants, and State and Local First Responder Grants—just to name a few—are all critical to these efforts. We cannot and should not accept the deep cuts that have been proposed by President Trump to these critical investment programs.

Now, I thank Chairman COCHRAN for his leadership and cooperation to advance these bills. It is through these bills we can fund important priorities. I have been asking since March to begin bipartisan budget negotiations to establish responsible topline funding levels for both defense and non-defense programs based on parity. The current budget caps do not allow us to produce 12 responsible bills. Absent a budget deal, deep cuts are mandated for both defense and non-defense programs. We have to move forward with urgency.

So my heart goes out to all of those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. My vote goes out to help them, and I will continue to fight for them.

This Senate amendment is really the first step and I support it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, may I have 2 minutes to conclude my statement?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, so far this year, the Secretary of Commerce has declared nine disasters for fisheries, and another disaster assistance request is pending in Southern Oregon and in Northern California.

When these fisheries close, our fishermen and their families are in deep trouble. Their expenses don't disappear—the mortgages on their vessels, their mooring fees, their maintenance. Of course, they have to continue to be able to pay their basic living expenses. So when they are told they have to stay in port because a fishery is closed because of a fishing disaster, then, it is an enormous challenge to which we need to help to respond. It is not just for the fishermen themselves, but for the entire community—the recreational anglers, as well as the commercial fishermen, the processors, the gear stores, the boat repair facilities, and the tourism. All of it is impacted.

So let us not forget that we have nine declared disasters for fisheries, and we should make sure we respond and assist these communities.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The quorum call is waived.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 601, with a further amendment numbered 808.

Lamar Alexander, John Boozman, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, Richard Burr, Orrin G. Hatch, Roger F. Wicker, David Perdue, Dan Sullivan, John Barrasso, John Thune.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 601, a bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes, with a further amendment, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 191 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Alexander	Feinstein	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Portman
Blumenthal	Graham	Reed
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Booker	Harris	Rounds
Boozman	Hassan	Sanders
Brown	Hatch	Schatz
Burr	Heinrich	Schumer
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Scott
Capito	Heller	Shaheen
Cardin	Hirono	Shelby
Carper	Hoeben	Stabenow
Casey	Isakson	Tester
Cassidy	Kaine	Thune
Cochran	King	Tillis
Collins	Klobuchar	Udall
Coons	Leahy	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Manchin	Warner
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warren
Cotton	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	Merkley	Wyden
Donnelly	Murkowski	Young
Duckworth	Murphy	
Durbin	Murray	

NAYS—18

Corker	Ernst	Inhofe
Daines	Fischer	Johnson
Enzi	Flake	Kennedy

Lankford	Moran	Sasse
Lee	Paul	Strange
McCain	Risch	Toomey

NOT VOTING—3

Menendez	Rubio	Sullivan
----------	-------	----------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 18.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 809 WITHDRAWN

Cloture having been invoked, under the previous order, amendment No. 809 is withdrawn.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 808

Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 601, with a further amendment.

Mr. SCOTT. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Leg.]

YEAS—80

Alexander	Feinstein	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Portman
Blumenthal	Harris	Reed
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Booker	Hatch	Rounds
Boozman	Heinrich	Sanders
Brown	Heitkamp	Schatz
Burr	Heller	Schumer
Cantwell	Hirono	Scott
Capito	Hoeben	Shaheen
Cardin	Inhofe	Shelby
Carper	Isakson	Stabenow
Casey	Kaine	Strange
Cassidy	Kennedy	Tester
Cochran	King	Thune
Collins	Klobuchar	Tillis
Coons	Leahy	Udall
Cornyn	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Cotton	McCaskill	Warren
Crapo	McConnell	Whitehouse
Cruz	Merkley	Wicker
Donnelly	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murphy	Young
Durbin	Murray	

NAYS—17

Corker	Graham	Moran
Daines	Grassley	Paul
Enzi	Johnson	Risch
Ernst	Lankford	Sasse
Fischer	Lee	Toomey
Flake	McCain	

NOT VOTING—3

Menendez	Rubio	Sullivan
----------	-------	----------

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

John McCain, David Perdue, Thom Tillis, Deb Fischer, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Ben Sasse, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Richard Burr, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

The Senator from Oregon.

WILDFIRES IN WESTERN STATES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a few minutes, I am going to start sprinting

to the airport to get home to listen to Oregonians who have been clobbered by several megafires unlike anything we have seen in my home State of Oregon. On top of that, in addition to the megafires, there are numerous other fires.

Just up the road from my hometown of Portland, the Eagle Creek fire has merged with the Indian Creek fire and spread over an area of more than 31,000 acres. What we have seen—again, just staggering in its implications—the fire jumped the Columbia River into Washington State. It is ravaging our iconic Columbia River Gorge. This is a treasure beloved by the millions of people who visit every year and the people of my home State.

Next to me is a shot of the fire which has been burning in the Columbia River Gorge now for days. Although it appears the first sparks of the Eagle Creek fire were ignited by a young man, it is clear the inferno was accelerated by the unusual heat in early September. Now the lives and the homes of Gorge residents are under threat, and a world-renowned treasure in my home State has been devastated.

Sadly, this wildfire devastation this month has rippled across Oregon. The Chetco Bar fire in Southwestern Oregon has consumed more than 167,000 acres—an area bigger than all of Portland. The Umpqua North fire east of Roseburg and the Milli fire in Central Oregon have torn through tens of thousands of acres each.

I could go on. The point is, my home State is getting pounded by these fires, and the West is getting pounded by these fires. The skies glow orange at night as the flames burn on. Families wake up to ash on their windshields. Schools are closed, and people have been warned to stay indoors because it is not safe to breathe the hazardous air.

On the Air Quality Index map from the Environmental Protection Agency—which I have here—you can see the effects of the nightmare which has settled in over most of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and large parts of Montana. As I speak, there are a million and a half acres ablaze across Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah. One-third of these burning acres are in my home State alone. This year is virtually guaranteed to be the worst fire season in history in terms of the total area burnt.

I served as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for a time, chaired the Forestry Subcommittee. I have sat in so many committee hearings and heard again and again about the dangers these fires pose to our States. The fact is, the fires are getting hotter, they have gotten bigger, they have gotten tougher to fight, and this is a years-long pattern in the West. It gets hot. It gets dry. There have been inadequate efforts to go in there and thin out the dead and dying material. Then we have a light-

ning strike in our part of the world, and then all of a sudden, we have an inferno on our hands.

This time, as I indicated, it seems as if some of the problem was due to that set of firecrackers, but this is a years-long pattern in the West. Frankly, the same warming trends that have worsened the fires seem to have added fuel to storms that developed in the Gulf of Mexico and over the Atlantic.

My seatmate, Senator NELSON, has been telling us about what his region is faced with. The victims of all these disasters and the communities that will continue to face these growing threats need the government to come up with smarter policies to try to prevent as much of this as possible. That is why I wanted to wrap up my remarks by way of talking about the bizarre way the Federal Government budgets for fighting fire.

In the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have led a bipartisan effort for years now. Senator MIKE CRAPO, the senior Senator from Idaho, and I had 260 groups—forestry groups, scientists, environmentalists—join us in the effort. What has happened over the years is the Federal Government has shorted prevention, and then, because of the conditions being hot and dry and lightning strikes or what have you, we have a big fire, and then the Federal Government, to put the fire out, borrows from the prevention fund, and the problem gets worse. That is what we call fire-borrowing. The reason I call it bizarre is that the idea of ripping off prevention, which we need most, defies common sense.

We have a dangerous, worsening cycle known as fire-borrowing. Shoddy budgeting today leads to bigger fires tomorrow, and it needs to stop.

I remember not long ago—because this does so much damage to natural resources policy—the distinguished minority leader of the Senate, Senator SCHUMER, signed on to our bill. We all wondered, well, what is the situation in New York? It turned out they had a problem with a bug and a baseball bat, and the natural resource agencies had trouble dealing with that challenge because so much of the funds had been frittered away with this broken system of fighting fire.

That is why I have now called on the President to include a funding fix in any request for an upcoming disaster aid package. Several of my western colleagues and I—Senators from both sides of the aisle—are calling on Leaders MCCONNELL and SCHUMER today to include a fix in any disaster aid package that comes before this body.

As I said, this battle has gone on for years. I think I mentioned to my friend from New Mexico that this issue with respect to fire-borrowing has been the longest running battle since the Trojan War. It has gone on and on and each year wastes more and more money on a broken system of funding the fight against wildfires.

Senator CRAPO has been an instrumental partner in this effort. He also

has a proposal that in effect builds on what we have been working on for years in the Banking Committee. I support that proposal as well.

I want it understood that there is a lot that has to be dealt with here in the Senate. There have been some horrible disasters—Houston and now the South, with what Senator NELSON is going to wrestle with this weekend. We have a lot to do. But when we are talking about western communities getting hit by a wrecking ball, which is exactly what these mega-fires do, I want it understood that we western Senators, Democrats and Republicans, are going to be teaming up to make sure, as we said in our letter today to Leaders MCCONNELL and SCHUMER, that a fire fix that is based on common sense, sensible practices to try to prevent fires to the greatest extent possible, has to be a focus of priority business in the Senate. Too many western communities—the kind I am going to see this weekend—are faced with destroyed homes, businesses, lost recreation dollars, lost timber revenue, cleanup costs, and forest and range land restoration efforts.

The West cannot wait any longer for Congress to break this dangerous cycle that defies common sense, shortchanges wildfire prevention, and does it year after year. What western Senators are going to do is work together in a bipartisan way, which is what you have to do when your constituents are faced with these kinds of problems. I can tell you, in Oregon or Montana or Idaho, when you have one of these mega-fires, nobody is sitting around waiting to hear about just the Democratic approach or the Republican approach; they want to know what the Federal Government is going to do to help these hard-hit western communities.

It is absolutely essential that the Senate act soon. I have urged the President of the United States, who campaigned as a champion for these communities and the workers who live in them—I have said: Mr. President, do not ignore the West.

Democratic and Republican Senators, given all the promises that have been made over the years, are going to insist that with fires of this magnitude—we have seen plenty of fires in the past, but we haven't seen the kind of thing I have just described that isn't very far from my hometown and across the State—given the urgency of the situation, western Senators of both political parties are making it clear to Leaders MCCONNELL and SCHUMER and the President of the United States that we need the Federal Government to act, and we need it to act now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DACA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we had promises from the White House that the President would treat DACA recipients with great heart. I don't believe it

is great heart when he abandons protections for our Nation's Dreamers. It is an unfortunate pattern, and I hope it changes, facing historic low approval ratings, the President desperately rallies his dwindling supporters by exploiting fear and resentment. Such conduct is shameful and unbecoming of the presidency, an office intended to represent our proudest ideals—not play to basest instincts. I have been here with every President since President Ford, both Republicans and Democrats. We agreed on some things and disagreed on some things, but the Presidents have always seemed to want to present and represent America's proudest ideals.

We live in an unprecedented time when our President prefers to divide us, rather than unite us. Instead of honoring the sacrifice made by transgender individuals serving in our Armed Forces, President Trump decided to ban them from serving at all. When white supremacists violently rallied around hate in Charlottesville, resulting in the murder of Heather Heyer, the President equated those who promote bigotry with those who oppose it. There is no equation. The bigotry shown there and the hate shown there is wrong.

This week the President targets another vulnerable population—Dreamers. Dreamers are American by almost any definition. They came to the United States as children through no fault—and by no choice—of their own. Those of us who have had children or grandchildren know they don't make those kinds of choices. They play by our country's rules. They grow up. They have no criminal records, and seek only the chance to contribute to their communities and make them better. America is their home. Often, it is the only country they have ever known, just as my maternal grandparents came from Italy and found a home in Vermont or my great grandparents—paternal grandparents came from Ireland and found a home in Vermont. They wanted that to be their home. That was the American dream. When you threaten the Dreamers, you threaten the American dream itself.

The President's attempt to justify this decision as deference to Congress or respect for our courts is disingenuous, at best. It strains reason that a President who signed 90 Executive actions in his first 100 days suddenly cares about deference to the Legislative Branch. It borders on laughable that a President who doggedly defends a Muslim ban found likely to be unconstitutional by multiple courts, is now cautious about the litigation risk of defending DACA in court.

Dreamers are our friends and neighbors. They are students in our schools and universities in all our States. They serve our country in the military. They are among the first responders who come to save your life when there is a fire. Consider, for example, Jesus Contreras, a Dreamer and a paramedic,

who saved American lives during Hurricane Harvey. If we had thrown him out, he wouldn't have been there saving those lives. The President's decision to end DACA is nothing but a cynical ploy to rally the anti-immigrant voices within his base while attempting to escape responsibility for deporting some of the most inspiring Americans in our country.

On Tuesday, I received a letter from Dr. Juan Conde, a DACA recipient and resident of Vermont. Dr. Conde was brought to the United States by his mother as a child. In 2007, his mother lost her life battling cancer. This tragedy inspired him to find a way to help cancer patients like her. Unable to pursue his dream of being an oncologist due to his immigration status, he initially decided to pursue a Ph.D. in cancer research. But Dr. Conde wanted to treat cancer patients, not just study the disease. After receiving DACA status, he was able to pursue his dream of directly helping patients, applying to and being accepted into the University of Vermont's Larner College of Medicine, where he is currently pursuing his medical degree. He hopes to spend his career here in the United States treating cancer patients and researching the disease that has taken the lives of millions of Americans, including members of my own family.

Dr. Conde is the face of DACA. Dreamers have enormous potential and determination to contribute to the only country they have known since childhood. To deny them these opportunities because they were brought here as children by their parents would be cruel and inhumane, motivated more by the toxic xenophobia of this administration than by any coherent policy goals. Stories like Dr. Conde's reveal why President Trump's decision to rescind DACA is as senseless as it is callous.

Now the fate of DACA is in the hands of Congress. We can bring up a vote on this if the Republican leadership will allow that in the House and the Senate. Some Republicans have spoken out against the President's decision. It is easy to speak out. Act on it. Vote on it. We Democrats stand ready to protect our Nation of Dreamers. We stand ready to defend the American dream. I hope we are not standing alone. I would invite our Republican friends—stand up with us. Stand up with those Dreamers. I guarantee you, you have some living in your State. I guarantee you, just as my grandparents and my great-grandparents did, they can make America a better country.

Mr. President, I see other Senators on the floor.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly about the news this week that the President is terminating the Executive action protecting DACA recipients—Dreamers as we know them—but also putting the burden on the

shoulders of this body, the article I branch, to find an appropriate solution.

The President often said as a candidate—and even in his early days as President—that he understood some things about these youngsters. He called them incredible kids, and he also said they would be fine. He did not use that language often in talking about immigrants so those were positive phrases that led many to hope he would continue the DACA Program. Many in his administration wanted him to. Others in this body—this speaker wanted him to continue the program, but he announced he was terminating it in 6 months and asked Congress to step up.

I wanted to just tell you about a couple of youngsters I was with last week. I had a roundtable on DACA at Northern Virginia Community College, which is one of the largest and most diverse community colleges in the United States. I held that this last week. I had eight students. They were a fascinating mixture of young men and women. I just wanted to come and share some things about their stories because it demonstrates how these young people, these Dreamers, are a source of strength for our country and that we need to accommodate them.

Renata was one of my youngsters. She came to Virginia when she was 3 years old with her parents, her older brother, and sister. She graduated high school with an advanced diploma. Some of us know the International Baccalaureate diploma, which is rigorous. Now, with DACA, she is studying at George Mason, getting a degree in clinical psychology. She does brain injury research. She wants to do that research to hopefully help people like returning veterans who suffer from brain injuries.

Giancarla is a DACA recipient from Virginia. She came here a decade ago to be reunited with her parents. She hadn't seen her parents in 7 years. She received DACA in 2012. She went to Radford University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in international economics. Giancarla described how she is so appreciative of where DACA has gotten her in life, but she told me the night before we met, she had a conversation with her sister. Her sister was in high school and calling her big sister to describe how scared she was about what would happen if DACA was taken away. She talked about her little sister as a hard-working and studious kid, and she is worried she will not be able to go to college anymore and may be separated from family.

Min is a young man who is a Korean-American born in Korea and a DACA recipient who is at George Mason studying cyber. He talked about his desire to serve the United States and help us with cyber expertise but how the removal of DACA could hurt his studies and could hurt his ability to get security clearances to be able to offer his talents to the country.

Gloria, the fifth of these examples—there were eight students there—is an

interesting young lady from Nigeria. She was born in England to Nigerian parents and brought here as a youngster. She will be the first DACA recipient in Virginia to graduate from law school, William and Mary Law School. She wants to graduate in December and help new Americans with immigration issues.

We talked about all kinds of concerns they have: deportation of themselves or family members, ability to get a driver's license, the ability to lawfully work and pay taxes—and all of these young people work and pay taxes right now—the ability to get in-state tuition, which for many is the difference to being able to get a higher education. We talked about all of it, but we also talked about their love for this country, and the fact that for these young students, this country is all they know. Deportation back to a place they don't know is not really an option.

I was also happy to have at this roundtable—because we talked about there is no such thing as a DACA recipient without a DACA ally—parents, teachers, family members, attorneys. They have a support group, and it is really important to acknowledge them too. We had officials from George Mason University, a public, comprehensive university in Virginia; Northern Virginia Community College, one of our community colleges; Marymount College; Catholic University in Northern Virginia—all of these allies, as well as representatives from other groups.

The former publisher of the Washington Post, Don Graham, came. He is funding, with others, a scholarship program to help Dreamers cover cost gaps if they have to pay out-of-State tuition, and this is working to help hundreds of Dreamers across the country. We talked to them and expressed our thanks to them for what they are doing.

I also read stories this week—and I will say this and conclude—about other students. Juan is a 2017 graduate of Virginia Tech and now makes Blacksburg his home. He came to Virginia at age 5 and he said this:

It's really hard for me to think of myself as anything but a Virginian and an American. It's really hard to have that part of my identity detached from me.

That is how he views the reversal on DACA.

Guadalupe from the Shenandoah Valley—one of Virginia's very rural areas but has a significant number of DACA recipients. She started her freshman year at Bridgewater College, a small private college in the Valley. She says:

This is the only country I've ever known . . . I've pledged my allegiance to the stars and stripes every day.

This is the country to which these young people pledge their allegiance, owe their allegiance, want to express and act to demonstrate their allegiance. They are doing it already. They are making us proud. We need to step up. It was my great pleasure in June

2013 to join with the Senators from New Mexico, from Vermont, and nearly 70 others on the floor to do a comprehensive immigration reform that included many things but included a protection for these Dreamers. It was part of the education of a naive, young Senator who was in my first year to think: Great, we did something in the Senate. I am sure the House will do something, but 4 years later, not only did they not ever take up our bill even in committee, they didn't even pass anything by way of comprehensive immigration reform that we could put in a conference together.

Now the weight of this is on our shoulders with 6 months. Talented students like these 800,000 nationwide, between 12,000 and 13,000 in Virginia, have that fear, that anxiety: Are we going to be forced back into the shadows or, worse, are we or our family members possibly going to be deported?

I will close and say these youngsters again pledge their allegiance to the United States, and they are demonstrating every day that we are richer as a nation because of them. Why would we not want to have these talented young people pledge allegiance to us rather than elsewhere? America has always succeeded because we have been a great magnet for talent—growing our own talent and celebrating it but willing to attract talent from around the world. The society that attracts talent in the 21st century is going to be the society that succeeds. The most precious resource in life right now is not oil. It is not water. It is talent. These Dreamers have it, and we should want it. I hope my colleagues will work together in a bipartisan way, both Houses, to provide a protection.

With that, I yield the floor and notice other colleagues here waiting to speak on the same topic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, thank you for your recognition. I am honored to come here today and follow Senator LEAHY and Senator KAINE and their speeches on DACA. I have also watched over the last couple of days, and I think almost every Democratic Senator has been down to the floor to speak with passion about this issue. I am just so proud of our caucus and our Members who have stood up and called the President on this issue.

Today, I stand with millions of Americans protesting the President's heartless decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program known as DACA. This inhumane and cruel decision threatens the hopes and aspirations of our country's young Dreamers, and there is no doubt it will harm the economy. I call on all Members of Congress—especially the Republican leadership—to act now and to act swiftly to keep families together and allow these kids to realize their huge potential by making DACA the law of the land. That is what we need to do, make DACA the law of the land. If the

President will not do the right thing, then Congress must take action and Congress must do this.

Democrats, Republicans, and Independents across New Mexico and throughout our country agree that Dreamers deserve to live and work in the United States. According to a Morning Consult-Politico poll released this week, 76 percent support allowing them to stay—76 percent Democrats, Republicans, Independents. What a big number.

Most Americans agree that our Nation benefits from the contribution immigrants make in our communities and our economy. They believe our government should honor its promise to Dreamers. Many of these young people came here as small children and have not known any other country.

Take Roxana. Roxana came to Santa Fe, NM, when she was 1 year old. She is now 22. She registered with DACA as soon as she could. She completed the paperwork, paid the fee, and she has complied with all of the requirements. She now works as a medical assistant with La Familia Medical Center in Santa Fe. La Familia is a great healthcare clinic. It provides excellent medical care to everyone in Santa Fe, including many immigrants and low-income patients.

Roxana loves her work at La Familia, and she loves being able to help her fellow immigrants. Roxana had plans to go to nursing school, but the President's action to end DACA jeopardizes those plans and puts them on hold. In Roxana's words, "Santa Fe, NM, is my home. It's where I know people. It's where I've lived. It's where I've gone to school. It's where I've grown up. It's my life. It's something that is mine but doesn't truly belong to me."

Those are her words. We must give Roxana and the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers what should truly belong to them.

Dreamers more than pull their economic weight in our country; 97 percent are employed or are in school or do both. They work in Fortune 500 companies and public schools. They labor on farms and dairies. They create businesses, volunteer in our communities, pay taxes, and pay into Social Security and Medicare. Why would we choose to kick some of our most talented and most productive workers out of the country? Why kick some of our best and brightest young people out of this country?

Ending DACA would cause chaos for employers. Forcing these motivated young people out of work could cost us 700,000 jobs—as many as 30,000 a month. That adds up to \$460.3 billion in economic output over the next 10 years. Medicare and Social Security contributions could drop by \$24.6 billion over the same period of time.

One of those young people who contributes in New Mexico is Brandon. Brandon came with his mother from Mexico to the United States when he

was 2 years old. Brandon goes to college and studies every day to be an architect, and he makes straight A's. He holds down a job to help support his family with medical bills and volunteers in his community. Brandon is grateful for the DACA Program that has given him the opportunity to work and pay taxes. Yes, he is grateful to pay taxes.

This President continues to divide our country like no other President we have known. Every day it is clear that his values are not in line with ours. I increasingly believe he is not fit to lead this great Nation.

His campaign began with anti-immigrant and racist rhetoric. He accused Mexican immigrants of being rapists and criminals, and his bigoted words have never stopped. He called for a wall along the entire border with Mexico—a wall that would cost billions of tax dollars and which border communities don't want. He called for a ban on Muslim refugees—turning our backs on people who are fighting terrorism and who value the freedoms that we have here in the United States. He tacitly accepted the support of the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and bigots in Charlottesville. He pardoned a law enforcement officer who terrorized the Latino community in Maricopa County, AZ, with unconstitutional raids and who forced detainees into inhumane living situations. Joe Arpaio is not a "good guy" as President Trump called him. Joe Arpaio is the criminal.

This President doesn't seem to value—let alone embody—the principles that America stands for, and now he wants to kick out of the country young people who do value this country—like Carlos.

Carlos was brought to New Mexico from Mexico when he was less than 1 year old. New Mexico is the only home he has known. Because of Carlos's immigration status, his opportunities were limited. He couldn't play sports in school, couldn't go on field trips, even though he pledged allegiance to the United States with his classmates.

Carlos registered with DACA 2 years ago and, in his words, he was given wings. He is a full-time student at New Mexico State University, studying to be a mechanical engineer. He volunteers as a firefighter. He works as a server at a local restaurant. He began a drive to help Hurricane Harvey victims. Carlos says:

We as DREAMers have proven ourselves to be worthy of being here in the United States.

There are 800,000 young people like Roxana, Brandon, and Carlos hoping to do their part to make our country strong. By any measure, DACA has been a huge success. We already have the outlines of a program that works for America. We in Congress must roll up our sleeves and make this program the law of the land, and we must make sure that America truly does belong to Roxana and all of our Dreamers.

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

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

RELIGIOUS TESTS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have been doing a lot of thinking lately about the fascinating men and women of America's founding generation. I want to share with you one of their stories.

Jonas Phillips was a penniless Jewish immigrant to America. He was an indentured servant, a hard-working businessman, and an American patriot who served in the Philadelphia militia during the Revolutionary War. During the British occupation of New York City, he sneaked messages past the censors by writing notes in Yiddish, understanding that his adversaries wouldn't be able to understand or decipher it easily.

Years later, Phillips addressed a letter to George Washington and to other delegates at the Constitutional Convention assembled in Philadelphia. He urged the delegates not to include a religious test in the Constitution as any kind of requirement for service for the Federal Government because no man, he wrote, should be "deprived or abridged of any civil right, as a citizen, on account of his religious sentiments."

Jonas Phillips wrote this letter for a reason. He wrote this because Pennsylvania, the State where he lived, required officials to swear that the New Testament was inspired by God. As a faithful Jewish person, Jonas Phillips could not do that.

"By the above law," he wrote, "a Jew is deprived of holding any public office or place of government."

Thankfully, Jonas Phillips' letter—Jonas Phillips' prayer—ultimately would be answered. The Convention had voted unanimously to ban religious tests for Federal office. The language the Framers inserted into the Constitution was unequivocal upon this point. It said that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

When the Founding Fathers wrote the word "ever," they meant it. That word means something in the Constitution, and we need to protect it.

I feel the need to stress this point because of the conduct of some of my colleagues. Yesterday a Notre Dame law professor, Amy Coney Barrett, came before the Senate Judiciary Committee on which I serve. She had been nominated as a prominent legal scholar and lawyer in this country to be nominated as a circuit judge. That is why she was before our committee.

Her nomination has been endorsed by prominent legal scholars from across the political spectrum and across the country, including Neal Katyal, Presi-

dent Obama's Acting Solicitor General in the previous administration. Nevertheless, at Ms. Barrett's confirmation hearing, a number of my colleagues insinuated that her Catholic faith would somehow prevent her from applying the law freely and fairly.

Here is an actual quote from that hearing: "Dogma and law are two different things," remarked one of my colleagues. "When you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you, and that is a concern."

Another one of my colleagues even went so far as to ask Professor Barrett to confess her faith under oath in the committee. "What is an orthodox Catholic?" this committee member asked. "Do you consider yourself an orthodox Catholic?"

If these remarks had been some sort of bizarre, one-time aberration, I probably would have passed them over in silence. But I feel compelled to speak out because I wondered whether a pattern might be emerging—a pattern of hostility toward people of faith who come before this body.

Just a few months ago, another eminently qualified nominee, Russell Vought, appeared before the Budget Committee to be considered for a post in the Office of Management and Budget. One of my Senate colleagues used his time to question this nominee, not about management or about budgets but about the nominee's evangelical Christian beliefs.

"In your judgment," asked this Senator, "do you think that people who are not Christians are going to be condemned?" Mr. Vought explained to the committee that he is an evangelical Christian and that he adheres to the beliefs espoused by evangelical Christians. That apparently wasn't good enough for the questioner, who later stated that he would vote against Mr. Vought's nomination because he was not "what this country is supposed to be about."

This is disturbing. This is not what the country is supposed to be about—some sort of inquiry into one's religious beliefs as a condition precedent for holding public office in the U.S. Government. These strange questions have nothing to do with the nominee's competence, patriotism, or ability to serve among and for Americans of different faiths equally. In fact, they have little to do with this life at all. Instead, they have to do with the afterlife—what comes after we die in this life. To my knowledge, the OMB and the Seventh Circuit have no jurisdiction over that.

This country is divided enough. Millions of Americans feel that Washington, DC, and the dominant culture despises them, and how can they not when they see their leaders sitting here grilling patriotic citizens about their faith like inquisitors. How can they not feel that their values are not welcome in this Chamber within this government?

Religious freedom is of deep concern to me as a Mormon. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have weathered extraordinary religious persecution. Much of it, especially initially, was sponsored by government actors.

The first Latter-day Saints were exiled from home to home. In 1838, the Governor of Missouri ordered that Mormons be driven from the land or “exterminated.” And yes, that is an actual quote.

Our first leader, Joseph Smith, once said: “The civil magistrate should punish guilt but never suppress the freedom of souls.”

That, of course, was before he was martyred by a bigoted, angry mob.

Our country’s ban on religious tests is a strong bulwark for religious freedom. As an original provision of the Constitution, this ban against religious tests predates even the Bill of Rights, and it applies not to just some religious adherents but to all of them equally.

The religious tests raised against Mr. Vought and Professor Barrett do not favor one sect of Christianity over another as was sadly common for much of our Nation’s history. Rather, these particular inquiries tend to favor the secular, progressive creed clung to so confidently by many of our Nation’s ruling elites. This creed has its own clerics, its own dogmas, its own orthodoxy, and as these nominees have discovered, it has its own heresies as well.

More and more, the adherents of this creed seek to use the power of government to steamroll favored groups, especially dissenters, from their own personal political dogmas. So they force evangelical caterers to bake cakes celebrating same-sex marriages, as is the case that is now before the Supreme Court of the United States, and they force nuns to purchase contraceptive coverage—nuns. They sue religious hospitals that will not perform abortions or sex reassignment surgeries for religious reasons. Yes, the secular progressive creed has proved that it is capable of triumphalism and intolerance, just as the creeds that have gone before it, not because its own adherents are uniquely wicked—to the contrary, because they are human.

There is a way out of this vicious cycle of religious intolerance, and it is a way that we have to find. That is for all of us to treat one another with civility and respect while jealously defending the rights of conscience for ourselves, our neighbors, and all of our fellow citizens—for Christians, Jews, Muslims, atheists, agnostics, and everyone else.

This body can do its part by supporting legislation like the First Amendment Defense Act and the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act, which would protect the people who have conscious objections to recent cultural changes and make sure they are protected against one of the most brutal forms of discrimination that can

be brought to bear; that is, the type of discrimination brought about by governments against individuals.

At a minimum, this body can do its part by respecting the constitutional rights of citizens who come before it. Lest we forget, we work for them, not the other way around. I trust my colleagues—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—will take this to heart because religious freedom puts all Americans on the same footing. It helps men and women stand upright, honest before the law and before God.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DACA

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about the DACA Program, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, which is very important in my State. We actually have 6,000 kids who have gone through that program.

As we all know, 800,000 young people who have lived in the United States since childhood are included and affected by this recent action by the administration, which I strongly oppose. These Dreamers were brought to the United States as children through no fault of their own and are working hard to educate themselves and contribute to our Nation. In fact, more than 97 percent of DACA recipients are now in school or in the workforce, and all DACA recipients are required to meet the program’s education requirements. One recent study found that 72 percent of all DACA recipients who are currently in school are pursuing a bachelor’s degree or higher. According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, more than 100 students with DACA status applied to medical school last year.

The young people who have benefited from DACA have often been in our country almost their entire lives after having been brought here as children. They are valuable members of our community, and they have contributed to our economy and to the fabric of our society. In fact, one recent study estimated that ending this policy would cost the country over \$400 billion over the next 10 years.

Ending DACA, which has been in place since 2012, would create tremendous uncertainty and risk deportation for nearly 800,000 Dreamers who are studying and working across our Nation.

When I think of the Dreamers, I think of, first of all, the night that the Judiciary Committee, on a bipartisan basis, passed comprehensive immigra-

tion reform. There were Dreamers there. They were there late at night and had tears streaming down their faces. Then I think about the time that President Obama put DACA into place and made it so that they could come forward, sign up, and legally work. Now we are going to turn our backs on those same people, those people who were brought here through no fault of their own. Whether or not the current administration disagrees with the past administration, our country made a commitment to them that they could sign up for this program. Back when we passed comprehensive immigration reform, I felt that our committee—the Senators who voted for that bill, both Democrats and Republicans—made a commitment to them that day that we were going to work on their behalf. That is why this is so wrong.

I do appreciate that this morning the President said that he wants to work to pass this bill and that he said the DACA young people do not have to worry over the next 6 months about any actions taken against them. Those are, of course, good things. I just wish this had not happened in this way, but it did.

I am also not surprised that so many people have stood up in support of Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM’s bill, that so many Republicans, Democrats, leaders in business, leaders in labor, and religious leaders have stood up.

As we discuss the fate of these young people under DACA, I am reminded of someone who is not young—Joseph Medina, who is a decorated Army veteran and an immigrant who just celebrated his 103rd birthday this July. He is 103 years old. When I found him, he was a young 99 years old. The reason I found him was that we were talking about this very issue—about DACA and about kids, actually, today who want to serve in the military. As we know, through various ways, some of the DACA kids are courageously serving in our military right now. Of course, they will not be able to if they are deported, but just think that we are actually considering deporting people who are currently serving in our military.

In any case, let’s go back 103 years ago or so—actually, maybe a little before that. Joseph Medina came to the United States from Mexico when he was only 5 years old. He did not actually know he was born outside of our country. He had been brought across the border as an orphan by his aunt and his stepfather, and he did not know that he had been born outside of the United States. He had lived his whole life in Sleepy Eye, MN, until he was in an Army boot camp in 1944. At that time, Joseph Medina wanted to serve our country, but he found out that he actually was undocumented.

In his own words to me, he said: Well, back then, the Army really wanted us. The Air Force wanted us. The Navy wanted us. Everyone wanted us.

So what did they do back then?

He said: We would go over to Canada under, actually, the guidance of our military for 1 night.

He said he got to stay in a nice hotel. Then he came back, and he was a legal citizen. I have not looked into how they did this, but that is how they did it. That was, simply, back then.

Then what did Joseph Medina do? He went and served our country. He served under General MacArthur in the Pacific. That is what he did. When he came back after bravely serving our country, he got married, and he had a boy. I met that guy. That guy served in the Vietnam war.

So we have a dad who served our country in World War II, and we have a son who served our country in Vietnam, all because at that time there were people who said: Do you know what? You were not brought over with any knowledge that you were even being brought over. You were only 5 years old.

They did not deport him when he wanted to serve in our military; they made him a citizen.

Joseph Medina came out here to Washington, DC, at the age of 99 to see the World War II Memorial for the first time. I stood there with him as he looked proudly as that memorial, along with two Dreamers, who were high school students, who actually wanted to sign up and serve in the Air Force, but they were barred from doing that under the way our laws worked at the time.

I am proud of Joe's service, but I even want more. Joe's spirit and his devotion to our country can continue on and be passed on to other generations. That is what this Dream Act is really all about. It is about other kids who were brought into this country without their knowledge and without their even understanding what was happening and allowing them to be part of that American dream.

America is a country created by immigrants. Immigrants have been part of our Nation's greatest achievements. We need to fix our broken immigration system. Of course we do. That is why I supported comprehensive reform so that we would have had money for order at the border, which would have created a very, very long glidepath to citizenship, but there also was a moral compass to that bill. It has been 4 years since we passed that bill, and as we all know, despite the bipartisan support in the Senate, the House failed to act.

By the way, despite reform being good for our economy, I always like to point out to people that of the Fortune 500 companies, 70 of them in America are headed up by immigrants. Of our U.S. Nobel laureates, 25 percent of them were born in other countries. We literally cut off talent when we cut off immigration.

In my own case, my great-grandparents on my dad's side came over from Slovenia to work in the iron ore mines. When he was in about the sixth

grade, my grandpa had to quit school to go work to help raise his eight or nine brothers and sisters, but he always had this immigrant spirit. He never even graduated from high school, but he saved money in a coffee can so he could send my dad to college.

On my other side, my mother's parents—my grandparents—came over from Switzerland. My grandma came over when she was very young—I think at 3 years old. My grandpa came over when he was about 18. He was detained at Ellis Island because they had reached their quota of Swiss immigrants, so he put on his form that he was going to Canada. He did go to Canada, but he did not stay in Canada. He somehow got through to Wisconsin and was there as an undocumented alien, and he lived that way for 20 years. He married my grandma, had my mom and her brother.

When World War II came along, they required those aliens to register, so he had to register. That is when they found out how he had come in, and they still said that it was OK, that he could register. Then he was kind of emboldened, so he decided to sign up for citizenship. That was when they really looked into it, so he had to have a hearing. He made his case that he had lived here forever and had been there, had had two kids, worked his entire time at a pie shop, and they gave him citizenship. I still have that picture of his shining face with that bow tie. I wonder what would happen to him today if he were to come forward. I am not sure he would be made a citizen despite the long time he had spent in our country.

Now it has happened on both sides of my immigrant family.

My dad ended up being a newspaperman and got to interview everyone from Ginger Rogers, to Ronald Reagan, to Mike Ditka. My mom became a teacher and taught second grade until she was 70 years old. And I stand before you as the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from the State of Minnesota.

That is the immigrant story. That is a story of a family who came in, not in an easy way, with my grandpa in an uncertain status, clearly, when he came into the United States. So you ask me why I support these Dreamers? Because I had Dreamers in my own family.

I am pleased that so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have spoken out in support of DACA, and it is essential that we now pass this legislation to protect these Dreamers. I stand ready to work with my Republican colleagues. I thank Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM for their leadership. Let's get this done.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

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

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

THE NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, we have had a lot of action today in the Senate, which is unusual here, and I wish to address it.

I would like to address this to the people in Texas, Louisiana, and to all of those who just experienced the devastating results and the impact of Hurricane Harvey. Obviously, our hearts go out to those people, and, of course, we are going to do the right thing and help the people of Texas, which is just what we voted on today. But there is a bigger issue I want to speak to today. I relate to this personally because, just last year—almost exactly to the day—our family was evacuated from our home in South Georgia. As I speak today, we were just notified today that my wife and mother-in-law, who are there today, will be evacuating this weekend from the south coast of Georgia, trying to get out of the way of the next hurricane—Hurricane Irma—which looks to be a very dangerous storm as well, coming into Florida over the next day or so.

But this crisis that we just saw in Texas and that we might see in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina with the next hurricane—Hurricane Irma—reminds us of a bigger issue. It reminds us that because of our inability to get our financial house in order and as a result of the debt crisis we have today, we are losing the right to do the right thing. Whether it is medical research, whether it is infrastructure, or whether it is education, whether it is funding our military, which we will deal with next week, we are losing the right to do the right thing. By that I mean our own financial intransigence over the last 16 years, primarily, but, I would say, ever since 1965, when we had the Great Society and the great War on Poverty, which has failed miserably. That was another great, sweeping, progressive, liberal program that failed to make any dent in our poverty rate in the United States. The poverty rate today is fundamentally the same as it was in the days when that bill was signed into law.

Because of our intransigence, our ability to appropriate money to deal with disasters like Hurricane Harvey and potentially Hurricane Irma and others is in danger. Moving forward, we just simply will not be able to continue to deal with these emergencies and crises if we don't have a functioning Federal Government that actually pays its bills and has its financial house in order.

The national debt is actually what pulled me into the political process. It is the reason I am in the Senate today.

The people of Georgia understand that this is an underlying crisis that we have been digging here for the last two decades and it simply has to be dealt with.

Today we have \$20 trillion in debt. I call that a crisis because we do not have a plan to reduce that back to some reasonable percentage of our GDP. This is greater in size than the size of our entire economy. What is worse than that and what is more concerning is that over the next 30 years, we have over \$130 trillion, by most estimates, of future unfunded liabilities coming at us like a freight train. That is Social Security, Medicare, pension benefits for Federal employees, and the interest on the debt, primarily.

Here we are dealing with this debt ceiling just today, and I would argue that the debt ceiling has been the most ineffective thing that I have seen in the Senate. Over 100 times it has been extended or increased, and it has not slowed down deficit spending in the Congress. It has not kept us from having a \$20 trillion debt today.

Washington knew this was coming, by the way. We have raised or suspended this debt over 100 times to no avail. It hasn't slowed down the debt spending that we have been doing, particularly over the last two decades.

Two months ago in June, a group of Senators and I listed the debt ceiling as one of the key reasons why we thought we ought to stay here during the month of August, instead of going home and having our work period there, because we felt that this needed to be debated and that we needed to get to a long-term solution.

Exactly 3 months ago today, I stood right here in the Senate and laid out what I thought the real consequences of the debt would be. At that time I said:

Congress is the only enterprise I can find anywhere in the world that funds its operations the way we fund this government. The problem is we have a system that is absolutely, totally broken. It is a fraud that is being perpetrated on the American people.

I stand by that today. The American people know that this is a fraud perpetrated on them, and that is why I think we have seen change in leadership in the White House. Just three months later, we see our debt limit today being dealt with in a way that puts in jeopardy our ability to deal with these national disasters, such as hurricanes and fires. We heard just a few minutes ago about the devastating fires in the Northwest.

Let's be clear. The United States cannot and will not default on our debts. It will not default on our obligations, but this debt ceiling issue should have already been resolved months before now. We actually hit this debt ceiling—just so everybody remembers—in March of this year. The Secretary of the Treasury has been using unusual measures—extraordinary measures, they call them—to keep the government funded during this period

of uncertainty. In fact, we hit this debt ceiling at a time when we should have been dealing with the budget. But still today—as I stand here today—we do not have a budget for fiscal year 2018, and we have 15 days until the end of this fiscal year, or the end of September of this year—September 30.

Raising the debt ceiling now just until December 15 isn't what puts our country at risk. The debt ceiling is not the issue here. It is not the problem. It is the unbridled spending that both parties have succumbed to over the last two decades under two Presidents—one Republican and one Democrat. Our government has grown from \$2.4 trillion to \$3.9 trillion. That is constant dollars. Neither party can point fingers at the other in terms of the explosion and the size of the Federal Government.

What is worse, as I just said, is that over the next 30 years, our mandatory expenses—it is not our discretionary spending. Discretionary spending in the last 9 years has come down, largely because of the Budget Control Act and because of sequestration. Our discretionary spending has come down from about \$1.5 trillion to just over \$1 trillion last year. That \$400 billion reduction, though, came on the back, primarily and largely, of our military.

The debt ceiling has to be dealt with, but it is not the driver of our problems. The budget process is the underlying release valve that causes this problem, and it allows both parties, particularly in the last 20 years, to spend money we don't have.

The budget process, as I have said before on this floor, has only worked four times in 43 years. We have to appropriate 12 bills a year to fund the Federal Government. The average over that 43-year period is only 2½. That is the fraud that is being perpetrated on the American people. No other body—no other entity that I can find anywhere in the world—can get away with that. Yet here we are, kicking the can down the road again for another 3 months.

Fixing the budget process alone will not solve the debt crisis, but we will not solve the debt crisis unless and until we fix this broken budget process. We cannot ignore this any longer. We must stop piling up this debt on the backs of our kids and our grandkids.

The fix is readily available. This debt crisis is not something we can't solve. People say: Well, you can't touch Social Security and you can't touch Medicare. Wait a minute. If we don't touch them, they are going to be broke in 14 short years. In 14 years, the trust funds of both Social Security and Medicare go to zero—zero. People will not be up here changing Members of this body at the rate they are now. It will be much accelerated.

The fix can be done. There are five areas that need attention, and any of these areas can have bipartisan solutions. I will not go into detail today. I will just highlight the five areas, but

we have to deal with each one of these on their own merits. The budget process is broken and can be fixed. I believe we have right now, behind the scenes, Democrats and Republicans working together to find a bipartisan, politically neutral platform to present our arguments on both sides of the budget process and to create a budget that actually funds the Federal Government appropriately, without all of this drama and without a release valve of extra spending.

The second thing is redundant spending. We know that the GAO, or the General Accountability Office, and the Congressional Budget Office both agree that we have several hundred billion dollars in redundant agencies and redundant programs.

The third is to grow the economy. This is job one by this President. This President has said that job one of this administration this year is to do the things necessary with the regulatory environment and the tax environment to grow the economy.

The fourth area is to save Social Security—not to cut it but to save Social Security and save Medicare. That can be done, and I believe there are bipartisan alternatives that we should be debating right now. In 2½ years, that has not come before this body, and I don't see it happening in the balance of this year.

The fifth area is that, while we debated healthcare most of this year, we debated the insurance side of healthcare for the individual market and Medicaid but what we never talked about—and we haven't under President Obama, President Bush, and, now, even under President Trump—in this Congress is that we have not dealt with the spiraling drivers of healthcare costs themselves—healthcare delivery, pharmaceuticals, and the fact that the neediest among us are getting the most expensive care in emergency rooms today unnecessarily.

Don't be misled. We are well into this debt crisis. This is not something that can be solved with a 10-year planning horizon. This is a situation where we need to tell the bond market and the world that we are committed to a 20-year or 30-year period in order to fix this debt crisis.

Ideas are coming from both sides of the aisle. One idea comes from the Democratic side that says: Let's pick a time in the future, put a stake in the ground about what target percentage of GDP our debt should be, and then develop a roadmap between today and that point in time in the future to commit ourselves to get there. I applaud that idea. I think that is a genuinely brilliant idea. It is something that other countries have done before and it is something that works.

I hope my colleagues will please remember that, today, every dollar we spend in our country's defense, which is about \$600 billion directionally correct in our military and between \$150 billion and \$200 billion for our veterans,

and all domestic discretionary spending, or about \$1.1 trillion—every dime of that—is borrowed money. Let me say that again. Every dollar we are spending on our defense, every dollar we spend on our veterans, and every dollar we spend on our discretionary domestic programs, like what we are doing here today, is borrowed money.

This simply cannot continue. I can't think of any taller order. Between now and the end of the year, as we debate the tax changes that we want to make to our Tax Code so that we can become competitive with the rest of the world, let's remember why we are debating that tax issue.

We are debating the tax issue to become competitive with the rest of the world, to grow the economy. That is one of five areas which need to be dealt with. Our regulatory work is the other area in that attempt to grow the economy. But we will not dig out of this debt crisis unless and until we fix our budget process, stop this redundant spending, save Social Security and Medicare, and fix the spiraling nature of our healthcare costs.

I can think of nothing—nothing—in our future the rest of this year that is more important than addressing this budget process as we look at tax and dealing with this long-term debt crisis that we have.

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

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

STOP ENABLING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, it is a tragedy that in the Presiding Officer's home State of Louisiana, in my State of Ohio, and around this country, girls and women, children and adults, are being trafficked online. Sex trafficking is really a stain on our country.

We have taken some actions in the U.S. Senate to deal with this. We passed four or five bills to increase prosecution of those who engage in this, to ensure that women who are victims are treated as such and not as criminals. We have talked about how to help find missing children. I have been involved in those efforts. We have a caucus here on trafficking which has gotten involved in these issues.

Here is the reality, as I see it. Unbelievably, in the 21st century, this practice of selling people is increasing, and it is increasing primarily because it has moved online, where it is, tragically, efficient.

We have learned, through an extensive investigation over the last couple of years, that there is one website online which handles most of the com-

mercial sex business and most of the trafficking, and that is a website called backpage.com.

What we have done in the U.S. Senate by focusing on this issue is we tried to determine how do you turn the tide, begin to get to the point where, instead of hearing more and more stories about women and girls and sometimes boys being trafficked online, in fact, we are beginning to get to a situation where we can find ways to get those people into treatment and recovery, deal with their trauma, and begin to stop this horrendous practice. It is really taking away the God-given potential of those engaged in it. There is nothing more horrible than meeting a young girl who has been trafficked and hearing the horrendous stories.

I was recently back in Ohio and had the opportunity to visit with some victims. I remember one young woman in particular told me she was trafficked at age 9—starting at age 9—by her father. He would take her to Super Bowls out of town, and he would traffic her online in their hometown. Imagine the trauma and the heartbreak.

Typically, now it is connected also with heroin or fentanyl or prescription drugs or other opioids. In other words, these girls or women are often made dependent, in part, from their addiction, and the traffickers cruelly use that addiction to force them to do things they would never otherwise envision.

So we know that. We know this is happening. We know it is increasing. We know it is online. What do we do about it?

Unfortunately, as we have learned in our investigation, these websites online that engage in this are largely protected. They are immune from prosecution. They are immune from victims being able to get justice. They are denied justice because of a Federal law which protects these evil people who knowingly are engaged directly in sex trafficking. That is pretty amazing; isn't it? But that is what is happening.

Victims were denied justice just 2 weeks ago, when a judge in Sacramento, CA, dismissed pending charges against backpage.com—this group I talked about—because of what they cited, which is a broad immunity granted by a 1996 law called the Communications Decency Act.

As the court saw it—and other courts have seen it—this law gives third-party website providers or publishers immunity from these kinds of heinous crimes, even if the website is participating in sex trafficking.

The court opinion made it clear, it is up to Congress to remedy this injustice, suggesting: "If and until Congress sees fit to amend the immunity law, the broad reach of section 230 of the Communications Decency Act even applies to those alleged to support the exploitation of others by human trafficking."

In other words, what the courts have said is, Congress, this is up to you. You

passed legislation—I believe inadvertently—inadvertently—which provides this immunity and protection for these people who continue to engage and participate in—knowingly participate in trafficking, including of underaged girls.

This is just the most recent ruling in a string of judicial decisions that have defended backpage and the other sites from legal challenges, despite their clear involvement in this criminal activity.

In 2016, last year, the First Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of backpage in a case brought by three girls who were sold for sex on the site, but the court opinion noted that in order to fix the problem, "the remedy is through legislation, not litigation." They called the practice what it is, immoral, but then they said the solution is not more litigation, it is legislation; in other words, Congress, get your act together—get your act together.

These court rulings underscore the need for us to get our act together and to do so with urgency because every day that goes by, more girls, more women are trafficked online, and this must stop.

Having met with dozens of sex trafficking victims, I asked them the question, of course: How did it get to this point? Were you trafficked by someone? How did you find yourself here?

Most of these victims—most of these victims—tell me the same story, which is backpage.com. Their trafficker has them, as they say, off the street corner onto the smart phone—and, again, tragically efficient, in the sense that they may be sold 10, 15, in one case, 20 times during a single evening. They deserve to know we will not passively let this injustice continue. They deserve to know Congress will step up and correct this Federal legislation which we passed in Congress 20-some years ago to deal with this issue.

In August, I visited the Oasis House in Dayton, OH. Oasis is a wonderful place. They welcome up to 11 women at a time to live in a faith-based community which provides them incredible support. It helps deal with the trauma we talked about earlier, helps them to be moving from that trauma to independence. They are getting recovery and support there. So many of these women have had a transformation, and it is wonderful to see them back with their families or back at work.

Speaking with these victims, backpage came up—as it often does. It is just heartbreaking to hear what they had to say—but mostly they can't get justice; that the website that facilitated these crimes against them is off limits.

That is why, in July, after an 18-month investigation into online trafficking, I introduced—along with a number of my colleagues—legislation called Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act. Currently, we have 27 cosponsors in the Senate. We have only had this introduced while we have been in session for 2 weeks because we introduced

it just before the August recess, but Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL, Senator JOHN CORNYN, Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP, and more than 20 other Senators have joined in this effort to deal with the real problem, which is the growth of trafficking due to the online presence and specifically some of these websites like backpage.

The bill would make three narrowly crafted changes to what is called the Communications Decency Act to allow backpage and other websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking to be brought to justice.

First, it allows victims of sex trafficking to seek justice against websites. It does so by removing the law's unintended protection we talked about for online sex traffickers. Second, it helps law enforcement by allowing the prosecution of websites, again, that knowingly assist, support, or facilitate a violation of already existing Federal sex trafficking laws. There is already a law in place that makes it illegal to engage in sex trafficking. The exception is, again, these websites online that are protected by the Communications Decency Act. So it basically says that you will be treated like others if you engage in, facilitate, and support it.

Finally, it lets State law enforcement—not just the Department of Justice—take legal action against these websites that violate Federal sex trafficking laws.

The Communications Decency Act, again, was enacted by Congress a couple decades ago—21 years ago—and now it needs to be brought into the 21st century. Again, it is an important piece of legislation, broadly speaking, but on this particular issue—inadvertently, I believe—it has allowed this incredible injustice to continue.

In my view, victims shouldn't have to wait one more day to get the justice they deserve. State and local prosecutors, those on the frontlines, should be able to prosecute backpage and others for their roles in these crimes.

The leading website for online sex trafficking has and will continue to escape legal justice for its active role in trafficking unless Congress acts. The solution is right in front of us. This bipartisan legislation will make the changes necessary. By the way, these are changes that a number of groups on the outside have called for and have strongly supported.

On August 15, I was proud to announce the support of 16 new Ohio organizations and officials who endorsed the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act. The list includes anti-human trafficking advocates, human rights groups, State officials, and Ohio sex trafficking victims, among others. This is in addition to the list of dozens of national anti-human trafficking and law enforcement groups who have come out publicly in support of this bill. I appreciate them. I appreciate what the human trafficking advocacy groups do

every day, trying to help these victims. I really appreciate our law enforcement officials, and the fact that organizations like the Fraternal Order of Police step forward to support this legislation is very important.

On August 16, the day after we had this endorsement from all these groups from Ohio, 50 attorneys general from across the United States—50, including Ohio's Mike DeWine—sent a letter to Congress asking for the Communications Decency Act to be changed to allow State and local authorities to hold backpage and other websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking accountable.

The letter stated, in part: "It is both ironic and tragic that the CDA, which was intended to protect children from indecent material on the internet, is now used as a shield by those who profit from prostitution and crimes against children."

They are right. Initially the Communications Decency Act was put in place to try to shield young people from pornography.

What these attorneys general are calling for and what this Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act will do is allow us to go after these websites. This bill will allow victims to get justice, as I said, and will do so in a way that protects internet companies that are doing the right thing. Notably, we preserve the Communications Decency Act's Good Samaritan provision, which protects those good actors who proactively block and screen for offensive material, shielding them from any possibility of frivolous lawsuits. That is important.

The good actors out there—and the vast majority of websites are good actors—have nothing to do with sex trafficking. In fact, many of them police their site for it. The Facebooks of the world and the Googles of the world are not the bad actors.

We are gaining momentum within the tech community, some of whom have concerns about changing the Communications Decency Act. Just this week, we got a letter from Oracle, strongly supporting the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act. They agreed that this narrowly crafted bill will hold the bad actors accountable while protecting well-intentioned websites.

Oracle's letter says, in part:

Your legislation does not, as suggested by the bill's opponents, usher the end of the Internet. If enacted, it will establish some measure of accountability for those that cynically sell advertising but are unprepared to help curtail sex trafficking.

Other tech companies have also joined in the fight to ensure that we can stop sex trafficking. I know they are going to follow Oracle's lead in publicly supporting this legislation.

Courts across the country, again, have made it clear that their hands are tied. Their hands are tied in bringing backpage and other websites to justice.

It is our responsibility right here in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Congress to change this law. Women and chil-

dren have had their most basic rights stripped from them and have been let down by our judicial system and, frankly, up to now, by Congress in their search for justice.

With these latest calls to action from judicial rulings and this recent letter from 50 attorneys general, any future injustice in the legal system because of the Communications Decency Act falls on Congress. It falls on the shoulders of those in the U.S. Senate and the House.

It is not just the attorneys general around the country who have supported this; the district attorneys have sent a letter this week supporting it—again, other law enforcement across the board.

Through this legislation, we have the opportunity to right this wrong, to make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable women and children who have been victims of trafficking.

Justice cannot be seen, but its absence can be felt. Those who have been trafficked by backpage, only to see the company prosper and escape legal consequences, have experienced unimaginable injustice. They feel it.

The path to action is clear. Victims need this legislation that the courts, attorneys general, district attorneys, victims, and others have been calling for. Congress must pass the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act in order to correct this injustice.

I yield back my time.

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 250; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. John K. Muller

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 188 on the nomination of Timothy Kelly, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 189, the motion to table Paul motion to refer H.R. 601, the Emergency Supplemental Continuing Resolution and Debt Limit Act, with instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 190, the motion to table the motion to refer H.R. 601 to committee with instructions to report back without any provision that was not contained in the House message accompanying the bill H.R. 601. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 191, the motion to invoke cloture on the House message to accompany H.R. 601, with further amendment—emergency aid, debt limit, CR. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 192, the motion to concur in the House amendment to H.R. 601 with further amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.●

(At the request of Mr. NELSON, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

DIASTER RELIEF FUNDING BILL

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am home in West Miami, FL, which is now under a Hurricane Watch for Hurricane Irma and currently projected to take a direct hit from a category 5 storm. Tropical storm conditions are expected in south Florida less than 48 hours after the time of this vote. Had I remained in Washington, DC, the earliest possible return to south Florida would have given me less than 12 hours to safely secure my home and my mother's home and otherwise prepare my family to face the brunt and the aftermath of a potentially catastrophic storm. Therefore, given these circumstances and the fact that my vote would not have been determinative of the outcome of the measures before the

Senate, I felt the prudent course of action was to remain in south Florida, take appropriate actions to protect my family and helping to coordinate efforts between Federal, State, and local officials.

If I had been able to participate in today's Senate vote in Washington, I would have voted to approve the supplemental package before the Senate, but my vote would come despite significant reservations about some of the other items attached to this legislation.

As I have always done in the past, I support providing additional emergency resources for disaster aid and recovery. Disaster relief is an appropriate function of the Federal Government. Unlike some previous disaster relief legislation, these funds are to be spent immediately, and are properly targeted to assist the areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey and potentially Hurricane Irma.

The rest of this spending package, however, contains items that, under normal circumstances and offered separately, I have opposed.

I strongly disagree with the decision made by the administration to agree to pair funding for FEMA and emergency disaster relief to short-term extensions to the continuing resolution, the debt ceiling and the National Flood Insurance Program unaccompanied by significant reforms.

During my service in the Senate, my support for increasing the debt limit has consistently in the past and will again in the future be conditioned on meaningful spending reforms that address our long-term debt.

Absent extenuating circumstances such as the outbreak of the Zika virus last year, I have consistently opposed passage of short-term continuing resolutions because it is an incredibly inefficient way of spending taxpayer dollars and fails to provide the certainty required for effective planning.

I am frustrated that Congress has once again temporarily reauthorized the outdated National Flood Insurance Program without enacting a long-term solution that makes much-needed improvements for the people of Florida and places this vital program on a sustainable path.

It is shameful these necessary and important measures are not being considered separately. Linking them to funds needed to assist our fellow Americans recovering from a devastating natural disaster is a cynical effort to avoid subjecting these measures to the scrutiny and debate they merit.

Today I was informed by its director that FEMA has less than 2 days of emergency funds remaining. Given that Texas continues to recover from the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Harvey and that the State of Florida is facing the most powerful Atlantic storm ever recorded, I have no choice but to support this measure, but I consider the manner in which this measure was structured, linking emergency disaster relief for victims which requires immediate action with other con-

troversial measures we still have time to debate through the regular order, to be among the most politically cynical efforts I have ever witnessed.●

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for September 2017. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2017, S. Con. Res. 3. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budget points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

My last filing can be found in the RECORD on July 12, 2017. The information contained in this report captures legislative activity since that filing through September 5, 2017.

Republican Budget Committee staff prepared tables 1-3 of this report.

Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the most recently adopted budget resolution. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. For this reporting period, 11 of the 16 authorizing committees are in compliance with their allocations, two fewer than my last report. Legislative activity during this reporting period brought both the Committee on the Judiciary, for a State compact relating to the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, P.L. 115-54, and the Committee on Foreign Relations, for the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act, P.L. 115-44, out of compliance.

In total, authorizing committees are estimated to increase outlays by nearly \$2 billion more than they were allocated over the fiscal year 2017-2026 period. The largest spending violation since the passage of the current budget resolution occurred during this reporting period. The VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017, P.L. 115-46, increased budget authority by \$2 billion and outlays by \$1.9 billion over the fiscal year 2017-2026 window.

Tables 2-3 of this report, related to activities of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, remain unchanged from my previous report.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by the Congress.

CBO provided a spending and revenue report for fiscal year 2017, which helps

enforce aggregate spending levels in budget resolutions under CBA section 311. CBO's estimates show that current law levels of spending for fiscal year 2017 exceed the amounts assumed in the budget resolution for budget authority by \$1.8 billion. However, levels for outlays remain nearly \$6.4 billion below assumed levels. CBO also estimates that revenues are \$1 million above assumed levels for fiscal year 2017 and \$8 million above assumed levels over the fiscal year 2017–2026 period. Two pieces of legislation, the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017, P.L. 115–52, and the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act, increased revenues this reporting period. The former increased revenues by \$7 million over 10 years and the latter by \$22 million over the same period.

Social Security levels are consistent with the budget resolution's fiscal year 2017 figures.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate pay-as-you-go, PAYGO, rule. The Senate's PAYGO scorecard currently shows increased deficits of \$2.5 billion over the fiscal year 2016–2021 and \$1.9 billion over fiscal year 2016–2026 periods. Over the fiscal year 2016–2021 period, legislation has been enacted that CBO estimates will increase outlays by \$2.5 billion and reduce revenues by \$20 million. Over the fiscal year 2016–2026 period, legislation has been enacted that CBO estimates will increase outlays by \$1.9 billion and increase revenues by \$3 million. The Senate's PAYGO rule is enforced by section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution.

Finally, included in this submission is a table tracking the Senate's budget enforcement activity on the floor. Three budget points of order have been raised since my last filing, and each was successful. All of these points of order occurred during the Senate's consideration of H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act of 2017.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

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

TABLE 1.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES: ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

	[In millions of dollars]		
	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Armed Services			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation			
Budget Authority	1	1	1
Outlays	1	1	1
Energy and Natural Resources			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Environment and Public Works			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Finance			
Budget Authority	–239	468	–204
Outlays	38	763	91
Foreign Relations			
Budget Authority	0	2	10
Outlays	0	2	10
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Judiciary			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	12	15
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions			
Budget Authority	0	–5	–44
Outlays	0	–5	–44
Rules and Administration			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Intelligence			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs			
Budget Authority	2,100	3,351	1,949
Outlays	0	2,496	1,916
Indian Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Small Business			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Total			
Budget Authority	1,862	3,817	1,712
Outlays	39	3,269	1,989

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS¹

	[Budget authority, in millions of dollars]	
	2017	
	Security ²	Nonsecurity ²
Statutory Discretionary Limits	551,068	518,531
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	20,877
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	5,200	51,355
Defense	515,977	138
Energy and Water Development	19,956	17,815
Financial Services and General Government	33	21,482
Homeland Security	1,876	40,532
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	32,280
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0	161,025
Legislative Branch	0	4,440
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	7,726	74,650
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0	36,586

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS¹—Continued

	[Budget authority, in millions of dollars]	
	2017	
	Security ²	Nonsecurity ²
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	300	57,351
Current Level Total	551,068	518,531
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits	0	0

¹ This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBDECA.
² Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE 3.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

	[Budget authority, millions of dollars]	
	2017	
CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2017		19,100
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies		741
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies		8,452
Defense		0
Energy and Water Development		0
Financial Services and General Government		826
Homeland Security		187
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies		28
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies		8,009
Legislative Branch		0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies		0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs		0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies		857
Current Level Total		19,100
Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolution		0

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2017.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2017 budget and is current through September 5, 2017. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

Since our last letter dated July 12, 2017, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act (Public Law 115–46). That act has significant effects on budget authority in fiscal year 2017.

Sincerely,
KEITH HALL, Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

	[In billions of dollars]		
	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over/Under (–) Resolution
On-Budget			
Budget Authority	3,329.3	3,331.1	1.8
Outlays	3,268.2	3,261.8	–6.4
Revenues	2,682.1	2,682.1	0.0
Off-Budget			
Social Security Outlays ^a	805.4	805.4	0.0
Social Security Revenues	826.0	826.0	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

^a Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ^{a b}			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,682,088
Permanents and other spending legislation	2,059,997	1,965,841	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	132,558	614,596	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-834,250	-834,301	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	1,358,305	1,746,136	2,682,088
Enacted Legislation ^b			
National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-10)	1	1	0
A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes (P.L. 115-30)	2	2	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31) ^b	1,961,750	1,513,846	1
VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-46)	2,100	0	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	1,963,853	1,513,849	1
Entitlements and Mandatories			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	8,928	1,795	0
Total Current Level ^c	3,331,086	3,261,780	2,682,089
Total Senate Resolution ^d	3,329,289	3,268,171	2,682,088
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	1,797	n.a.	1
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	6,391	n.a.
Memorandum			
Revenues, 2017-2026			
Senate Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	32,351,668
Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	32,351,660
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	8
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

^a Includes the budgetary effects of enacted legislation cleared by the Congress during the 114th session, prior to the adoption of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

^b Sections 193-195 of P.L. 114-223 (as amended by Division A of P.L. 114-254), provided funding for innovation projects and state responses to opioid abuse. CBO estimated that for fiscal year 2017, these sections provided a combined \$872 million in budget authority, which would result in \$256 million in outlays. However, consistent with sections 1001-1004 of P.L. 114-255, for the purposes of estimating the budgetary effects of those provisions under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Budget Control Act) and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act), those amounts are estimated to provide no budget authority or outlays.

^c For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

^d Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the budgetary levels in S. Con. Res. 3, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution. The total for the Initial Senate Resolution shown below excludes \$81,872 million in budget authority and \$40,032 million in outlays assumed in S. Con. Res. 3 for non regular discretionary spending, including spending that qualifies for adjustments to discretionary spending limits pursuant to section 251(b) of the Deficit Control Act. The total for the Revised Senate Resolution shown below includes amounts for non regular discretionary spending:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Initial Senate Resolution	3,226,128	3,224,630	2,682,088
Revisions:			
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	103,161	43,541	0
Revised Senate Resolution	3,329,289	3,268,171	2,682,088

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS, AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

[In millions of dollars]

	2016-2021	2016-2026
Beginning Balance ^a	0	0
Enacted Legislation ^{b c d}		
Tested Ability to Leverage Exceptional National Talent Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-1)	*	*
Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior known as the Stream Protection Rule (P.L. 115-5)	*	*
National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-10)	1	1
Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to teacher preparation issues (P.L. 115-14)	*	*
Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness" (P.L. 115-21)	1	1
Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees (P.L. 115-24)	*	*
An act to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes (P.L. 115-26)	200	200
Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes (P.L. 115-30) ^e	*	*
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31) ^f	24	25
U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act (P.L. 115-32)	*	*
Modernizing Government Travel Act (P.L. 115-34)	*	*
Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for nongovernmental employees (P.L. 115-35)	*	*
Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvement Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-36)	*	*
Follow the Rules Act (P.L. 115-40)	*	*
Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-41)	*	*
A bill to amend section 1214 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for stays during a period that the Merit Systems Protection Board lacks a quorum (P.L. 115-42)	*	*
Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (P.L. 115-44)	-2	-12
Wounded Officers Recovery Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-45)	*	*
VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-46)	2,271	1,891
Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-48)	25	-175
Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act (P.L. 115-51)	*	*
FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-52)	-6	-51
Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act (P.L. 115-53)	*	*
Granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to enter into a compact relating to the establishment of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (P.L. 115-54)	12	15
Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, Improvements Act (S. 371)	*	*
Bob Dole Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 1616)	*	*
Current Balance	2,526	1,895
	2016-2021	2016-2026
Changes to Revenues	-20	3
Changes to Outlays	2,506	1,898

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: P.L. = Public Law; * = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.

^a Pursuant to the statement printed in the Congressional Record on January 17, 2017, the Senate Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard was reset to zero.

^b The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit.

^c Excludes off-budget amounts.

^d Excludes amounts designated as emergency requirements.

^e The budgetary effects of this Act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard pursuant to section 202(c) of P.L. 115-30.

^f Division M of P.L. 115-31 contains the Health Benefits for Miners Act of 2017 and the Puerto Rico Section 1108(g) Amendment of 2017. Division N contains the HIRE Vets Act. Pursuant to section 301(b) of Division M, the budgetary effects of Division M and succeeding divisions are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF LEGISLATION POST-S. CON. RES. 3, FY 2017 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Vote	Date	Measure	Violation	Motion to Waive ^d	Result
168	July 25, 2017	S. Amdt. 270—perfecting amendment to the American Health Care Act of 2017.	311(a)(2)(B)—Revenues reduced below levels assumed in the budget resolution ^a .	Sen. Cruz (R-TX)	43–57, Not Waived
172	July 26, 2017	S. Amdt. 288—sense of the Senate amendment regarding Medicaid expansion is a priority and that Obamacare must be improved.	313(b)(1)—Byrd rule violation, no specification on which provision of the Byrd rule ^b .	Sen. Heller (R-TX)	10–90, Not Waived
174	July 27, 2017	S. Amdt. 389—provided premium assistance for low-income individuals.	302(f)—Exceeds a committee's 302(a) allocation ^c .	Sen. Strange (R-TX)	50–50, Not Waived

^aAt the time of consideration, an estimate was unavailable for the McConnell amendment.
^bSenator Sanders raised a point of order against this Sense of the Senate amendment as a violation of the Byrd Rule.
^cAt the time of consideration, an estimate was unavailable for the Strange amendment. Senator Schatz raised this point of order as violating the Finance Committee's 302(a) allocation.
^dAll motions to waive were offered pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate is

considering S. Amdt. 808, which provides emergency funding for disaster relief.

This legislation includes language that increases nonsecurity discretionary budget authority by \$15,250 million this year and designates it as emergency funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. CBO estimates that this budget authority will not outlay in 2017.

As a result of the aforementioned designations, I am revising the alloca-

tion to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing the revised non-security budget authority by \$15,250 million. Further, I am increasing the budgetary aggregate for fiscal year 2017 by \$15,250 million in budget authority.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

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

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	\$ Millions	2017
Current Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,325,189
Outlays		3,263,671
Adjustments:		
Budget Authority		15,250
Outlays		0
Revised Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,340,439
Outlays		3,263,671

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	\$ Millions	2017			
Current Allocation:					
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		634,000			
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		553,553			
General Purpose Outlays		1,230,926			
Adjustments:					
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		0			
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		15,250			
General Purpose Outlays		0			
Revised Allocation:					
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		634,000			
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		568,803			
General Purpose Outlays		1,230,926			
Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above	OCO	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Total
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	15,250	15,250
General Purpose Outlays	0	0	0	0	0

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, yesterday, along with several of my colleagues, I introduced the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 2017. This bill would reauthorize a national program to improve the Nation's earthquake preparedness. Senators MURKOWSKI, GARDNER, MURRAY, WYDEN, HARRIS, MERKLEY, and CANTWELL are original cosponsors of this bill, and I thank them for their support.

I firmly believe that, when it comes to a catastrophic earthquake, it is not a matter of if it will occur, it is a matter of when. It is important that we recognize the threats posed by earthquakes and do all we can to plan for the worst. By reauthorizing the Na-

tional Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, we will ensure that vital research, assistance to States, and development of early-warning systems continue.

Earthquakes threaten many areas in the United States—some densely populated, some not. The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program helps four Federal agencies—the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation—coordinate earthquake research and education activities, as well as develop and disseminate information and best practices in order to protect public safety. The most recent reauthorization expired in 2009.

While there is still much that we do not know about earthquakes, we do

know that there are many actions that we can take to reduce earthquake risk. We can map active fault lines and utilize geological knowledge to inform where we build. Research can help architects to design buildings that are more earthquake-resistant, as well as ensure that critical infrastructure such as hospitals and powerplants are able to function after an earthquake strikes. Outreach and better coordination can help prepare response efforts, and developing an early-warning system is a critical tool to guard against severe loss of life.

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act would enable earthquake-prone communities to better prepare and protect themselves by minimizing losses through infrastructure improvements and hazard and risk assessments.

The key provisions of the bill would permanently reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP; remove outdated language related to earthquake prediction and instead emphasizes the continued development of earthquake early-warning systems through the Advanced National Seismic System; require the production of a set of maps showing active faults and folds, liquefaction susceptibility, and other hazards that can be induced by an earthquake, such as landslides; reduce various administrative burdens for Federal agencies that are disruptive to the essential mission of the program and improves data sharing between agencies; enhance coordination among Federal agencies and with State agencies; provide clear direction to the four Federal agencies charged with overseeing NEHRP—the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation—to continue working with States and private sector experts on performance-based design features; direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to implement a grant program to assist States with incorporating earthquakes in their hazard reduction portfolios; and direct the completion of a comprehensive assessment of the Nation's earthquake risk reduction progress, as well as remaining areas that require more funding.

The bill has the support of a wide array of groups, including the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Association of American State Geologists, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the Geological Society of America, the National Council of Structural Engineers Association, the National Emergency Management Association, the Seismological Society of America, and the Structural Engineers Association of California. I thank those groups for supporting this bill.

We have made much progress to create a more earthquake-resilient nation, but we can do more. This bill provides a positive step forward to ensure that we build on the work that has already been done and continue investing in policies that reduce the risk to life, property, and livelihoods as a result of an earthquake.

I thank the Senators who have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, and I urge the full Senate to promptly take up this bill and pass it as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing the Carter County Museum in Ekalaka, MT. The Carter County Museum is a treasure to our State and well worth the time to stop in and visit

if you are traveling through eastern Montana.

The Carter County Museum has helped preserve the history of eastern Montana for over 80 years and was the first county museum in the State. This region of our State is known for plentiful dinosaur discoveries, and one of the exhibits at the Carter County Museum includes a complete skull of a Triceratops. Recent regional history is also on display at the museum. Artifacts from American Indian Tribes and late 19th century homesteaders help visitors gain a deeper appreciation for the history of the 41st State to join the Union.

Over the past two summers, members of the museum's staff have used their expertise to help recover the remains of a Columbian mammoth along the Powder River. Just last month, the staff unearthed a mostly intact skull, including both tusks. It is uncommon to find a museum that offers such a unique collection of rare exhibits outside of a major population center, but that is precisely what you will find at the Carter County Museum.

Eastern Montana, widely recognized for its contributions to our Nation in the areas of agriculture and energy, is also home to many items of cultural significance. Local gems like the Carter County Museum and all of the folks that make its day-to-day operations possible help make Montana an exceptional place.●

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN CARIBOU, MAINE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the 30th anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic, CBOC, in Caribou, ME.

Aroostook County in northern Maine is known as the Crown of Maine. It is not just a delineation of the geography of Maine, but a designation of leadership. That leadership is nowhere more apparent than in the story of the Caribou CBOC and the veterans who fought for years to bring it into existence. Meo Bosse, John Rowe, Raphael "Ray" Guerrette, Percy Thibeault, Wesley Adams, Walter Corey, and Leonard Woods, Sr., did not necessarily imagine that their vision would grow from a first in the Nation clinic to a network of nearly a thousand CBOCs assisting millions of rural veterans; they just saw a need that they could help fill.

Since 1987, the Caribou CBOC has been providing veterans with physical, mental health, and administrative services. When it was established, it was the first of Togus's community based outpatient clinics and the first rural VA clinic in our Nation.

It is the commitment of individuals like these veterans in rural Maine and countless others that have carried the

standard alongside and after that has helped the VA extend its reach and care to rural veterans across the country.

CBOCs and changing models of care for veterans have become vital in how the VA more seamlessly delivers care to those that have answered the call of duty. The partnerships with rural hospitals like CARY Medical Center have enabled more responsive care to our Nation's veterans and deepened ties within these communities. It gives me great pleasure that the Crown of Maine showed the way for hundreds of other sites around the country and that CARY and the veterans of northern Maine continue to support new opportunities to strengthen the networks of care for our veterans.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3388. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, regarding the authority of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over highly automated vehicles, to provide safety measures for such vehicles, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3388. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, regarding the authority of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over highly automated vehicles, to provide safety measures for such vehicles, and for other purposes to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S.J. Res. 49. Joint resolution condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville,

Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.

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-2714. 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; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0142)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2715. 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-2016-9055)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2716. 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; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0395)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2717. 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-2017-0331)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2718. 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. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Canadair Limited) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0333)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2719. 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-

2016-9307)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2720. 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-2017-0330)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2721. 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; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0250)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2722. 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-2017-0640)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2723. 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; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0664)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2724. 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; SOCATA Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0417)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2725. 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; Lycoming Engines Reciprocating Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0788)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2726. 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; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0759)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2727. 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 Limited" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0174)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2728. 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-2016-9508)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2729. 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-2017-0520)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2730. 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-2016-9052)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2731. 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" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0419)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2732. 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-2016-9112)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2733. 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-2016-9520)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2734. 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-2017-0131)) received during adjournment of

EC-2757. 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 E Airspace; Mosinee, WI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0355)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2758. 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 E Airspace; Mosinee, WI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0355)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2759. 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; Vivian, LA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0298)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2760. 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; Hawthorne, NV" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0297)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2761. 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; Wayne, NE" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0287)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2762. 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 E Airspace; Hilo, HI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0222)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2763. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0798)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2764. A communication from the Federal and Regulatory Liaison Officer, Office of the General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act" (RIN2700-AE30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2765. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2766. A communication from the Federal and Regulatory Liaison Officer, Office of the General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program" (RIN2700-AE00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2767. A communication from the Federal and Regulatory Liaison Officer, Office of the General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Processing of Monetary Claims" (RIN2700-AD83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2768. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Incorporation by Reference of ICAO Annex 2; Removal of Outdated North Atlantic Minimum Navigation Performance Specifications" ((RIN2120-AK88) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9154)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2769. 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 VOR Federal Airways V-7 and V-67; TN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0109)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2770. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Award Term" (RIN2700-AE32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2771. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Maritime Administrator, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2772. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 822. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-148).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1395. A bill to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Delaware (Rept. No. 115-149).

By Mr. BLUNT, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1771. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-150).

By Mr. BURR, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

Report to accompany S. 1761, An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-151).

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1780. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-152).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Joseph Otting, of Nevada, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years.

*Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004.

*Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the term of fourteen years from February 1, 2018.

*Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on Finance.

*Matthew Bassett, of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

*Gilbert B. Kaplan, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

*Robert Charrow, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Bart M. Davis, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of four years.

Kurt G. Alme, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana for the term of four years.

Donald Q. Cochran, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

Russell M. Coleman, of Kentucky, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

Brian J. Kuester, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

R. Trent Shores, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 1769. A bill to require a new or updated Federal website that is intended for use by the public to be mobile friendly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1770. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe and certain allottees in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BLUNT:

S. 1771. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1772. A bill to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the Capitol of the United States; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1773. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to limit the overall rate of return for crop insurance providers and remove the requirement of budget neutrality in the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1774. A bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1775. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the author-

ity of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transport individuals to and from facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with rehabilitation, counseling, examination, treatment, and care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1776. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize energy programs through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1777. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on employers with low-wage employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1778. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to Patriot employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 1779. A bill to repeal certain provisions of the Federal Switchblade Act to allow domestic manufacturers to ship and sell their products to buyers located in other States and to permit the importation of certain knife parts; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 1780. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HATCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1781. A bill to reauthorize grant programs to improve the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of economic, high technology, Internet, and other white collar crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 1782. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1783. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 250. A resolution condemning horrific acts of violence against Burma's Rohingya population and calling on Aung

San Suu Kyi to play an active role in ending this humanitarian tragedy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 24. A concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 601; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 82

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 82, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 120

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land.

S. 364

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to exempt certain recipients of Department of Agriculture conservation assistance from certain reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE) were added as cosponsors of S. 397, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fairness in Medicare hospital payments by establishing a floor for the area wage index applied with respect to certain hospitals.

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to

prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the use of telehealth for individuals with stroke.

S. 602

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 693

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 705

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 705, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 951

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1124

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1124, a bill to grant the Director of the United States Marshals Service authority to appoint criminal investigators in the excepted service.

S. 1343

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1343, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1361, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for residential energy efficient property, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, *supra*.

S. 1498

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1498, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive American women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 1633

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1633, a bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to open up opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1697, a bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 49, a joint resolution condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest

sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.

AMENDMENT NO. 328

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 328 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 329

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 329 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 479

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 479 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 533

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 533 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 559

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 559 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 593

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Massa-

chusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 593 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 622

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 622 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 623

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 623 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 663

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 663 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 671

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 671 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 763

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 763 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 799

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 799 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 806

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 806 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1772. A bill to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the Capitol of the United States; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I rise to speak about the introduction of the Confederate Monument Removal Act. This legislation would properly remove certain statues on display in the Capitol as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection so they can be exhibited elsewhere in the proper historical context. I am proud to introduce this legislation today and I want to thank Representative BARBARA LEE for her leadership in the House on this bill.

On July 2, 1864, a law was enacted that created the National Statuary Hall Collection, which allows states to select two statues of deceased individuals to be displayed in the Capitol. States are supposed to choose people "who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civil or military services." Figures like George Washington, Samuel Adams, and Dwight D. Eisenhower grace the collection and are prominently on display in the Capitol. The collection is meant to honor patriots who served, sacrificed, or made tremendous contributions to our Nation.

People who served the Confederate States of America do not deserve that honor. These are individuals who took up arms against the Union and inflicted catastrophic death and suffering among United States citizens. Simply put, they fall well short of that high bar.

Moreover, the presence of these statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection ignores the context in which

these monuments were first erected. Statues of Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis were erected across the United States in the post-Reconstruction era and during the civil rights movement as symbols of white suppression and defiance of Federal authority. They do not represent Southern heritage and those who advocate thus are engaging in revisionist history and are whitewashing our past.

That is why I am introducing the Confederate Monument Removal Act, a bill that would mandate the removal of all eleven statues of people who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from the National Statuary Hall Collection in the Capitol within 120 days. The list of statues that would be removed includes Joseph Wheeler of Alabama, Uriah Milton Rose of Arkansas, Edmund Kirby Smith of Florida, Zebulon Vance of North Carolina, Alexander Hamilton Stephens of Georgia, Edward Douglas White of Louisiana, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, James Zachariah George of Mississippi, Wade Hampton of South Carolina, Robert E. Lee of Virginia, and John Kenna of West Virginia.

The legislation would allow a State who selected the statue to be displayed in the collection to reclaim the statue if they pay for its transportation back to the State. If a State declines to reclaim it back, it would turn possession of the statue over to the Smithsonian, an institution that is more than capable of displaying the statues in the proper historical context and where a constructive dialogue can take place about our Nation's history.

I am grateful that this legislation is endorsed by organizations such as the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Some have argued that this will lead to the removal of other statues and monuments of prominent figures who played an important role in our Nation's history. That is plainly false. This bill only touches on those who were traitors against their Country and whose statues were erected as a symbol of white supremacy.

It is true that the Confederate Monument Removal Act does not remove certain statues in the Capitol that some people find offensive and who arguably should not be honored in such a way. For instance, the bill would not remove the statue of John C. Calhoun, a white supremacist and a vigorous defender of slavery. This is a conversation we as a Nation must have regarding how to best tell the truth of our past.

But surely we can all agree that people who took up arms against their Country should not be venerated in the Capitol, a place all Americans should feel welcomed, encouraged, and inspired. These statues must be moved not just because of who they were in the past, but because of who we are

now as a Nation and who we must be to ensure an even better and brighter future for generations to come.

I am proud to introduce the Confederate Monument Removal Act and I urge its speedy passage.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HATCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1781. A bill to reauthorize grant programs to improve the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of economic, high technology, Internet, and other white collar crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1781

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 "National White Collar Crime Control Act of 2017"

SEC. 2. PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF ECONOMIC, HIGH TECHNOLOGY, INTERNET, AND OTHER WHITE COLLAR CRIME.

Section 401 of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 3713a) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with or make a grant to an eligible entity for the purpose of improving the identification, investigation, and prosecution of white collar crime (including each category of such crimes set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2)) by providing comprehensive, direct, and practical training and technical assistance to law enforcement officers, investigators, auditors and prosecutors in States and units of local government.

"(2) WHITE COLLAR CRIME DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'white collar crime' includes—

"(A) high-tech crime, including cyber and electronic crime and related threats;

"(B) economic crime, including financial fraud and mortgage fraud; and

"(C) Internet-based crime against children and child pornography.

"(3) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subsection include the following:

"(A) To ensure that training is available for State, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement agencies and officers nationwide to support local efforts to identify, prevent, investigate, and prosecute cyber and financial crimes, including those crimes facilitated via computer networks and other electronic means, and crimes involving financial and economic impacts such as intellectual property crimes.

"(B) To deliver training to State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, and other criminal justice professionals concerning the use of proven methodologies to—

"(i) prevent, detect, and respond to white collar crimes;

"(ii) recognize emerging issues;

"(iii) manage electronic and financial crime evidence; and

"(iv) improve local criminal justice agency responses to such threats.

"(C) To provide operational and technical assistance and training concerning tools, products, resources, guidelines, and procedures to—

"(i) aid and enhance criminal intelligence analysis; and

"(ii) conduct white collar crime investigations and related justice information sharing at the local and State levels.

"(D) To provide appropriate training on protections for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in the conduct of criminal intelligence analysis and cyber and electronic crime and financial crime investigations, including in the development of policies, guidelines, and procedures by State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to protect and enhance privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections and identify weaknesses and gaps in the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

"(4) AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS.—A grant or cooperative agreement awarded under this subsection may be made only for the following programs, with respect to the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of certain criminal activities:

"(A) Programs to provide a nationwide support system for State and local criminal justice agencies.

"(B) Programs to assist State and local criminal justice agencies to develop, establish, and maintain intelligence-focused policing strategies and related information sharing.

"(C) Programs to provide training and investigative support services to State and local criminal justice agencies to provide such agencies with skills and resources needed to investigate and prosecute white collar criminal activities and related criminal activities.

"(D) Programs to provide research support, to establish partnerships, and to provide other resources to aid State and local criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute white collar criminal activities and related problems.

"(E) Programs to provide information and research to the general public to facilitate the prevention of white collar criminal activities.

"(F) Programs to establish or support national training and research centers regionally to provide training and research services for State and local criminal justice agencies.

"(G) Programs to provide training and oversight to State and local criminal justice agencies to develop and comply with applicable privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties related policies, procedures, rules, laws, and guidelines.

"(H) Any other programs specified by the Attorney General as furthering the purposes of this subsection.

"(5) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for an award of a grant or cooperative agreement under this subsection, an entity shall submit to the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance an application in such form and manner, and containing such information, as required by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"(6) ELIGIBILITY.—States, units of local government, not-for-profit entities, and institutions of higher-education with demonstrated capacity and experience in delivering training, technical assistance and other resources including direct, practical laboratory training to law enforcement officers, investigators, auditors and prosecutors in States and units of local government and over the Internet shall be eligible to receive an award under this subsection.

“(7) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out this subsection, including rules and regulations for submitting and reviewing applications under paragraph (5).

“(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out this subsection.

“(c) ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance under this section shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

“(B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this section to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this section that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this section during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section.

“(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this section during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall—

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

“(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

“(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph and the grant programs under this part, the term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance may not award a grant under this section to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this section and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees, shall disclose to the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the

independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available to the Department of Justice under this section may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this section, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available by the Department of Justice, unless the head of the relevant agency or department provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the conference.

“(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and entertainment.

“(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved under this paragraph.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification—

“(A) indicating whether—

“(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

“(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued; and

“(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

“(B) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

“(d) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance awards a grant to an applicant under this section, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded under this section to determine if duplicate grant awards are awarded for the same purpose.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance awards duplicate grants to the same applicant for the same purpose the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all duplicate grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any duplicate grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded the duplicate grants.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 250—CON-
DEMNING HORRIFIC ACTS OF VI-
OLENCE AGAINST BURMA’S
ROHINGYA POPULATION AND
CALLING ON AUNG SAN SUU KYI
TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN
ENDING THIS HUMANITARIAN
TRAGEDY

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 250

Whereas the Rohingyas are one of Burma’s many ethnic minorities that have lived under military dictatorship for most of the last few decades;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 Rohingya live predominantly in Burma’s Rakhine State, where they have faced ongoing repression under the Burmese military, including the revocation of their citizenship, killings, and mass rape;

Whereas there is historical animosity between the majority Buddhist population and the minority Rohingya, with many in the Buddhist majority seeing the Rohingya as illegal immigrants from across the border in Bangladesh despite generational roots;

Whereas since 1999, the Department of State has regularly expressed concern over legal, economic, and social discrimination against Burma’s Rohingya population;

Whereas an outbreak of communal violence in the Rakhine State in 2012 saw more than 100,000 displaced, and tens of thousands of Rohingya forced into squalid camps where travel was, and continues to be, restricted;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma reported “a long history of discrimination and persecution against the Rohingya”;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi spent 15 years under house arrest for her peaceful advocacy of democracy in Burma, and during those years she was awarded the Sakharov human rights prize from the European Parliament, the Nobel Peace Prize, the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal for her tireless struggle for democracy and human rights;

Whereas in her 2012 Nobel lecture Aung San Suu Kyi made an impassioned appeal to the world—

(1) not to forget those who are suffering “hunger, disease, displacement, joblessness, poverty, injustice, discrimination, prejudice, bigotry” and war; and

(2) that “wherever suffering is ignored, there will be the seeds of conflict, for suffering degrades and embitters and enrages”;

Whereas in a landmark election held in November 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the first national vote since Burma’s nominal transition to civilian authority, after which Aung San Suu Kyi was named State Counsellor, a role created for her that made her the country’s *de facto* leader;

Whereas in August 2016, Aung San Suu Kyi helped to establish the high-level Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, which is headed by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in order to address the mistreatment of the Rohingya;

Whereas in October 2016, attacks on border police outposts led to reports of horrific human rights abuses against the Rohingya in a brutal military crackdown;

Whereas in December 2016, a letter to the United Nations Security Council, which was

signed by 23 international activists, including more than a dozen fellow Nobel laureates, called out Aung San Suu Kyi for her silence on the treatment of the Rohingya;

Whereas in February 2017, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report, finding that crimes against the Rohingya “seems to have been widespread as well as systematic, indicating the very likely commission of crimes against humanity”;

Whereas in March 2017, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution creating a Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar to investigate allegations of human rights abuses against the Rohingya and issue a report by the following year;

Whereas in April 2017, Aung San Suu Kyi denied that ethnic cleansing had taken place against her country’s Rohingya minority despite widespread and reputable reporting of human rights abuses in Rakhine State;

Whereas on August 25, 2017, fighters from the small militant group the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army conducted surprise raids on 30 police stations and an army base in Rakhine State, in which more than 100 people died, including at least 10 policemen and many militants;

Whereas the attack resulted in a brutal and methodical reprisal by the Burmese military on villages, with helicopters firing on civilians, the razing of villages with petrol bombs, and front line troops cutting off families’ escape routes;

Whereas the assault caused more than 140,000 Rohingya to flee for Bangladesh and more than 30,000 Rohingya are estimated to be trapped in conflict zones in western Burma;

Whereas United Nations field work and the delivery of vital supplies of food, water, and medicine were suspended by the Government of Burma due to security concerns, leaving thousands of Rohingya vulnerable amid the deadly outbreak of violence; and

Whereas on August 31, 2017, the United Nations Security Council met to discuss the violence against the Rohingya in Rakhine State:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence and displacement inflicted on Burma’s Rohingya civilians;

(2) calls for an immediate halt to all hostilities by Burmese authorities;

(3) condemns the attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army militant group;

(4) urges the Government of Burma to allow—

(A) unrestricted access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar; and

(B) the resumption of the delivery of field work and aid from critical humanitarian organizations to help those displaced and injured and to monitor events in Rakhine State;

(5) calls on the Government of Burma to implement the August 2017 recommendations of its Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, including—

(A) to end restrictions on the movement of the Rohingya; and

(B) to provide the Rohingya with citizenship; and

(6) encourages Aung San Suu Kyi to live up to her inspiring words upon receiving the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize with respect to ethnic reconciliation in Burma and to address the historic and brutal repression of the Rohingya in Rakhine State.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 601

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 24

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 601, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) *Amend the long title so as to read:* “Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes”.

(2) *Insert before the first section 1 immediately following the enacting clause the following:*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—REINFORCING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT ACT

DIVISION B—SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ACT, 2017

DIVISION C—TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT RELIEF

DIVISION D—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—REINFORCING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT ACT

(3) *In section 3, strike subparagraph (B) of section 105(c)(4) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by such section 3, and all that follows through the end of such section 3, and insert the following:*

“(B) such assistance can produce a substantial, measurable impact on children and educational systems; and

“(C) there is the greatest opportunity to reduce childhood and adolescence exposure to or engagement in violent extremism or extremist ideologies.”.

(4) *Insert after section 3 the following:*

SEC. 4. COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE BASIC EDUCATION.

(a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive United States strategy to be carried out during the following five fiscal years to promote quality basic education in partner countries by—

(1) seeking to equitably expand access to basic education for all children, particularly marginalized children and vulnerable groups; and

(2) measurably improving the quality of basic education and learning outcomes.

(b) **REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT.**—In developing the strategy required under subsection (a), the President shall consult with—

(1) the appropriate congressional committees;

(2) relevant Executive branch agencies and officials;

(3) partner country governments; and

(4) local and international nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based organizations and organizations representing students, teachers, and parents, and other development partners engaged in basic education assistance programs in developing countries.

(c) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**—The President shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the strategy required under subsection (a).

(d) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under subsection (a)—

(1) shall be developed and implemented consistent with the principles set forth in section 105(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 3; and

(2) shall seek—

(A) to prioritize assistance provided under this subsection to countries that are partners of the United States and whose populations are most in need of improved basic education, as determined by indicators such as literacy and numeracy rates;

(B) to build the capacity of relevant actors in partner countries, including in government and in civil society, to develop and implement national education plans that measurably improve basic education;

(C) to identify and replicate successful interventions that improve access to and quality of basic education in conflict settings and in partner countries;

(D) to project general levels of resources needed to achieve stated program objectives;

(E) to develop means to track implementation in partner countries and ensure that such countries are expending appropriate domestic resources and instituting any relevant legal, regulatory, or institutional reforms needed to achieve stated program objectives;

(F) to leverage United States capabilities, including through technical assistance, training, and research; and

(G) to improve coordination and reduce duplication among relevant Executive branch agencies and officials, other donors, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and governments in partner countries.

SEC. 5. IMPROVING COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT.

(a) **SENIOR COORDINATOR OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL BASIC EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.**—There is established within the United States Agency for International Development a Senior Coordinator of United States International Basic Education Assistance (referred to in this section as the “Senior Coordinator”). The Senior Coordinator shall be appointed by the President, shall be a current USAID employee serving in a career or noncareer position in the Senior Executive Service or at the level of a Deputy Assistant Administrator or higher, and shall serve concurrently as the Senior Coordinator.

(b) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Senior Coordinator shall have primary responsibility for the oversight and coordination of all resources and activities of the United States Government relating to the promotion of international basic education programs and activities.

(2) **SPECIFIC DUTIES.**—The Senior Coordinator shall—

(A) facilitate program and policy coordination of international basic education programs and activities among relevant Executive branch agencies and officials, partner governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and nongovernmental and civil society organizations;

(B) develop and revise the strategy required under section 4;

(C) monitor, evaluate, and report on activities undertaken pursuant to the strategy required under section 4; and

(D) establish due diligence criteria for all recipients of funds provided by the United States to carry out activities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) **OFFSET.**—In order to eliminate duplication of effort and activities and to offset any costs incurred by the United States Agency for International Development in appointing the Senior Coordinator under subsection (a), the President shall, after consulting with appropriate congressional committees, eliminate a position within the United States Agency for International Development (unless otherwise authorized or required by law) that the President determines to be necessary to fully offset such costs and eliminate duplication.

SEC. 6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS.

The President shall seek to ensure that programs carried out under the strategy required under section 4 shall—

(1) apply rigorous monitoring and evaluation methodologies to determine if programs and activities provided under this subsection accomplish measurable improvements in literacy, numeracy, or other basic skills development that prepare an individual to be an active, productive member of society and the workforce;

(2) include methodological guidance in the implementation plan and support systemic data collection using internationally comparable indicators, norms, and methodologies, to the extent practicable and appropriate;

(3) disaggregate all data collected and reported by age, gender, marital status, disability, and location, to the extent practicable and appropriate;

(4) include funding for both short- and long-term monitoring and evaluation to enable assessment of the sustainability and scalability of assistance programs; and

(5) support the increased use and public availability of education data for improved decision making, program effectiveness, and monitoring of global progress.

SEC. 7. TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING TO CONGRESS.

(a) **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year during which the strategy developed pursuant to section 4(a) is carried out, the President shall—

(1) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the implementation of such strategy; and

(2) make the report described in paragraph (1) available to the public.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the efforts made by relevant Executive branch agencies and officials to implement the strategy developed pursuant to section 4, with a particular focus on the activities carried out under the strategy;

(2) a description of the extent to which each partner country selected to receive assistance for basic education meets the priority criteria specified in section 105(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act, as added by section 3; and

(3) a description of the progress achieved over the reporting period toward meeting the goals, objectives, benchmarks, and timeframes specified in the strategy developed pursuant to section 4 at the program level, as developed pursuant to monitoring and evaluation specified in section 6, with particular emphasis on whether there are de-

monstrable student improvements in literacy, numeracy, or other basic skills development that prepare an individual to be an active, productive member of society and the workforce.

(5) *In division B, under the heading “DISASTER RELIEF FUND”, strike the first “Provided further” and insert “Provided”.*

(6) *In section 101(c)(1) of division C, strike “under section 101(a)” and insert “under section 101(b)(1)”.*

(7) *Strike the final section 4 and all that follows through the end.*

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 810. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 811. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 812. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 813. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 814. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 815. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 816. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. PAUL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.

SA 817. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 816 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. PAUL) to the bill H.R. 601, supra.

SA 818. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 817 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 816 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. PAUL) to the bill H.R. 601, supra.

SA 819. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 820. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 821. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 822. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 823. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 824. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 825. Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 826. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 827. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 828. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 829. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 830. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 831. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 832. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 833. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 834. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 835. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 836. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 837. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 838. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 839. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 840. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 841. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 842. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 843. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 844. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 845. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 846. Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 847. Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 848. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 849. Mr. KAINÉ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. NELSON, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 850. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 851. Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 852. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 853. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 854. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 810. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. ____ . CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012.

Section 216(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Russia Sanctions Review Act of 2017 (part 1 of subtitle A of title II of Public Law 115-44) is amended—

(1) in subclause (III), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(IV) the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note); and”.

SA 811. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1273. REPORT ON EFFECTS ON DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC, AND NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS ACCORDS.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effects on United States diplomatic, economic, and national security interests if the United States withdraws from the Paris Accords.

(b) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 812. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: Strike section 812.

SA 813. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . OFF-SHORE PROCUREMENT RATE FOR FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROVIDED TO ISRAEL.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regulation, or memorandum of understanding, with respect to military assistance provided to Israel pursuant to section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763, relating to Foreign Military Financing Program), the off-shore procurement rate shall be not less than 26.3 percent from fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

SA 814. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: Strike section 817.

SA 815. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PERMITTING MACHINE ROOM-LESS ELEVATORS IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall issue modifications to all relevant construction and facilities specifications to ensure that machine room-less elevators (MRLs) are not prohibited in buildings and facilities throughout the Department of Defense, including modifications to the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS), the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Interim Technical Guidance, and the Army Corps of Engineers Engineering and Construction Bulletin.

(b) **CONFORMING TO BEST PRACTICES.**—In addition to the modifications required under subsection (a), the Secretary may issue further modifications to conform generally with commercial best practices as reflected in the safety code for elevators and escalators as issued by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

(c) **DEADLINES.**—The Secretary shall promulgate interim MRL standards not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall issue final and formal MRL specifications not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a report to the congressional defense committees on the integration and utilization of MRLs, including information on quantity, location, problems, and successes.

SA 816. Mr. PAUL (for Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act:

(1) no supplemental appropriation shall be made to the “Community Development Fund”;

(2) the “Disaster Relief Fund” shall be increased by \$7,400,000,000,

(3) \$15,250,000,000 of unobligated funds previously made available to the United States Agency for International Development shall be rescinded; and

(4) The emergency designations in Division B in this Act shall have no force or effect.

SA 817. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 816 proposed by Mr. PAUL (for Mr. McCONNELL) to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 818. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 817 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 816 proposed by Mr. PAUL (for Mr. McCONNELL) to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “2” and insert “3”

SA 819. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike sections 1243 through 1250 and insert the following:

SEC. 1243. EXTENSION OF UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (h) of section 1250 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92; 129 Stat. 1068), as amended by section 1237 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 130 Stat. 2494), is further amended by striking “December 31, 2018” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

(b) FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.—Subsection (f) of such section 1250, as added by subsection (a) of such section 1237, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) For fiscal year 2018, \$500,000,000.”

(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Subsection (c) of such section 1250, as amended by subsection (c) of such section 1237, is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after “pursuant to subsection (f)(2)” the following: “, or more than \$250,000,000 of the funds available for fiscal year 2018 pursuant to subsection (f)(3).”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “with respect to the fiscal year concerned” after “is a certification”; and

(ii) by striking “and improvement in transparency, accountability, and potential op-

portunities for privatization in the defense industrial sector” and inserting “sustainment, inventory management practices, progress in improving the security of proprietary or sensitive foreign defense technology”; and

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting after “additional action is needed” the following: “and a description of the methodology used to evaluate whether Ukraine has made progress in defense institutional reforms relative to previously established goals and objectives”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting “or 2018” after “in fiscal year 2017”; and

(B) by striking “in paragraph (2), such funds may be used in that fiscal year” and inserting “in paragraph (2) with respect to such fiscal year, such funds may be used in such fiscal year”.

SEC. 1244. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY ON TRAINING FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES IN THE COURSE OF MULTILATERAL EXERCISES.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (h) of section 1251 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (10 U.S.C. 2282 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “September 30, 2018” and inserting “December 31, 2020”; and

(2) by striking “fiscal years 2016 through 2018” and inserting “fiscal year 2016 through calendar year 2020”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by striking “military” each place it appears and inserting “security”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “that” and inserting “than”; and

(3) in subsection (f), by striking “section 2282” and inserting “chapter 16”.

SEC. 1245. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR BALTIC NATIONS FOR JOINT PROGRAM FOR RESILIENCY AND DETERRENCE AGAINST AGGRESSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, conduct or support a joint program of the Baltic nations to improve their resilience against and build their capacity to deter aggression by the Russian Federation.

(b) JOINT PROGRAM.—For purposes of subsection (a), a joint program of the Baltic nations may be either of the following:

(1) A program jointly agreed by the Baltic nations that builds interoperability among those countries.

(2) An agreement for the joint procurement by the Baltic nations of defense articles or services using assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) PARTICIPATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES.—Any country other than a Baltic nation may participate in the joint program described in subsection (a), but only using funds of such country.

(d) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The total amount of assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a) in fiscal year 2018 may not exceed \$100,000,000.

(e) FUNDING.—Amounts for assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a) shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act and available for the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI).

(f) BALTIC NATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Baltic nations” means the following:

(1) Estonia.

(2) Latvia.

(3) Lithuania.

SEC. 1246. ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

Section 1245(b) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Au-

thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3566), as most recently amended by section 1235(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 130 Stat. 2490), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (14) through (20) as paragraphs (15) through (21), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following new paragraph (14):

“(14) An assessment of Russia’s hybrid warfare strategy and capabilities, including—

“(A) Russia’s information warfare strategy and capabilities, including the use of misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda in social and traditional media;

“(B) Russia’s financing of political parties, think tanks, media organizations, and academic institutions;

“(C) Russia’s malicious cyber activities;

“(D) Russia’s use of coercive economic tools, including sanctions, market access, and differential pricing, especially in energy exports; and

“(E) Russia’s use of criminal networks and corruption to achieve political objectives.”.

SEC. 1247. ANNUAL REPORT ON ATTEMPTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PROVIDE DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BY SOCIAL MEDIA.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 31 each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on attempts by the Russian Federation, or any foreign person acting as an agent of or on behalf of the Russian Federation, during the preceding year to knowingly disseminate Russian Federation-supported disinformation or propaganda, through social media applications or related Internet-based means, to members of the Armed Forces with probable intent to cause injury to the United States or advantage the Government of the Russian Federation.

(b) FORM.—Each report under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1248. SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN DETERRENCE INITIATIVE TO DETER RUSSIAN AGGRESSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Military exercises, such as Exercise Nifty Nugget and Exercise Reforger during the Cold War, have historically made important contributions to testing operational concepts, technologies, and leadership approaches; identifying limiting factors in the execution of operational plans and appropriate corrective action; and bolstering deterrence against adversaries by demonstrating United States military capabilities.

(2) Military exercises with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies enhance the interoperability and strategic credibility of the alliance.

(3) The increase in conventional, nuclear, and hybrid threats by the Russian Federation against the security interests of the United States and allies in Europe requires substantial and sustained investment to improve United States combat capability in Europe.

(4) The decline of a permanent United States military presence in Europe in recent years increases the likelihood the United States will rely on being able to flow forces from the continental United States to the European theater in the event of a major contingency.

(5) Senior military leaders, including the Commander of United States Transportation Command, have warned that a variety of increasingly advanced capabilities, especially

the proliferation of anti-access, area denial (A2/AD) capabilities, have given adversaries of the United States the ability to challenge the freedom of movement of the United States military in all domains from force deployment to employment to disrupt, delay, or deny operations.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to enhance the European Deterrence Initiative and bolster deterrence against Russian aggression, the United States, together with North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies and other European partners, should demonstrate its resolve and ability to meet its commitments under Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty through appropriate military exercises with an emphasis on participation of United States forces based in the continental United States and testing strategic and operational logistics and transportation capabilities.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(A) An analysis of the challenges to the ability of the United States to flow significant forces from the continental United States to the European theater in the event of a major contingency.

(B) The plans of the Department of Defense, including the conduct of military exercises, to address such challenges.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1249. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE EUROPEAN DETERRENCE INITIATIVE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) The European Deterrence Initiative will bolster efforts to deter further Russian aggression by providing resources to—

(A) train and equip the military forces of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization partners in order to improve responsiveness, expand expeditionary capability, and strengthen combat effectiveness across the spectrum of security environments;

(B) enhance the indications and warning, interoperability, and logistics capabilities of Allied and partner military forces to increase their ability to respond to external aggression, defend sovereignty and territorial integrity, and preserve regional stability;

(C) improve the agility and flexibility of military forces required to address threats across the full spectrum of domains and effectively operate in a wide array of coalition operations across diverse global environments from North Africa and the Middle East to Eastern Europe and the Arctic; and

(D) mitigate potential gaps forming in the areas of information warfare, Anti-Access Area Denial, and force projection;

(2) investments that support the security and stability of Europe, and that assist European nations in further developing their security capabilities, are in the long-term vital national security interests of the United States; and

(3) funds for such efforts should be authorized and appropriated in the base budget of the Department of Defense in order to ensure continued and planned funding to address long-term stability in Europe, reassure the European allies and partners of the United States, and deter further Russian aggression.

SEC. 1250. ENHANCEMENT OF UKRAINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE.

Section 1250(b) of National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92; 126 Stat. 1068), as amended by section 1237(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328;

130 Stat. 2495), is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(12) Treatment of wounded Ukrainian soldiers in the United States in medical treatment facilities through the Secretarial Designee Program, including transportation, lodging, meals, and other appropriate non-medical support in connection with such treatment, and education and training for Ukrainian healthcare specialists such that they can provide continuing care and rehabilitation services for wounded Ukrainian soldiers.

“(13) Air defense and coastal defense radars.

“(14) Naval mine and counter-mine capabilities.

“(15) Littoral-zone and coastal defense vessels.”.

SA 820. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____ . MODIFICATION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL BY OFFICERS OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO PROMOTION SELECTION BOARDS ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO THEIR SELECTION.

(a) OFFICERS ON ACTIVE-DUTY LIST.—Section 614(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “the day” and inserting “10 calendar days”.

(b) OFFICERS IN RESERVE ACTIVE-STATUS.—Section 14106 of such title is amended in the second sentence by striking “the day” and inserting “10 calendar days”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to promotion selection boards convened on or after that date.

SA 821. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. REPORT ON INTEGRATION OF MODERNIZATION AND SUSTAINMENT OF NUCLEAR TRIAD.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On January 27, 2017, President Donald Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum on Rebuilding the United States Armed Forces, which emphasized the need for a “modern, robust, flexible, resilient, ready, and appropriately tailored” nuclear deterrent.

(2) On January 31, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis issued a memorandum entitled “Implementation Guidance for Budget Directives in the National Security Presidential Memorandum on Rebuilding the U.S. Armed Forces”, which called for “an

ambitious reform agenda, which will include horizontal integration across DoD components to improve efficiency and take advantage of economies of scale”.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (or a successor in the Office of the Secretary of Defense with responsibility for acquisition programs), in coordination with the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the potential to achieve greater efficiency by integrating elements of acquisition programs related to the modernization and sustainment of the nuclear triad.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum—

(A) identify any opportunities for improved efficiency in program management, cost, and schedule to be created by increasing integration, co-location, and commonality between the strategic deterrent programs and their systems, subsystems, technologies, and engineering processes; and

(B) identify any risks to program management, cost, and schedule, as well as mission and capability, created by the opportunities identified under subparagraph (A).

(3) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in classified form, but with an unclassified summary.

SA 822. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. ____ . STRATEGY TO IMPROVE DEFENSE INSTITUTIONS AND SECURITY SECTOR FORCES IN NIGERIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains a comprehensive strategy to support improvements in defense institutions and security sector forces in Nigeria.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the threats posed by terrorist and other militant groups operating in Nigeria, including Boko Haram, ISIS-WA, and Niger Delta militants, as well as a description of the origins, strategic aims, tactical methods, funding sources, and leadership structures of each such organization.

(2) An assessment of efforts by the Government of Nigeria to improve civilian protection, accountability for human rights violations, and transparency in the defense institutions and security sector forces.

(3) A plan for the United States Government to work with the Nigerian defense institutions and security sector forces to improve professionalism, civilian protection, detainee conditions, and transparency.

(4) A description of the key international and United States security and economic resources available to improve Nigerian defense institutions and security forces to address instability across Nigeria, and a plan to maximize the coordination and effectiveness of these resources.

(5) An assessment of efforts undertaken by the security forces of the Government of Nigeria to improve the protection of civilians in the context of—

(A) ongoing military operations against Boko Haram in the northeast region;

(B) addressing farmer-herder land disputes in the Middle Belt;

(C) renewed militant attacks on oil and gas infrastructure in the Delta; and

(D) addressing pro-Biafra protests in the southeast region.

(6) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Civilian Joint Task Force that has been operating in parts of northeastern Nigeria in order to ensure that underage youth are not participating in government-sponsored vigilante activity in violation of the Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-340).

(7) An assessment of the Government of Nigeria's plan to eventually incorporate the Civilian Joint Task Force into Nigeria's military or law enforcement agencies or reintegrate its members into civilian life.

(8) A plan for the United States Government to improve the capacity of the Nigerian military and judiciary to transparently investigate human rights violations committed by the security forces of the Government of Nigeria and other security forces operating in Nigeria that have involved civilian casualties, and to undertake tangible measures of accountability following such investigations in order to break the cycle of conflict.

(9) A plan for the United States Government to work with the Nigerian military, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to transition the humanitarian response to the food insecurity and population displacement in northeastern Nigeria from a military led effort to civilian organizations.

(10) Any other matters the President considers appropriate.

(c) **UPDATES.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the report required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an update of the report containing updated assessments and evaluations on progress made on the plans described in the report, including—

(1) updated assessments on the information described in paragraphs (2), (4), and (6) of subsection (a); and

(2) descriptions of the steps taken and outcomes achieved under each of the plans described in paragraphs (7), (8), (9), and (10) of subsection (a), as well as assessments of the effectiveness and descriptions of the metrics used to evaluate effectiveness for each such plan.

(d) **FORM.**—The report required under subsection (a) and the updates required under (c) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 823. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____ . STANDARDIZATION OF AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH REPEAL OF STATUTORY SPECIFICATION OF GENERAL OFFICER GRADE FOR THE DEAN OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AND THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.

(a) **DEAN OF ACADEMIC BOARD OF USMA.**—Section 4335(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the first and third sentences; and

(2) in the remaining sentence, by striking “so appointed” and inserting “appointed as Dean of the Academic Board”.

(b) **DEAN OF FACULTY OF USAFA.**—Section 9335(b) of such title is amended by striking “so appointed” and inserting “appointed as Dean of the Faculty”.

SA 824. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____ . CYBERSECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE ARMY SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

(a) **TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Army shall, in consultation with the Commander of the United States Cyber Command and the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, establish within the Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC) program a training program on cybersecurity. The training program shall be known as “Army Cyber R.O.T.C.”.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The training program required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(A) Expansion of Military Science instruction provided to Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to include coursework and summer training opportunities for students on cybersecurity.

(B) Modification of the Cadet Talent Management system of the Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to incorporate cybersecurity potential.

(C) Establishment of criteria for the selection of Cyber Operations Officers among Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps students.

(2) **PRESERVATION OF ACADEMIC AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—Nothing in the training program shall be construed to relieve a student participating in the training program of the obligation to meet academic and other requirements otherwise generally applicable to students participating in the Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(c) **SCOPE OF PROGRAM.**—The training program required by subsection (a) shall be designed to promote partnerships between units participating in the training program and the Centers of Academic Excellence of

the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) **INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall implement the training program required by subsection (a) during the 2018-2019 academic year by carrying out the training program in that academic year at not fewer than five civilian educational institutions participating in the Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program that are selected by the Secretary for purposes of the implementation of the training program.

(e) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the training program required by subsection (a).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report shall set forth the following:

(A) A description of the training program, including the elements of the training program pursuant to subsection (b) and the manner in which the training program will be implemented pursuant to subsection (d).

(B) An assessment of the current need of the Army for Reserve officers with cybersecurity expertise, and of the challenges faced by the Army in developing Reserve officers with such expertise.

(C) Any other matters with respect to the training by or for the Army of Reserve officers in cybersecurity matters that the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 825. Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____ . COMMEMORATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) on August 1, 1907, the Aeronautical Division of the Army Signal Corps, consisting of 1 officer and 2 enlisted men, began operation under the command of Captain Charles DeForest Chandler with the responsibility for “all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects”;

(2) in 1908, the Department of War contracted with the Wright brothers to build 1 heavier-than-air flying machine for the Army and, in 1909, the Department accepted the Wright Military Flyer, the first military airplane;

(3) pilots of the United States, flying with both Allied air forces and with the Army Air Service, performed admirably during the course of World War I, the first air war in history, by participating in pursuit, observation, and day and night bombing missions;

(4) pioneering aviators of the United States, including Mason M. Patrick, William “Billy” Mitchell, Benjamin D. Foulois, Frank M. Andrews, Henry H. “Hap” Arnold, James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle, and Edward “Eddie” Rickenbacker—

(A) were among the first individuals to recognize the military potential of airpower; and

(B) in the decades following World War I, courageously laid the foundation for the creation of an independent arm for the air forces of the United States;

(5) on June 20, 1941, the Department of War created the Army Air Forces as the aviation element of that Department and, shortly thereafter, the Department made the Army Air Forces co-equal to the Army Ground Forces;

(6) General Henry H. “Hap” Arnold drew upon the industrial prowess and human resources of the United States to transform the Army Air Corps from a force of 22,400 men and 2,402 aircraft in 1939 into an entity with a peak wartime strength of 2,400,000 personnel and 79,908 aircraft;

(7) the standard for courage, flexibility, and intrepidity in combat was established for all Airmen during the first aerial raid in the Pacific Theater on April 18, 1942, when Lieutenant Colonel James “Jimmy” H. Doolittle led 16 North American B-25 Mitchell bombers in a joint operation from the deck of the USS Hornet to strike the Japanese mainland in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;

(8) the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), signed into law by President Harry S. Truman, realigned and reorganized the Armed Forces to establish the Department of the Air Force (referred to in this section as the “USAF”) as separate from other military services;

(9) on September 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington became the first Secretary of the newly formed and independent USAF, marking the date on which the USAF was established;

(10) on September 26, 1947, General Carl A. Spaatz, a pioneering aviator and former Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, became the first Chief of Staff of the USAF;

(11) the Air National Guard was also created by the National Security Act of 1947 and has played a vital role in guarding the United States and defending freedom in nearly every major conflict and contingency since its creation;

(12) on October 14, 1947, the USAF demonstrated the historic and ongoing commitment of the USAF to technological innovation when Captain Charles “Chuck” Yeager piloted the X-1 developmental rocket plane to a speed of Mach 1.07, becoming the first flyer to break the sound barrier in a powered aircraft in level flight;

(13) the Air Force Reserve, created on April 14, 1948, is comprised of citizen airmen who serve as unrivaled wingmen of the active duty USAF during every deployment and on every mission and battlefield around the world in which the USAF is engaged;

(14) the USAF carried out the Berlin Airlift in 1948 and 1949 to provide humanitarian relief to post-war Germany and has established a tradition of offering humanitarian assistance when responding to natural disasters and needs across the world;

(15) the Tuskegee Airmen served the United States with tremendous dignity and honor, overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II, and helped to establish a policy of racial integration within the ranks of the USAF, as, on April 26, 1948, the USAF became the first military branch to integrate, a full 3 months before an Executive order integrated all military services;

(16) the arsenal of bombers of the USAF, such as the long-range Convair B-58 Hustler and B-36 Peacemaker, and the Boeing B-47 Stratojet and B-52 Stratofortress, under the command of General Curtis LeMay—

(A) served as the preeminent deterrent of the United States against the forces of the Soviet Union during the early years of the Cold War; and

(B) were later augmented by the development and deployment of medium range and

intercontinental ballistic missiles, such as the Titan and Minuteman, developed by General Bernard A. Schriever;

(17) on April 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation establishing the United States Air Force Academy, the mission of which is to educate, develop, and inspire men and women to become aerospace officers and leaders of impeccable character and knowledge, and that, as of 2017, has graduated 59 classes and 49,700 cadets;

(18) during the Korean War, the USAF—

(A) employed the first large-scale combat use of jet aircraft;

(B) helped to establish air superiority over the Korean Peninsula;

(C) protected ground forces of the United Nations with close air support; and

(D) interdicted enemy reinforcements and supplies;

(19) after the development of launch vehicles and orbital satellites, the mission of the USAF expanded into space and, as of 2017, provides exceptional support with respect to real-time global communications, environmental monitoring, navigation, precision timing, missile warning, nuclear deterrence, and space surveillance;

(20) during the Vietnam War, the USAF—

(A) engaged in a limited campaign of airpower to assist the South Vietnamese government in countering the communist Viet Cong guerrillas; and

(B) fought to disrupt supply lines, halt enemy ground offensives, and protect United States and Allied forces;

(21) on April 3, 1967, former prisoner of war Paul W. Airey, a career radio operator, aerial gunner, and First Sergeant, became the first Chief Master Sergeant of the USAF;

(22) in recent decades, the USAF and coalition partners of the United States have supported successful actions in Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Kuwait, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Haiti, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and many other locations around the world;

(23) USAF Special Operations Forces have served with honor and distinction around the world since their activation in 1990, providing the United States with specialized airpower across the broad spectrum of conflict in any place and at any time;

(24) for 27 consecutive years beginning in 1990, Airmen have—

(A) been engaged in continuous combat operations ranging from Operation Desert Shield to the Global War on Terrorism to Operation Inherent Resolve; and

(B) shown that the Airmen—

(i) constitute an air and space expeditionary force of outstanding capability; and

(ii) are ready to fight and win wars for the United States when and where they are called upon;

(25) when terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, fighter and air refueling aircraft of the USAF—

(A) took to the skies to fly combat air patrols over major cities of the United States; and

(B) protected the families, friends, and neighbors of the people of the United States from further attack;

(26) on December 7, 2005, the USAF modified its mission statement to include flying and fighting in air, space, and cyberspace and prioritized the innovation, operationalization, and sustainment of warfighting capabilities to deliver unrestricted access to cyberspace to defend the United States and its worldwide interests;

(27) women have played a prominent role in the evolution of the USAF, courageously fighting alongside their male counterparts and dedicating their lives to protecting peace, liberty, and freedom around the world

as they provide “ready to fight tonight” airpower whenever and wherever needed;

(28) as of 2017, the USAF has made tremendous strides in the global warfighting domain of cyberspace by revolutionizing offensive and defensive capabilities and effects with speed, agility, and surgical precision, thereby ensuring the continuous command, control, and execution of joint and service operations in contested, degraded, and limited environments;

(29) the untapped potential of enlisted aviators is recognized by the USAF as these highly trained, intelligent, and professional Airmen fly remotely piloted aircraft to distant skies in support of combatant commanders and meet the insatiable demand for persistent intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities;

(30) the Civil Air Patrol, as a total force partner and auxiliary of the USAF, has maintained a steadfast commitment to the United States and the communities of the United States through a proud legacy of service, from the earliest days of World War II, when the Civil Air Patrol protected the shorelines of the United States, through 2017, as the Civil Air Patrol executes emergency service missions;

(31) the USAF is steadfast in the commitment to fielding a world-class air expeditionary force by recruiting, training, and educating its officer, enlisted, and civilian corps comprising the active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve components of the USAF;

(32) more than 100,000 Airmen stand watch around the world at 175 global locations, committed to winning the constant fight against violent extremist organizations by expending more than 56,000 munitions and striking more than 32,000 enemy targets over the course of 18,200 airstrikes;

(33) Airmen were imprisoned and tortured during several major conflicts, including World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and the Persian Gulf War, and, in the valiant tradition of Airmen held captive, continued serving the United States with honor and dignity under the most inhumane circumstances;

(34) Airmen have earned the Medal of Honor 18 times, the Air Force Cross 183 times, the Distinguished Service Cross 42 times, and the Silver Star 74 times;

(35) the USAF—

(A) is a tremendous steward of resources;

(B) develops and applies groundbreaking technology;

(C) manages complex acquisition programs; and

(D) maintains test, evaluation, and sustainment criteria for all USAF weapon systems throughout the life cycles of those weapon systems;

(36) talented and dedicated Airmen will continue to meet the future challenges of an ever-changing world with limitless strength, resolve, and patriotism;

(37) on every continent around the world, the USAF has bravely fought for freedom, liberty, and peace, preserved democracy, and protected the people and interests of the United States;

(38) Airmen of the USAF, together with their joint force partners, will continue to be a tremendous resource for the United States in fights across every domain and at every location, delivering continuous air and space superiority, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, rapid global mobility, global strike, and command and control capabilities, thereby ensuring the safety and security of the United States; and

(39) for 70 years, the USAF and the Airmen of the USAF, through their exemplary service and sacrifice, have repeatedly proven their value to the United States, the people

of the United States, the allies of the United States, and all free people of the world.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Air Force as an independent military service should be commemorated; and

(2) the achievements of the Air Force in serving and defending the United States through global vigilance, global reach, and global power should be remembered, honored, and commended.

SA 826. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ELIMINATION OF SEQUESTRATION.

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 251(a) (2 U.S.C. 901(a))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Within” and inserting “For each fiscal year beginning before October 1, 2017, within”;

(B) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “beginning before October 1, 2017” after “fiscal year”;

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “If” and inserting “For each fiscal year beginning before October 1, 2017, if”; and

(D) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “for a fiscal year beginning before October 1, 2017” after “any discretionary appropriation”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), in the first sentence, by inserting “for a fiscal year beginning before October 1, 2017” after “any discretionary appropriation”; and

(2) in section 254 (2 U.S.C. 904)—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding the table, by inserting “beginning before October 1, 2017” after “any budget year”;

(B) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “2021” and inserting “2017”;

(C) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking “2021” and inserting “2017”; and

(D) in subsection (g), by striking “If” and inserting “For each fiscal year beginning before October 1, 2017, if”.

SA 827. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR ITEMS USED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

For any item (excluding petroleum) to be used outside the United States that is not to be used on an urgent basis and is not subject to the requirements under chapter 83 of title

41, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Buy American Act”), the Secretary of Defense shall direct contracting personnel to identify and give consideration to domestically sourced and Buy American compliant items before soliciting offers for items that are not compliant with the Buy American Act.

SA 828. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . BUY AMERICAN ACT TRAINING FOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Inspector General of the Department of Defense has issued a series of reports finding deficiencies in the adherence to the provisions of the Buy American Act and recommending improvements in training for the Defense acquisition workforce.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report evaluating Buy American training policies for the Defense acquisition workforce.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the following elements:

(A) A summary and assessment of mandated training courses for Department of Defense acquisition personnel responsible for procuring items that are subject to the Berry Amendment and Buy American Act.

(B) An assessment of Department of Defense efforts to reinforce training related to Berry Amendment and Buy American requirements.

(C) Options for alternative training models for contracting personnel on Buy American and Berry Amendment requirements.

SA 829. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. ____ . MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PROVIDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTING PERSONNEL CONSULTATION WITH MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP WHEN CONDUCTING MARKET RESEARCH ON PROCUREMENTS.

The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Commerce shall develop a memorandum of understanding allowing Department of Defense contracting personnel to consult with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership when conducting market research on procurements that are subject to requirements under chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Buy American Act”).

SA 830. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 210, to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1656. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING OF GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE ELEMENT OF THE BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall flight test the ground-based midcourse defense element of the ballistic missile defense system at least twice each fiscal year.

(b) DERIVATION OF FUNDING.—Amounts required to carry out this section in fiscal year 2018 shall be derived from amounts appropriated pursuant to section 201 and available for research, development, test, and evaluation.

SA 831. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. ____ . GARNISHMENT TO SATISFY JUDGMENT RENDERED FOR PHYSICALLY, SEXUALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY ABUSING A CHILD.

(a) GARNISHMENT AUTHORITY.—Section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) GARNISHMENT TO SATISFY A JUDGMENT RENDERED FOR PHYSICALLY, SEXUALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY ABUSING A CHILD.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), any payment of retired pay that would otherwise be made to a member shall be paid (in whole or in part) by the Secretary concerned to another person if and to the extent expressly provided for in the terms of a child abuse garnishment order.

“(2) A court order providing for the payment of child support or alimony or, with respect to a division of property, specifically providing for the payment of an amount of the disposable retired pay from a member to the spouse or a former spouse of the member, shall be given priority over a child abuse garnishment order. However, the limitations on the amount of disposable retired pay available for payments set forth in paragraphs (1) and (4)(B) of subsection (e) do not apply to a child abuse garnishment order.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘court order’ includes a child abuse garnishment order.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘child abuse garnishment order’ means a final decree issued by a court that—

“(A) is issued in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction of that court; and

“(B) provides in the nature of garnishment for the enforcement of a judgment rendered against the member for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child.

“(5) For purposes of this subsection, a judgment rendered for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child is any legal claim perfected through a final enforceable

judgment, which claim is based in whole or in part upon the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of an individual under 18 years of age, whether or not that abuse is accompanied by other actionable wrongdoing, such as sexual exploitation or gross negligence.

“(6) If the Secretary concerned is served with more than one court order with respect to the retired pay of a member, the disposable retired pay of the member shall be available to satisfy such court orders on a first-come, first-served basis, with any such process being satisfied out of such monies as remain after the satisfaction of all such processes which have been previously served.

“(7) The Secretary concerned shall not be required to vary normal pay and disbursement cycles for retired pay in order to comply with a child abuse garnishment order.”.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—Subsection (l) of section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a court order received by the Secretary concerned on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, regardless of the date of the court order.

SA 832. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . DISCLOSURES RELATED TO TRADE DEALS AND ARMS SALES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no covered agreement may enter into force, and the United States may not incur any related obligation, until the Office of Government Ethics certifies that no covered individual will personally financially benefit from the covered agreement.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED AGREEMENT.—The term “covered agreement” means—

(A) any agreement that covers sales pursuant to section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776); and

(B) any agreement with a foreign government under the customs and trade laws of the United States (as defined in section 2 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4301)).

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered individual” means—

(A) the President;

(B) the Vice President;

(C) a relative of the President or Vice President as that term is defined in section 109(16) of title 5, United States Code; and

(D) any civilian employee employed in the Executive Office of the President who holds a commission of appointment from the President.

SA 833. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. . PROMOTION OF FINANCIAL LITERACY CONCERNING RETIREMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) PROGRAMS FOR PROMOTION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop programs of financial literacy for members of the Armed Forces to assist members in better understanding retirement options and planning for retirement.

(b) INFORMATION ON COMPARATIVE VALUE OF LUMP SUM AND MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF RETIRED PAY WITH CONVENTIONAL RETIRED PAY.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop information to be provided to members of the Armed Forces who are eligible to make the election provided for in subsection (b)(1) of section 1415 of title 10, United States Code, to assist such members in making an informed comparison for purposes of the election between the following:

(1) The value of the lump sum payment of retired pay and monthly payments provided for in such subsection (b)(1) by reason of the election, including the manner in which the lump sum and such monthly payments are determined for any particular member.

(2) The value of retired pay payable under subsection (d) of such section in the absence of the election, including the manner in which such retired pay is determined for any particular member.

SA 834. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH DISCRIMINATORY CONTRACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into any contract described in subsection (b) with any person or business that the Secretary of Labor determines to have engaged, during the 3-year period preceding the request for proposals for the contract, in serious, repeated, willful, or pervasive discrimination on the basis of sex in the payment of wages in violation of section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (commonly known as the “Equal Pay Act of 1963”) (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) or of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.).

(b) APPLICABLE CONTRACT.—A contract described in this subsection is any procurement contract for goods or services, including construction, in which the estimated value of the supplies acquired and services required exceeds \$500,000.

SA 835. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF VEHICLES FOR EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Air Force should end the reliance of the evolved expendable launch vehicle program on rocket engines made in the Russian Federation by continuing to invest in new launch vehicles capable of supporting national security requirements.

SA 836. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING WITH EMPLOYERS THAT ENGAGE IN WAGE THEFT BY STEALING EMPLOYEES' WAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into any contract described in subsection (b) with any person or business that the Secretary of Labor determines to have owed, during the 3-year period preceding the request for proposals for the contract, employees, or individuals who are former employees, a cumulative amount of more than \$100,000 in unpaid wages and associated damages resulting from violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) as determined by the Secretary of Labor or a court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) APPLICABLE CONTRACT.—A contract described in this subsection is any procurement contract for goods or services, including construction, in which the estimated value of the supplies acquired and services required exceeds \$500,000.

SA 837. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. . RESTORATION OF STATES RIGHTS OVER THE DIVISION OF MILITARY PENSIONS BY COURT ORDER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1408(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any division of property as part of a final decree of divorce, dissolution, annulment, or legal separation involving a member of the Armed Forces to which section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, applies that becomes final after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 838. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for

military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REQUIREMENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ENTITIES CARRYING OUT STATE VACCINATION PROGRAMS FOR COSTS OF VACCINES PROVIDED TO COVERED BENEFICIARIES.

Section 719(a)(1) of public law 114-328 is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

SA 839. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SEC. ____ . BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING AND CERTAIN FEDERAL BENEFITS.

(a) *Exclusion.*—Section 403(k) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) In determining eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance program, the value of a housing allowance under this section shall be excluded from any calculation of income, assets, or resources.”

(b) *Conforming Amendment.*—Section 5(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (18), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (19)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(20) any allowance described in section 403(k)(4) of title 37, United States Code.”

SA 840. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 726. REQUIREMENT FOR POSSESSION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER-ADULT/ADOLESCENT CERTIFICATION BY CERTAIN REGISTERED NURSES.

(a) *REQUIREMENT.*—In accordance with the deadlines specified in subsection (b), the registered nurses operating in facilities specified in subsection (c) shall possess a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A) certification or equivalent certification.

(b) *DEADLINES.*—The deadlines specified in this subsection are as follows:

(1) By not later than January 1, 2019, 50 percent of the aggregate number of registered nurses operating in facilities specified in subsection (c) shall possess a certification as described in subsection (a).

(2) By not later than January 1, 2021, all registered nurses operating in such facilities shall possess such a certification.

(c) *FACILITIES.*—The facilities specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The emergency rooms and trauma centers within the military healthcare system.

(2) The medical facility of each naval vessel that possesses a medical facility.

(3) Each facility that provides Role 3 or Role 4 care, as described in the Roles of Medical Care

(d) *EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATION.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Any equivalent certification requirement established for purposes of subsection (a) shall be established by the Secretary of Defense and shall apply uniformly across the Armed Forces.

(2) *ELEMENTS.*—The equivalent certification requirement shall—

(A) require a minimum of 40 hours of appropriate training for certification;

(B) require appropriate continuing education for retaining certification;

(C) comply with applicable standards of the International Association of Forensic Nurses; and

(D) meet the standards of Department of Defense Instruction 6495.02, and any update or successor to such instruction.

(e) *COST OF TRAINING.*—The cost of any training required for an individual to obtain a certification described in subsection (a) for purposes of compliance with the requirement in that subsection shall be borne by the Department of Defense.

(f) *REPORT.*—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the plan of the Secretary to implement the requirements of this section.

SA 841. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. ____ . ASSESSMENT OF THE EXPANDING GLOBAL INFLUENCE OF CHINA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) *ASSESSMENT.*—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract or other agreement with an appropriate entity independent of the Department of Defense to conduct an assessment of the foreign military and non-military influence of the People’s Republic of China which could affect the regional and global national security and defense interests of the United States.

(b) *ELEMENTS.*—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include an evaluation of the following:

(1) The expansion by China of military and non-military means of influence in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and globally, including, infrastructure investments, influence campaigns, loans, access to military equipment, military training, tourism, media, and access to foreign ports and military bases, and

whether such means of influence could affect United States national security or defense interests, including operational access.

(2) The implications, if any, of such means of influence for the military force posture, access, training, and logistics of the United States and China.

(3) The United States policy and strategy for mitigating any harmful effects resulting from such means of influence.

(4) The resources required to implement the policy and strategy, and the plan to address and mitigate any gaps in capabilities or resources necessary for the implementation of the policy and strategy.

(5) Measures to bolster the roles of allies, partners, and other countries to implement the policy and strategy.

(6) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) *REPORT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the assessment required pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) *FORM.*—The report required shall be submitted unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

SA 842. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . BRIEFING ON NEED FOR CAPABILITY OF F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER TO EMPLOY A STEALTHY, INTERNALLY CARRIED, STANDOFF AIR-TO-GROUND OR SURFACE MISSILE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commander of the Air Combat Command (ACC) of the Air Force and the Director of Air Warfare (N98) of the Navy shall provide the congressional defense committees a briefing on the need of the Armed Forces for the F-35 joint strike fighter to employ a stealthy, internally carried, standoff air-to-ground or surface missile and the best ways in which such need can be met.

SA 843. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 313. SENSE ON CONGRESS ON THE SMALL TURBINE ENGINE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States small turbine engine industry has been innovating, developing, producing, and sustaining small gas turbine engines in a competitive market for more than 75 years.

(2) The United States small turbine engine industrial base has made the United States

the knowledge leader in low cost, no maintenance engine designs with unmatched field reliability.

(3) The United States small turbine engine industrial base is at a critical juncture, as military requirements have tapered and missile programs, in misguided attempts to save money, are narrowing production contracts to a single vendor causing two of the three existing small turbine engine manufacturers to go out of business.

(4) The departure of these companies from the United States small turbine engine industry will leave only one viable, proven source for small turbine engines for the Department of Defense.

(5) In 2016, a number of engine failures were encountered that severely diminished the throughput of the F107-WR-101 engine maintenance process for the AGM-86 Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM), thereby putting the weapon system at major readiness risk.

(6) The narrowing of the United States small turbine engine industrial base would leave the Department with a sole source United States supplier resulting in a loss of manufacturing and testing capability that would be extremely detrimental to both the United States industrial base and national security by creating a single point of failure, increasing engine procurement and testing prices by eliminating competition, raising new engine development and air vehicle program risk, and eliminating capabilities and expertise that would require decades and millions of dollars to reconstitute.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should—

(1) allocate sufficient funding to properly sustain the F107 turbine engine in order to ensure this vital weapon is viable until a replacement is fielded; and

(2) contract with multiple, capable engine manufacturers to stabilize and revitalize the United States small turbine engine industrial base.

SA 844. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 234, strike subsection (b).

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, Army”, in the item relating to Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD), in the Senate authorized column, strike “136,420” and insert “336,420”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, Army”, in the item relating to Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD), in the Senate authorized column, strike “[200,000]”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, Army”, in the item relating to Subtotal System Development & Demonstration, in the Senate authorized column, strike “3,130,618,” and insert “3,330,618”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, Army”, in the item relating to Total Research, Development, Test & Eval, Army, in the Senate authorized column, strike “9,906,352” and insert “10,106,352”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test &

Eval, AF”, in the item relating to Tech Transition Program, in the Senate authorized column, strike “935,650” and insert “785,650”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, AF”, in the item relating to Subtotal Advanced Component Development & Prototypes, in the Senate authorized column, strike “5,110,763” and insert “4,960,763”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, AF”, in the item relating to Combat Training Ranges, in the Senate authorized column, strike “87,350” and insert “37,350”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, AF”, in the item relating to Subtotal System Development & Demonstration, in the Senate authorized column, strike “4,620,662” and insert “4,570,662”.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading “Research, Development, Test & Eval, AF”, in the item relating to Total Research, Development, Test & Eval, AF, in the Senate authorized column, strike “36,138,677” and insert “35,938,677”.

SA 845. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FIRE PROTECTION IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) A 2009 Consumer Product Safety Commission study found a full 370,000 residential fires are suppressed by portable fire extinguishers annually.

(2) Throughout the United States, of the 48,460 fires in buildings equipped with sprinklers from 2007 to 2011, 40,440, or 83 percent, never grew large enough to activate sprinklers, indicating many fires are successfully suppressed by portable fire extinguishers.

(3) Section 9-17.1 of the Unified Facilities Criteria 3-600-01 changes the Department of Defense building code by stating, “General purpose portable fire extinguishers are not required when the Facility is provided with complete automatic sprinkler protection and a fire alarm system in accordance with this UFC.”

(4) This new language is a departure from national model fire codes, and is also a significant change from the last Unified Criteria governing portable extinguishers.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) portable fire extinguishers are essential to the safety of members of the Armed Forces and their families;

(2) the current Unified Facilities Criteria provides members of the Armed Forces, their families, and other Department of Defense personnel with less fire protection than that of civilian counterparts by deviating from fire safety codes used across the country and not requiring portable extinguishers on military installations;

(3) United Facilities Criteria 3-600-01, Section 4-9, dated September 26, 2006, clearly keeps Department of Defense Facilities in line with the national and international standards for fire safety; and

(4) the Secretary of Defense should amend current United Facilities Criteria Section 9-17.1 to reflect the standards established by United Facilities Criteria 3-600-01, Section 4-9, dated September 26, 2006.

SA 846. Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING URANIUM MINING AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should compensate and recognize all of the miners, workers, downwinders, and others suffering from the effects of uranium mining and nuclear weapons testing carried out during the Cold War.

SA 847. Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 3201, add the following:

(b) CERTIFICATION OF SUFFICIENCY OF BUDGET REQUESTS.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the budget of the President for a fiscal year is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board shall submit to the congressional defense committees a letter—

(1) certifying that the requested budget is sufficient for the conduct of the safety reviews that the Board intends to conduct in that fiscal year; or

(2) if the Board is unable to make the certification described in paragraph (1), including a list of such reviews and the estimated level of additional funding required to conduct such reviews.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board was chartered by Congress with an important mission to provide independent recommendations and advice to the President and the Secretary of Energy to protect public health and employee safety at defense nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy;

(2) the role of the Board has necessarily evolved as the mission of the Department has changed over time, but the Board will continue to be vitally important as the Department continues major efforts to modernize the nuclear weapons stockpile and update its infrastructure in the 21st century; and

(3) any significant change to the Board and its mission can only be considered by the Board as a whole with oversight by Congress and requires legislative changes approved by Congress.

SA 848. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed

by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ESTABLISHMENT AND USE OF NATURALIZATION OFFICES AT INITIAL MILITARY TRAINING SITES.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Naturalization At Training Sites Act of 2017” or the “NATS Act”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(c) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard, shall establish a naturalization office at each initial military training site of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary.

(d) **OUTREACH.**—In coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, each Secretary concerned shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) identify each member of the Armed Forces overseen by such Secretary who is not a citizen of the United States; and

(2) inform each noncitizen member of the Armed Forces overseen by such Secretary about—

(A) the existence of a naturalization office at each initial military training site;

(B) the continuous availability of each naturalization office throughout the career of a member of the Armed Forces to—

(i) evaluate the extent to which a noncitizen member of the Armed Forces is eligible to become a naturalized citizen; and

(ii) assess the suitability for citizenship of a noncitizen member of the Armed Forces;

(C) each potential pathway to citizenship;

(D) each service a naturalization office provides;

(E) the required length of service to obtain citizenship during—

(i) peacetime; and

(ii) a period of hostility; and

(F) the application process for citizenship, including—

(i) details of the application process;

(ii) required application materials;

(iii) requirements for a naturalization interview; and

(iv) any other information required to become a citizen under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(e) **TRAINING.**—Each Secretary concerned shall complete the notifications required under subsection (d)—

(1) during every stage of basic training;

(2) during training for any military occupational specialty;

(3) at each school of professional military education;

(4) upon each transfer of a duty station; and

(5) at any other time determined appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

(f) **TRAINED PERSONNEL.**—

(1) **AVAILABILITY.**—Each Secretary concerned shall retain trained personnel at a naturalization office at every initial military training site to provide appropriate services to every member of the Armed

Forces who is not a citizen of the United States.

(2) **TRAINING.**—All personnel retained under paragraph (1) shall be familiar with—

(A) the special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) authorizing the expedited application and naturalization process for current members of the Armed Forces and veterans;

(B) the application process for naturalization and associated application materials; and

(C) the naturalization process administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(g) **ASSIGNMENT PREFERENCE.**—The Secretary concerned, to the extent practicable, shall assign each new member of the Armed Forces who is not a citizen of the United States to an initial military training site that has a naturalization office.

(h) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall annually publish, on a publicly accessible website—

(1) the number of members of the Armed Forces who became naturalized United States citizens during the most recent year for which data is available, categorized by country in which the naturalization ceremony took place;

(2) the number of Armed Forces member’s children who became naturalized United States citizens during the most recent year for which data is available, categorized by country in which the naturalization ceremony took place; and

(3) the number of Armed Forces member’s spouses who became naturalized United States citizens during the most recent year for which data is available, categorized by country in which the naturalization ceremony took place.

(i) **RULEMAKING.**—Each Secretary concerned shall prescribe, by regulation, a definition of the term “initial military training site” for purposes of this section.

SA 849. Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Thune, Mr. Nelson, and Mrs. Murray) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XVI, add the following:

Subtitle F—Cyber Scholarship Opportunities
SEC. 1661. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Cyber Scholarship Opportunities Act of 2017”.

SEC. 1662. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A well-trained workforce is essential to meeting the Nation’s cybersecurity needs.

(2) An October 2015 report by the National Academy of Public Administration entitled “Increasing the Effectiveness of the Federal Role in Cybersecurity Education” noted that the United States faces a severe shortage of properly trained and equipped cybersecurity professionals in both the government and private sector workforce.

(3) The 2015 (ISC)² Global Information Security Workshop Study stated that “the information security workforce shortfall is widening.”

(4) The National Science Foundation’s Federal Cyber Scholarship-for-Service program is a successful effort to support capacity

building in institutions of higher education and scholarships for students to pursue cybersecurity careers.

SEC. 1663. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CYBER PILOT PROGRAM AND ASSESSMENT.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, as part of the Federal Cyber Scholarship-for-Service program established under section 302 of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7442), the Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall develop and implement a pilot program at not more than 10, but at least 5, community colleges to provide scholarships to eligible students who—

(1) are pursuing associate degrees or specialized program certifications in the field of cybersecurity; and

(2)(A) have bachelor’s degrees; or

(B) are veterans of the armed forces.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, as part of the Federal Cyber Scholarship-for-Service program established under section 302 of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7442), the Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall assess the potential benefits and feasibility of providing scholarships through community colleges to eligible students who are pursuing associate degrees, but do not have bachelor’s degrees.

SEC. 1664. FEDERAL CYBER SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM UPDATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 302 of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7442) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b)(3) and inserting the following:

“(3) prioritize the employment placement of at least 80 percent of scholarship recipients in an executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code); and

“(4) provide awards to improve cybersecurity education at the kindergarten through grade 12 level—

“(A) to increase interest in cybersecurity careers;

“(B) to help students practice correct and safe online behavior and understand the foundational principles of cybersecurity;

“(C) to improve teaching methods for delivering cybersecurity content for kindergarten through grade 12 computer science curricula; and

“(D) to promote teacher recruitment in the field of cybersecurity.”;

(2) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) **POST-AWARD EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATIONS.**—Each scholarship recipient, as a condition of receiving a scholarship under the program, shall enter into an agreement under which the recipient agrees to work for a period equal to the length of the scholarship, following receipt of the student’s degree, in the cybersecurity mission of—

“(1) an executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code);

“(2) Congress, including any agency, entity, office, or commission established in the legislative branch;

“(3) an interstate agency;

“(4) a State, local, or tribal government; or

“(5) a State, local, or tribal government-affiliated non-profit that is considered to be critical infrastructure (as defined in section 1016(e) of the USA Patriot Act (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).”;

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) have demonstrated a high level of competency in relevant knowledge, skills,

and abilities, as defined by the national cybersecurity awareness and education program under section 401;"; and

(B) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) be a full-time student in an eligible degree program at a qualified institution of higher education, as determined by the Director of the National Science Foundation, except that in the case of a student who is enrolled in a community college, be a student pursuing a degree on a less than full-time basis, but not less than half-time basis; and"; and

(4) by amending subsection (m) to read as follows:

"(m) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—
 "(1) EVALUATION.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall periodically evaluate and make public, in a manner that protects the personally identifiable information of scholarship recipients, information on the success of recruiting individuals for scholarships under this section and on hiring and retaining those individuals in the public sector cyber workforce, including on—

"(A) placement rates;
 "(B) where students are placed, including job titles and descriptions;
 "(C) student salary ranges for students not released from obligations under this section;
 "(D) how long after graduation they are placed;
 "(E) how long they stay in the positions they enter upon graduation;
 "(F) how many students are released from obligations; and
 "(G) what, if any, remedial training is required.

"(2) REPORTS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Office of Personnel Management, shall submit, at least once every 3 years, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report, including the results of the evaluation under paragraph (1) and any recent statistics regarding the size, composition, and educational requirements of the Federal cyber workforce.

"(3) RESOURCES.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall provide consolidated and user-friendly online resources for prospective scholarship recipients, including, to the extent practicable—

"(A) searchable, up-to-date, and accurate information about participating institutions of higher education and job opportunities related to the field of cybersecurity; and
 "(B) a modernized description of cybersecurity careers."

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, shall affect any agreement, scholarship, loan, or repayment, under section 302 of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7442), in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subtitle.

SEC. 1665. CYBERSECURITY TEACHING.

Section 10(i) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-1(i)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

"(5) the term 'mathematics and science teacher' means a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science, including cybersecurity, teacher at the elementary school or secondary school level;"; and

(2) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

"(7) the term 'science, technology, engineering, or mathematics professional' means an individual who holds a baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science, including cybersecurity, and is working in or had a career in such field or a related area; and".

SA 850. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

PART II—RESERVE COMPONENT BENEFITS PARITY

SEC. ____ . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR PRE-MOBILIZATION HEALTH CARE.

Section 1074(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "in support of a contingency operation under" and inserting "under section 12304b of this title or".

SEC. ____ . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR TRANSITIONAL HEALTH CARE.

Section 1145(a)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "in support of a contingency operation" and inserting "under section 12304b of this title or a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of this title".

SEC. ____ . CONSIDERATION OF SERVICE ON ACTIVE DUTY TO REDUCE AGE FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIRED PAY FOR NON-REGULAR SERVICE.

Section 12731(f)(2)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) or under section 12301(d)" and inserting "under section 12301(d) or 12304b of this title or a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B)".

SEC. ____ . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR HIGH-DEPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE FOR LENGTHY OR NUMEROUS DEPLOYMENTS AND FREQUENT MOBILIZATIONS.

Section 436(a)(2)(C)(ii) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after "under" the first place it appears the following: "section 12304b of title 10 or".

SEC. ____ . ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOR NONREDUCTION IN PAY WHILE SERVING IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR NATIONAL GUARD.

Section 5538(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting after "under" the following: "section 12304b of title 10 or".

SEC. ____ . EFFECT OF ORDER TO SERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY ON ELIGIBILITY FOR OR USE OF CERTAIN MILITARY BENEFITS.

Section 1175a(j)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "or 12304" and inserting "12304, 12304a, or 12304b".

SEC. ____ . RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY OF AMENDMENTS.

The amendments made by this part shall apply with respect to any order for a member of a reserve component to serve on active duty under section 12304a or 12304b of title 10, United States Code, issued on or after January 1, 2012.

SA 851. Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. ____ . GUIDANCE REGARDING USE OF ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE.

The Secretary of the Army shall maintain the arsenals with sufficient workloads to ensure affordability and technical competence in all critical capability areas by establishing, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, clear, step-by-step, prescriptive guidance on the process for conducting make-or-buy analyses, including the use of the organic industrial base.

SA 852. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. ____ . TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO AUTHORITY FOR RETURN OF CERTAIN LANDS AT FORT WINGATE, NEW MEXICO, TO ORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

Section 2829F(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 130 Stat. 2734) is amended by striking "titled 'The Fort Wingate Depot Activity Negotiated Property Division April 2016'" and inserting "titled 'Final Agreement Map Between Navajo Nation and Pueblo of Zuni', dated March 2016,".

SA 853. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED EXPORTS OF DEFENSE ARTICLES FORMERLY INCLUDED ON UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.

Any license to export a defense article on the Commerce Control List that was controlled for export on the United States Munitions List (USML) maintained pursuant to part 121 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations as of January 1, 2017, shall be subject to the provisions of section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776) regarding notification and review by Congress (and including all current procedures for consultation) if the authorized value of such license

would meet or exceed the value thresholds applicable under such section to defense articles listed on the USML.

SA 854. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end title XII of division A, add the following:

Subtitle H—Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017”.

SEC. 1292. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On March 17, 2016, Secretary of State John Kerry stated, “in my judgment, Daesh is responsible for genocide against groups in areas under its control, including Yazidis, Christians, and Shia Muslims . . . the United States will strongly support efforts to collect, document, preserve, and analyze the evidence of atrocities, and we will do all we can to see that the perpetrators are held accountable”.

(2) Secretary of State Kerry stated in the “Atrocities Prevention Report”, transmitted to Congress on March 17, 2016, “The Department of State has a longstanding commitment to providing support for the urgent humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations in Iraq, Syria, and across the world, including but not limited to members of ethnic and religious minorities.”

(3) The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic stated in its February 3, 2016, report, “The Government has committed the crimes against humanity of extermination, murder, rape or other forms of sexual violence, torture, imprisonment, enforced disappearance and other inhuman acts. Based on the same conduct, war crimes have also been committed. Both Jabhat Al-Nusra and some anti-Government armed groups have committed the war crimes of murder, cruel treatment, and torture.”

(4) The International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program and the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training of the Department of Justice have provided technical assistance to governmental judicial and law enforcement entities in Iraq, including with funding support from the Department of State.

(5) There were an estimated 800,000 to 1,400,000 Christians in Iraq in 2002, 500,000 in 2013, and less than 250,000 in 2015, according to the annual International Religious Freedom Reports of the Department of State.

(6) Although Christians were an estimated 8 to 10 percent of the 21,000,000 person population of Syria in 2010, “media and other reports of Christians fleeing the country as a result of the civil war suggest the Christian population is now considerably lower” as of 2015, according to the annual International Religious Freedom Reports of the Department of State.

(7) The Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil (Iraq) is an example of an entity that has not received funding from any govern-

ment and has been providing assistance to internally displaced families of Yazidis, Muslims, and Christians, including food, resettlement from tents to permanent housing, and rent for Yazidis, medical care and education for Yazidis and Muslims through clinics, schools, and a university that are open to all, and some form of these types of assistance to all of the estimated 10,500 internally displaced Christian families, more than 70,000 people, in the greater Erbil region.

(8) Through the United States Refugee Admissions Program, the United States Government—

(A) admitted 12,676 Iraqi refugees in fiscal year 2015, including at least 2,113 Christians and 213 Yazidis;

(B) admitted 9,880 Iraqi refugees in fiscal year 2016, including at least 1,524 Christians and 393 Yazidis;

(C) admitted 1,682 Syrian refugees in fiscal year 2015, including at least 30 Christians; and

(D) admitted 12,587 Syrian refugees in fiscal year 2016, including at least 64 Christians and 24 Yazidis.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

(1) strongly condemns—

(A) the ongoing violence, use of chemical weapons, targeting of civilian populations with barrel, incendiary, and cluster bombs and SCUD missiles, and systematic gross human rights violations carried out by the Government of Syria and pro-government forces under the direction of President Bashar al-Assad; and

(B) all abuses committed by violent extremist groups and other combatants involved in the civil war in Syria;

(2) expresses its support for the people of Syria seeking democratic change;

(3) urges all parties to the conflict—

(A) to immediately halt indiscriminate attacks on civilians;

(B) to allow for the delivery of humanitarian and medical assistance; and

(C) to end sieges of civilian populations;

(4) calls on the President to support efforts in Syria, and on the part of the international community, to ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed during the conflict; and

(5) supports the request in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), and 2191 (2014) for the Secretary-General to regularly report to the Security Council on implementation on the resolutions, including of paragraph 2 of Resolution 2139, which “demands that all parties immediately put an end to all forms of violence [and] cease and desist from all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights”.

SEC. 1293. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CAPACITY-BUILDING.—The term “capacity-building”, with respect to cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and terrorism in Iraq or Syria, means developing domestic skills to efficiently adjudicate such cases, consistent with due process and respect for the rule of law, through

the use of experts in international criminal investigations and experts in international criminal law to partner with, mentor, provide technical advice for, formally train, and provide equipment and infrastructure where necessary and appropriate to, investigators and judicial personnel in Iraq, including the Kurdistan region of Iraq, and domestic investigators and lawyers in Syria.

(3) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term “foreign terrorist organization” mean an organization designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).

(4) GENOCIDE.—The term “genocide” means any offense described in section 1091(a) of title 18, United States Code.

(5) HUMANITARIAN, STABILIZATION, AND RECOVERY NEEDS.—The term “humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs”, with respect to an individual, includes water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, nutrition, shelter, housing, medical, education, and psychosocial needs.

(6) HYBRID TRIBUNAL.—The term “hybrid tribunal” means a temporary criminal tribunal that involves a combination of domestic and international lawyers, judges, and other professionals to prosecute individuals suspected of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide.

(7) INTERNATIONALIZED DOMESTIC COURT.—The term “internationalized domestic court” means a domestic court with the support of international advisers.

(8) TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE.—The term “transitional justice” means the range of judicial, nonjudicial, formal, informal, retributive, and restorative measures employed by countries transitioning out of armed conflict or repressive regimes—

(A) to redress legacies of atrocities; and

(B) to promote long-term, sustainable peace.

(9) WAR CRIME.—The term “war crime” has the meaning given the term in section 2441(c) of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 1294. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY IN IRAQ FOR ACTS OF GENOCIDE, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND WAR CRIMES.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT CERTAIN ENTITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall provide assistance, including financial assistance, to support the efforts of entities, including non-governmental organizations with expertise in international criminal investigations and law, to undertake the activities described in paragraph (2) to address genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes in Iraq since January 2014.

(2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities described in this paragraph are—

(A) conducting criminal investigations;

(B) developing indigenous investigative and judicial skills, including by partnering directly, mentoring, and providing equipment and infrastructure for effectively adjudicating cases consistent with the due process of law;

(C) collecting and preserving evidence;

(D) preserving the chain of evidence for prosecution in domestic courts, hybrid tribunals, and internationalized domestic courts; and

(E) capacity building.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for programs, projects, and

activities carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs are authorized to be made available to carry out this subsection.

(b) **ACTIONS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall encourage governments of foreign countries—

(1) to include information in appropriate security databases and security screening procedures of such countries to identify individuals who are suspected to have committed genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes in Iraq since January 2014 or in Syria since March 2011, including individuals who are suspected to be members of foreign terrorist organizations operating within Iraq or Syria; and

(2) to prosecute individuals described in paragraph (1) for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, as appropriate.

(c) **REVIEW OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL STATUTES.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall conduct a review of existing criminal statutes concerning genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes to determine—

(1) the extent to which United States courts are currently authorized by statute to exercise jurisdiction over such crimes where the direct perpetrators, accomplices, or victims are United States nationals, United States residents, or persons physically present in the territory of the United States either during the commission of the crime or subsequent to the commission of the crime;

(2) the statutes currently in effect that would apply to conduct constituting war crimes or crimes against humanity, including—

(A) whether such statutes provide for extraterritorial jurisdiction;

(B) the statute of limitations for offenses under such statutes;

(C) the applicable penalties under such statutes; and

(D) whether offenders would be subject to extradition or mutual legal assistance treaties;

(3) the extent to which the absence of criminal statutes defining the crimes, or granting jurisdiction, would impede the prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in United States courts, including when United States military forces capture persons outside the United States who are known to have committed such crimes in a third country that is either unable or unwilling to prosecute the crimes; and

(4) whether additional statutory authorities are necessary to prosecute a United States person or a foreign person within the territory of the United States for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes.

(d) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with, and consider credible information from, entities described in subsection (a)(1).

(e) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that an appropriate amount of the additional amount made available under the heading “Economic Support Fund” in title II of division B of the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-254) should be made available to carry out subsection (a).

SEC. 1295. IDENTIFICATION OF, AND ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS, HUMANITARIAN, STABILIZATION, AND RECOVERY NEEDS OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of

Defense, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, the Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia, the Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall identify—

(1) the threats of persecution and other warning signs of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes against individuals—

(A) who—

(i) are or were nationals and residents of Iraq or of Syria; and

(ii) are members of a religious, ethnic, or other minority group in Iraq or in Syria against which the Secretary of State has determined the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has committed genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes in Iraq or in Syria since January 2014; or

(B) who are members of another religious, ethnic, or other minority group in Iraq or in Syria that has been identified by the Secretary of State (or the Secretary’s designee) as a persecuted group;

(2) the humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs of individuals described in paragraph (1);

(3) the religious, ethnic, and other minority groups in Iraq and in Syria—

(A) against which the Secretary of State has determined ISIS has committed genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes in Iraq or in Syria since January 2014; or

(B) that the Secretary of State (or the Secretary’s designee) has identified as a persecuted group at risk of forced migration, within or across the borders of Iraq, Syria, or a country of first asylum, and the primary reasons for such risk;

(4) the assistance provided by the United States to address humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs of individuals described in paragraph (1) and groups described in paragraph (3), including assistance to mitigate the risks of forced migration of such persons and groups from Iraq or from Syria;

(5) the mechanisms used by the United States Government to identify, assess, and respond to humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs, and risks of forced migration, of individuals described in paragraph (1) and groups described in paragraph (3);

(6) the assistance provided by or through the United Nations, including the Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization and the Funding Facility for Expanded Stabilization, to address humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs of individuals described in paragraph (1) and groups described in paragraph (3), including assistance to mitigate the risks of forced migration of such individuals and groups within or across the borders of Iraq, Syria, or a country of first asylum from Iraq or from Syria;

(7) the entities, including faith-based entities, that are providing assistance to address humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs of individuals described in paragraph (1) and groups described in paragraph (3); and

(8) if the United States Government is funding entities described in paragraph (7) for purposes of providing assistance described in such paragraph, the sources of such funding; and

(9) if the United States Government is not funding entities described in paragraph (7) for purposes of providing assistance described in such paragraph, a justification for not funding such entities, including whether funding such entities is prohibited under United States law.

(b) **ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of State

shall consult with, and consider credible information from, individuals described in subsection (a)(1) and entities described in subsection (a)(7).

(c) **ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of State and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall provide assistance, including cash assistance, to support entities described in subsection (a)(7) that the Secretary and the Administrator determine are effectively providing assistance described in subsection (a)(7), including entities that received funding from the United States Government for such purposes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that an appropriate amount of the additional amount made available under the heading “Economic Support Fund” in title II of division B of the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-254) should be made available to carry out subsection (c).

SEC. 1296. REPORTS.

(a) **ASSISTANCE FOR PERSECUTED MINORITIES IN IRAQ OR IN SYRIA.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a detailed description of—

(1) the efforts taken, and proposed to be taken, by the Secretary of State to implement section 1295; and

(2) the matters identified under section 1295(a).

(b) **SUPPORT FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMES.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) a detailed description of the efforts taken, and efforts proposed to be taken, by the Secretary of State to implement subsections (a) and (b) of section 1294; and

(2) an assessment of—

(A) the feasibility and advisability of prosecuting individuals who are suspected to have committed genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes in Iraq since January 2014, or in Syria since March 2011, in domestic courts in Iraq, hybrid tribunals, and internationalized domestic courts; and

(B) the capacity building, and other measures, needed to ensure effective criminal investigations of such individuals.

(c) **CRIMINAL STATUTE REVIEW.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) the results of the review conducted under section 1294(c); and

(2) such recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to implement the results of such review as the Attorney General determines appropriate.

(d) **REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND GENOCIDE IN SYRIA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall submit a report on war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Syria to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and another such report not later than 180 days after the Secretary of State determines that the violence in Syria has ceased.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The reports submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated during the civil war in Syria, including—

(i) incidents that may constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad and all forces fighting on its behalf;

(ii) incidents that may constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed by violent extremist groups, anti-government forces, and any other combatants in the conflict;

(iii) any incidents that may violate the principle of medical neutrality and, if possible, the identification of the individual or individuals who engaged in or organized such incidents; and

(iv) if possible, a description of the conventional and unconventional weapons used for such crimes and the origins of such weapons; and

(B) a description and assessment by the Department of State Office of Global Criminal Justice, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Justice, and other appropriate agencies of programs that the United States Government has undertaken to ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated against the people of Syria by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, violent extremist groups, and other combatants involved in the conflict, including programs—

(i) to train investigators within and outside of Syria on how to document, investigate, develop findings of, and identify and locate alleged perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide, including—

(I) the number of United States Government or contract personnel currently designated to work full-time on these issues; and

(II) the identification of the authorities and appropriations being used to support such training efforts;

(ii) to promote and prepare for a transitional justice process or processes for the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Syria beginning in March 2011;

(iii) to document, collect, preserve, and protect evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Syria, including support for Syrian, foreign, and international nongovernmental organizations, and other entities, including the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic; and

(iv) to assess the influence of accountability measures on efforts to reach a negotiated settlement to the Syrian conflict during the reporting period.

(3) FORM.—The reports required under paragraph (1) may be submitted in unclassified or classified form, but shall include a publicly available annex.

(e) TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State (acting through appropriate officials and offices, which may include the Office of Global Criminal Justice), after consultation with the Department of Justice, the United States Agency for International Development, and other appropriate Federal agencies, shall—

(1) complete a study of the feasibility and desirability of potential transitional justice mechanisms for Syria, including a hybrid tribunal, to address war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated in Syria beginning in March 2011; and

(2) submit a detailed report of the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1), including recommendations on which transitional justice mechanisms the United States Government should support, why such mechanisms should be supported, and what type of support should be offered, to—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) FORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d)(3), each report required under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex, if necessary.

(2) PROTECTION OF WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of State shall take due care to ensure that the identification of witnesses and physical evidence are not publicly disclosed in a manner that might place such persons at risk of harm or encourage the destruction of evidence by the Government of Syria, violent extremist groups, anti-government forces, or any other combatants or participants in the conflict.

SEC. 1297. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State (acting through appropriate officials and offices, which may include the Office of Global Criminal Justice), after consultation with the Department of Justice and other appropriate Federal agencies, is authorized to provide appropriate assistance to support entities that, with respect to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide perpetrated by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, all forces fighting on its behalf, and all non-state armed groups fighting in the country, including violent extremist groups in Syria beginning in March 2011—

(1) identify suspected perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide;

(2) collect, document, and protect evidence of crimes and preserve the chain of custody for such evidence;

(3) conduct criminal investigations;

(4) build Syria's investigative and judicial capacities and support prosecutions in the domestic courts of Syria, provided that President Bashar al-Assad is no longer in power;

(5) support investigations by third-party states, as appropriate; or

(6) protect witnesses that may be helpful to prosecutions or other transitional justice mechanisms.

(b) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, after consultation with appropriate Federal agencies and the appropriate congressional committees, and taking into account the findings of the transitional justice study required under section 1296(e), is authorized to provide assistance to support the creation and operation of transitional justice mechanisms, including a potential hybrid tribunal, to prosecute individuals suspected of committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide in Syria beginning in March 2011.

(c) BRIEFING.—The Secretary of State shall provide detailed, biannual briefings to the appropriate congressional committees describing the assistance provided to entities described in subsection (a).

SEC. 1298. STATE DEPARTMENT REWARDS FOR JUSTICE PROGRAM.

Section 36(b)(10) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)(10)) is amended by inserting “(includ-

ing war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed in Syria beginning in March 2011)” after “genocide”.

SEC. 1299. INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

The Secretary of State, acting through the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, should use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to advocate that the United Nations Human Rights Council, while the United States remains a member, annually extend the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic until the Commission has completed its investigation of all alleged violations of international human rights laws beginning in March 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an executive session to vote on the following nominations: Mr. Joseph Otting, of Nevada, to be Comptroller of the Currency; and the honorable Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a member of the board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; reappointment as a supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and to vote on S. 1463. Following the executive session, the Committee will meet in open session for a hearing entitled, “Evaluating Sanctions Enforcement and Policy Option on North Korea.”

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Health Care: Issues Impacting Cost and Coverage.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled “Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual

Insurance Market for 2018: Governors'' on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 9 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 7, 2017, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Thursday, September 7, 2017 from 2 p.m. in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a Closed Member Business Meeting followed by a Closed Briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 10 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Cutting Through the Red Tape: Oversight of Federal Infrastructure Permitting and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 1 request for a committee to meeting during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meeting during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 7, 2017, during the first scheduled vote on the Senate Floor, tentatively scheduled to occur at 12:30 p.m., in S-216, The President's Room, United States Capitol resume considering favorably reporting pending nominations.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that George Delong, a member of my staff, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to Blake Seitz, a member of my staff.

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

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 601

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 601.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion 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 concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 69, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 69) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 69) was agreed to.

CHILDREN OF FALLEN HEROES SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 597 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. 597) to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes.

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.

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 597) was passed, as follows:

S. 597

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 "Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship Act".

SEC. 2. CALCULATION OF ELIGIBILITY.

Section 473(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087mm(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "(in the case of a student who meets the requirement of subparagraph (B)(i)), or academic year 2017–2018 (in the case of a student who meets the requirement of subparagraph (B)(ii)), after "academic year 2009–2010"; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

"(B) whose parent or guardian was—

"(i) a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001; or

"(ii) actively serving as a public safety officer and died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer; and";

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking "Notwithstanding" and inserting the following:

"(A) ARMED FORCES.—Notwithstanding";

(B) by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "subparagraphs (A), (B)(i), and (C) of paragraph (2)"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unless the Secretary establishes an alternate method to adjust the expected family contribution, for each student who meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B)(ii), and (C) of paragraph (2), a financial aid administrator shall—

"(i) verify with the student that the student is eligible for the adjustment;

"(ii) adjust the expected family contribution in accordance with this subsection; and

"(iii) notify the Secretary of the adjustment and the student's eligibility for the adjustment."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) TREATMENT OF PELL AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding section 1212 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796d-1), in the case of a student who receives an increased Federal Pell Grant amount under this section, the total amount of such Federal Pell Grant, including the increase under this subsection, shall not be considered in calculating that student's educational assistance benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program under subpart 2 of part L of title I of such Act.

"(5) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'public safety officer' means—

"(A) a public safety officer, as defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b); or

"(B) a fire police officer, defined as an individual who—

“(i) is serving in accordance with State or local law as an officially recognized or designated member of a legally organized public safety agency;

“(ii) is not a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a chaplain, or a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew; and

“(iii) provides scene security or directs traffic—

“(I) in response to any fire drill, fire call, or other fire, rescue, or police emergency; or

“(II) at a planned special event.”.

SEC. 3. CALCULATION OF PELL GRANT AMOUNT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “The Amount” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (C), the amount”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) In the case of a student who meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B)(ii), and (C) of section 473(b)(2)—

“(i) clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be applied by substituting ‘from the amounts appropriated in the last enacted appropriation Act applicable to that award year, an amount equal to the amount of the increase calculated under paragraph (7)(B) for that year’ for ‘the amount of the increase calculated under paragraph (7)(B) for that year’; and

“(ii) such student—

“(I) shall be provided an amount under clause (i) of this subparagraph only to the extent that funds are specifically provided in advance in an appropriation Act to such students for that award year; and

“(II) shall not be eligible for the amounts made available pursuant to clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (7)(B).”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A student who is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the academic year for which the determination is made, whose parent or guardian was actively serving as a public safety officer and died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer, and who, at the time of the parent or guardian’s death, was less than 24 years of age, or enrolled at an institution of higher education on a part-time or full-time basis shall receive a calculation of a Federal Pell Grant amount according to the amendment made by subsection (a) for the academic year only to the extent that funds are specifically provided in advance in an appropriation Act to such students for that award year.

SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1165 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. 1165) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, as the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 1165) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1165

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS VA MEDICAL CENTER IN HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Hershel ‘Woody’ Williams VA Medical Center”.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, September 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the Senate observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the lives lost in the attacks of September 11, 2001; further, that following the moment of silence, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2810, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2810 occur at 5:30 p.m., Monday.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BLUNT and Senator WHITEHOUSE.

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

The Senator from Missouri.

INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE RESEARCH

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I come to you after we have been able to pass out of the Appropriations Committee the bill to fund the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education. I want to talk particularly about what happened in that funding, which is now out of committee and ready for the full Senate to act on it and then the Congress to act on it, as it relates to healthcare research.

We were able in our committee to have a bipartisan bill. I had a chance to begin to chair that committee 3 years ago. Senator MURRAY from Washington State is the leading Democrat on that committee. For the previous 6 years—the previous 5 years plus that first budget for which I was the chair—we weren’t able to have a bipartisan bill. But the last 2 years, we have decided that we could figure out how to come together with this committee that actually appropriates about 30 percent of all the appropriated dollars that the Congress deals with and find a way to move forward in a bipartisan way. Certainly, Senator MURRAY is an important part of that partnership, and we were able to take our bill to the committee today.

Maybe the thing that we did that will have the most long-term significance in that bill was that, for the third year in a row, we were able to increase healthcare research at the National Institutes of Health. Now, for the 12 years that ended 3 years ago, there had been zero increase in healthcare research in this country.

Research, whether it is ag research or health research or other research, is one of the things that the government has done for a long time and can really commit itself to in ways that the private sector cannot. So when you begin to hold back the healthcare research here, not only do people not have the same potential they have to have their health challenges met and their family health challenges met, but we also hold back our ability to move forward with lifesaving cures and lifesaving practices in an economy where that makes a difference and in a world where these things are changing quickly.

So just 3 years ago, the people who run the National Institutes of Health and researchers around the country said that, having had no increase in a dozen years, they were basically 22 percent behind where they had been 12 years earlier in just research buying power. Young researchers were leaving the field of research because they were

really disadvantaged in a world where research dollars were effectively going down and people who had had successful research before had a much better chance to know how to get and then to be awarded a grant that young researchers weren't getting.

So 2 years ago, last year, and again today—2 years ago and last year, successfully—the Congress said: Now we are going to make a substantial increase to healthcare research. It was \$2 billion each of those 2 years, which was about a 6.6-percent increase in healthcare research. Today we proposed another \$2 billion, and just like the previous 2 years, we really had no new money. So we had to figure out how to prioritize, eliminating programs. I think over the 3 years we have now eliminated over 30 programs that just simply weren't performing well or performing well enough to be a priority.

As the Presiding Officer and I have talked about before, when everything is a priority, nothing is really a priority. So we decided this is one of our priorities, and probably, we can safely suggest, a top priority for this committee now over the last 3 years. So we have gone from a 22-percent decline to where we are almost caught up to where the country was 15 years ago, in terms of buying power, with about a 20-percent increase in this one account in three budgets.

Again, I think it is important for us and the taxpayers to understand we did that because other things were carefully looked at and either had their amounts reduced or had their programs eliminated so we could look at the health research. In that 12-year period of time, there had been such a decline in commitment to health research that often the health research projects that were funded weren't funded in a way that allowed them to have success. At some Institutes at NIH, the success ratio was as low as 9 percent, and even when you are looking at everything, 9 percent is, frankly, too low.

I hope we are going to see some real breakthroughs as a part of that research. One of the areas that has been a part of that research has been the investment in Alzheimer's research. Every 68 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's, and this is a disease that not only impacts in a dramatic way the person who has it but arguably impacts, in at least as dramatic a way, the people who care about them and do all they can to care for them. It is the most expensive disease in America. As our population gets older, more and more people get into that age realm where if something doesn't change, they are going to have Alzheimer's too.

Right now we are spending right at 250 billion tax dollars every year on Alzheimer's-related care. That is about half the defense budget. The estimate for 2050 is that if something doesn't change, we will be spending \$1.1 trillion of today's dollars on Alzheimer's-related care.

We talk about big numbers here, and it is easy to get confused. That is a lot or that is half of that—what does that really mean? Well, \$1.1 trillion is twice the defense budget. If you can get in your mind all we spend all over the world to defend the country, if we don't do something to change what is happening with Alzheimer's, we are going to be spending twice everything we spend to defend the country just on taxpayer-related Alzheimer's care.

The estimate on Alzheimer's, by the way, is that for every tax dollar spent on Alzheimer's, there are two private dollars spent and almost never covered by insurance. It has a dramatic impact on people, dramatic impact on their families, and a dramatic impact on taxpayers. We are spending about \$1 on Alzheimer's research right now for every \$125 we spend on Medicare and Medicaid. The biggest expenditure in those two funds of any disease is what we spend on Alzheimer's. Hopefully, we will see changes in that and begin to see things develop there.

Also, on the BRAIN Initiative, there has been nearly a 54-percent boost over last year's level in the BRAIN Initiative. The BRAIN Initiative, as part of the 21st Century Cures legislation we voted for, is really developing a more complete understanding of brain function. It has the possibility of helping millions of people who suffer from a wide variety of neurological challenges, psychiatric and behavioral disorders, diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and traumatic brain injuries in addition to that. It is all part of what we can look at as part of the BRAIN Initiative for psychiatric disorders.

Remember, the estimate is that one out of every four adult Americans has a diagnosable and almost always treatable behavioral health issue. If you know that issue, if you know how the brain works in a better way, the treatment may be easier, better, more effective, and more long-term than it is now.

The National Cancer Institute is looking at the Precision Medicine Initiative. This is where we utilize all we know now about the human genome and about environmental and lifestyle data to see if we can come up with solutions. Genomically, we didn't know any of this a generation ago, but with the human genome, now that we know what we know, we can look at how we individually are different than everybody else. There is a great feeling that in many cancers, there is a unique cancer-fighting agent for that unique cancer in you, but what you need to do is amp up that cancer-fighting agent. The Federal Drug Administration just last week approved the first T cell-amping treatment that would do that.

Senator TOOMEY and I went 2 years ago to the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and saw the work that Dr. Carl June was doing, the groundbreaking work on leukemia. Again, he was amping up that fighting

cell in patients whom everybody else had given up on and had great success and caused great optimism about what can happen there.

Dr. Tim Eberlein, director of the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis, testified before our subcommittee on the critical role of Federal support for looking at these kinds of things and seeing what can happen to make a difference.

He shared a story of one of his colleagues, Dr. Lukas Wartman, an oncologist and leukemia survivor, who had a relapse while, fortunately for him, he was a fellow at Washington University. Research performed a detailed analysis of Dr. Wartman's cancer genome profile. They identified an existing drug typically used to treat a different kind of cancer, but it targeted the kinds of genetic structures that Dr. Wartman had, and he is in remission. It enabled him to undergo a stem cell transplant. He is now continuing his work on behalf of other cancer patients.

Whether it is immunology—again, amping up of what you have to fight that unique challenge that you have, whether it is looking at the BRAIN Initiative, these are things that make a difference to families, they make a difference to taxpayers, they make a difference to our economy, and certainly we hope seeing the committee move forward today on what would be the third groundbreaking commitment by the Congress in recent years to make a difference here is an important thing.

I hope we get a chance to bring this bill so all the Senators get a chance, as our Members did today, to debate it, to amend it, but no matter what happens on the floor of the Senate, we will have a chance to talk to our colleagues in the House and, hopefully, once again, in the final appropriations bill this year, do what makes a difference.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUNT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here to deliver my "Time to Wake Up" speech, which I do every week that the Senate is in session. We have been out of session for a few weeks, so there is a fair amount to talk about that happened while we were gone.

One of the first things was a new study in my home State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island is a coastal State. We have considerable worries about sea level rise, and we have a State Coastal Resources Management Council that has done what is probably the best modeling anywhere in the country of

the effects of sea level rise and the risk of ocean storms on our shores. In conjunction with them, there has been a report from the Rhode Island Division of Planning—this is the State government—which has identified roads and bridges that are most likely to be underwater as the tides climb higher and as waves push farther inland.

The State's 10 roads most vulnerable to sea level rise are Hope Street in Bristol, which everybody knows—a beautiful, historical street; Memorial Boulevard in Newport; Wampanoag Trail in Barrington; Conanicus Avenue in Jamestown; North Road in Jamestown; County Road in Barrington; Beach Street in Narragansett; Main Street in Warren; and State Highway 24 South in Tiverton.

Throw in storm surge on top of sea level rise, and the 10 most vulnerable roads are County Road North in Barrington; Phillips Street in North Kingstown; America's Cup Avenue in Newport; Route 138 West onramp in Newport; Hope Street in Bristol; Highway 24 North in Portsmouth; Centerville Road in Warwick; Narragansett Avenue in Narragansett; Main Street in Warren; and Route 38 West in Jamestown.

The report goes on to identify the 10 bridges most vulnerable to sea level rise and the 10 bridges most vulnerable to a combination of sea level rise and storm surge.

Overall, Warwick, Narragansett, Newport, Barrington, and Providence are our top five municipalities most vulnerable to climate change-related road damage. So when I come to the floor to talk about this, this is not some hypothetical, liberal concern.

The Coastal Resources Management Council in my home State is predicting 9 vertical feet of sea level rise by the end of this century. As the Presiding Officer knows, Rhode Island is not a huge State. We don't have a lot to give back to the ocean. Nine feet of sea level rise is potentially catastrophic. And when my State Division of Planning is highlighting the roads and bridges that we are going to lose to sea level rise and to storm surge, don't expect me to sit idly by.

There is a larger context, of course, for all of this. I am pretty Rhode Island-centric, but, boy, are we seeing a lot going on.

Let's start off with what is going on out West. We have an extraordinary wildfire situation happening in the American West. I am reading a news story here:

Wildfires burned across hundreds of thousands of acres in the American and Canadian West this week, fueled by scorching temperatures that are breaking heat and fire records across the region.

In California, at least 15 cities have seen record-breaking heat. The State has experienced its hottest summer on record. San Francisco hit 106 degrees over the weekend, breaking its previous high ever by 3 full degrees.

By the end of the day Tuesday, there were at least 81 large fires blazing across 1.5 mil-

lion acres of the U.S. West, from Colorado, to California, and north to Washington.

"These unprecedented extreme events are exactly the types of events that are more likely due to the global warming that has already occurred," say the scientists.

Studies find that a warmed global atmosphere with increasingly clear human fingerprints will continue driving a potent mix of heat and dryness that is projected to escalate in the West.

The climate scientist at UCLA says: "That's not a future projection, but an observational reality, and that is something that we expect to increase in the future. When we get these extremes, there is a human fingerprint."

"The increased occurrence of severe heat and the role of global warming on the occurrence of severe heat, that is already happening," said a Stanford scientific researcher.

This is not a fluke.

Nine of the 10 worst fire seasons in the past 50 years have all happened since 2000. And 2015 was the worst fire s in U.S. history, surpassing 10 million acres burned for the first time ever recorded. So far this year, wildfires in the U.S. are at 7.8 million acres, but the fire season is far from over.

Researchers have shown that human-induced climate change accounted for about half the observed increase in fuel aridity, or forest dryness, that has been setting off these fires in the Western United States since 1979 and that this had nearly doubled the area of the U.S. West affected by forest fires since 1984.

The conclusion:

We know that global warming has already increased the probability of unprecedented high temperatures in the western U.S., including in California. And we know—

"We know," the scientists say—

with high confidence that continued global warming will continue to intensify those increases.

Last week in Montana, a 20-square-mile blaze burned the historic Sperry Chalet, a hotel and dining room built in 1914 only reachable by trail.

It had been there for more than 100 years, but this is the fire that burned it down. This means a lot out at Glacier National Park.

"It's hard to think about the magnitude of what's happened," the National Park Conservancy Executive Director Doug Mitchell said.

One of the western fires even jumped the Columbia River to burn across into Washington—the Eagle Creek fire.

As the news said, in Oregon's Columbia River Gorge, a blaze known as the Eagle Creek Fire has jumped the Columbia River and is inching into the State of Washington, creating dramatic and dangerous scenes.

Another news report called this a devastating summer in which an area larger than a certain State has burned.

I would hate to have Rhode Island be used as the unit of measure, but that is what they said: An area larger than Rhode Island has burned this summer. And they are looking not just at the loss of the Sperry Chalet but potentially losing Lake McDonald Lodge—"a

loss that would," says a historian who has worked at the lodge for years, "be unimaginably devastating."

"These are some of the most remarkable buildings anywhere in the United States and they are an integral part of the Glacier experience and the Glacier tradition."

They are either burned or at risk of burning.

If you are in those Western States, it is not just in the high, dry forests; if you go down to the oceans, climate change is whacking away at them too.

The Oregon and Washington razor clam fisheries are currently closed due to high levels of domoic acid. Domoic acid is a toxin that is produced by algae—the algae *Pseudo-nitzschia*—and algae are associated with climate change. For instance, a record-breaking red tide in 2015 was likely linked to climate change, and we are going to see a lot more of that in the future.

Now, of course, the dry part of what is happening in our climate has really been drowned out by what we are seeing on the wet part.

The New York Times recently ran an article saying:

Climate change doesn't cause extreme events, it amplifies them. On the climate side of risk, we have unambiguous evidence that the hazards are changing. Our emissions of heat-trapping gases have already increased the likelihood and severity of heat waves, extreme rainfalls, and storm surges. Scientists can now even evaluate how much climate change has increased the odds of individual extreme events, including rainfall and flooding. We certainly understand the mechanisms. Put simply, a warmer atmosphere can hold more water, increasing the potential for heavy downpours.

Storm surge now occurs on top of sea level rise, increasing flooding risks.

We know by the law of thermal expansion why the seas rise when they warm, and we have measured that they are warming with a very complicated device called the thermometer.

Warmer oceans in turn produce more intense hurricanes.

We know that as well, as has occurred in the North Atlantic and the gulf.

The article continues that "unprecedented is increasingly the norm," and it notes that "up to 8 feet of sea level rise is possible in this century."

Rhode Island is in a unique place, so we are riding higher than average, and we are looking at potentially 9 feet of sea level rise.

Harvey has been an astonishing monster of a storm. It was described in one article as 9 trillion gallons of water, a hydraulic cube over downtown Houston 4 miles square and 2 miles high. And then the author said: "The cube doubled to become the most extreme rain event in American history."

Harvey, by the way, is the third 500-year flood in the Houston area in the past 3 years. It dumped enough water in southeastern Texas to equal almost 20 times the daily discharge of the Mississippi River.

So while the wildfires are burning out West, this astonishing set of deluges is happening elsewhere.

Land temperatures, according to NOAA, were the hottest they have ever been in 1,651 months of recordkeeping. July also marked 384 months since the last colder-than-average month in NASA's database. So 384 months since we had a month that was colder than average, with July well warmer than average. The last 3 consecutive years—2014, 2015, and 2016—each set a new global record for warmth, according to NOAA.

Politico writes: "2016 confirmed as planet's hottest year," with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration documenting record-breaking global warming trends of 2016. The observed outcomes of swiftly rising temperatures include the highest sea levels ever recorded, extremes in rain cycles, and declines in global ice and snow cover, with last year the third in a row breaking global temperature records. "Several markers such as land and ocean temperatures, sea level and greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere broke records set just one year prior," the NOAA report said. "The long-term climate change is like riding up an escalator over time, and things like El Nino and La Nina are like jumping up and down on that escalator," one of the NOAA scientists said.

So that is what we are seeing—the underlying trend of climate change raising temperatures, with El Nino and La Nina creating a variation like jumping up and down on that escalator.

Greenhouse gas concentrations are now higher than ever recorded.

Global surface temperatures are the highest on record.

Sea levels are the highest they've ever been since record keeping began.

Precipitation cycles are becoming more extreme.

Antarctic sea ice levels are lower than ever recorded.

Alpine glaciers have declined for 37 consecutive years.

There were more tropical cyclones. . . .

Something is going on, and that well-known far-left liberal outlet, USA Today, had its editorial board say the following:

Could proof grow any more powerful that humanity is responsible for a dangerously warming planet?

It referenced the quadrennial National Climate Assessment:

Scientists from 13 federal agencies found that a rapid rise in temperature since the 1980s in the United States represents the warmest period in 1,500 years.

It quotes the report:

Many lines of evidence demonstrate that human activities, especially emission of greenhouse gases, are primarily responsible. There are no alternative explanations.

Do you hear that? "There are no alternative explanations," and it keeps coming down.

There was an article that came out while we were away on the great flood of 2016 in Louisiana: "The worst rainstorm in a rainy state's history," the article called it.

In some places, more than 2 feet of rain fell over three days. . . . Research has shown it was . . . clearly linked to climate change.

There were two separate teams of scientists that linked Louisiana's great flood with climate change, and the State's own meteorologist, a gentleman named Barry Keim, a professor at Louisiana State University, said that aspects of the August storm were consistent with climate change, and that both of the climate studies so far have shown it likely that climate change likely had its fingerprints on that Louisiana disaster.

Indeed, in Louisiana, the State is mounting a massive battle against rising seas as well as floods. Along the coast, "rising waters and escalating flood insurance rates," the article says, "will drive thousands of families further inland, the state predicts, leaving behind homes"—these families are leaving behind homes—"they have known for generations," leaving behind "places that have fundamentally shaped their identities."

One of the Louisianans living in the area in question said: "This is the first time that I can remember that a group came in and said it's not going to be all right."

But over the next two generations [flooding in Louisiana along the marshes and coastal] will happen at an alarming scale, as the twin challenges of sinking land and rising seas overtake ancestral homes at breakneck speed. In 50 years, the state estimates Terrebonne parish, whose name means "good earth" in the French that some of its residents still speak, will lose 41 percent of its land mass.

Areas are obviously going to lose their tax bases, the report says, "as rising waters and increasing flood insurance rates drive most locals out."

The Louisiana planners had a leg up, since the environmental changes here have been so swift that many residents have seen land lost in their own lifetimes.

When you are seeing it happen before your eyes, it is not so easy to deny it. Indeed, it is affecting local markets, and "new-gated communities advertise 'higher elevations' on bright [advertising] banners facing the highway."

In Louisiana:

What had been the worst-case scenario for land loss when the legislature passed its 2012 version of the master plan became the best-case scenario in the latest version, approved by the legislature in June, thanks to updated sea-level rise estimates.

So we are in Louisiana. We are in a Republican-controlled legislature, and they pass a master plan to address flooding in 2012. That master plan is based on a worst-case scenario. Just in the 5 years since then that worst-case scenario, the legislature has now updated that to become a best-case scenario, with the worst-case scenario far, far exceeding what they anticipated just as recently as 2012.

"Climate change and water management practices could significantly alter the magnitude and variability of extreme flooding events, causing flooding to become nonstationary," said the article, "Deciphering Deluges."

We have to come up with new ways on how to cope with sea level rise, off-

shore storms, major tropical storms, downpours, and riverine flooding.

Right now, our colleague BILL NELSON has left us this afternoon after the vote to go back down to Florida because Hurricane Irma is steaming toward his State. Hurricane Irma is the most powerful storm ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean. Experts say Irma's strength is the result of unusually warm water for that part of the Atlantic.

Guess what global warming does. It raises ocean temperatures. Do you know how much of the excess heat created has gone into the oceans? About 93 percent—virtually all of it. Thank goodness for the oceans. Without them, we would already be baking in climate change. So 93 percent went into the oceans, but, of course, that raises ocean temperatures, and on go the storms.

If Irma stays on the forecast track and reaches the Florida Straits, the water there is warm enough that the already intense storm could become much worse, with wind speeds potentially reaching 225 mph, warned Kerry Emanuel, an MIT meteorology professor.

"For the Florida Keys, if you were to create the worst case scenario, that is what we are looking at," Monroe County Emergency Operations Center Director Martin Senterfitt told CBS Miami.

Even Tropical Storm Emily some time ago dumped enough rain on Miami Beach—7 inches of rainfall over several hours—that the pumps meant to drain the area went offline for nearly an hour because the power was interrupted. The mayor, Tomas Regalado, used the flooding to make a case for a proposed \$400 million bond initiative to help pump the water out. We have infrastructure demands that come from this disaster as well.

A pretty good summary came, again, from an article in the New York Times, an editorial piece.

What is going on?

First, hurricanes arise from warm waters, and the Gulf of Mexico has warmed by two to four degrees Fahrenheit over the long-term average. The result is more intense storms.

"There is a general consensus that the frequency of high-category (3, 4, and 5) hurricanes should increase as the climate warms," Kerry Emmanuel, a hurricane expert at M.I.T., tells me.

Second, as the air warms, it holds more water vapor, so the storms dump more rain. That's why there's been a big increase in heavy downpours. Nine of the top 10 years for heavy downpours in the U.S. have occurred since 1990.

"Climate change played a role in intensifying the winds and rainfall associated with Hurricane Harvey," says Charles Greene, a climate scientist at Cornell.

Last year was the third in a row to set a record for highest global average surface temperature, according to NASA. The 10 years of greatest loss of sea ice are all in the last decade. Houston has suffered three "500-year floods" in the last 3 years.

So the author asks the question: Why can't we all respect scientists' predictions about our cooking of our only

planet? How is it that we don't listen to the scientists on this, particularly right here in this room, in this Chamber?

There are two very interesting articles that came out while we were away that addressed this. One is about a phony group called the Cooler Heads Coalition, whose job is to call climate science a hoax and denounce environmentalists as global warming alarmists. They write letters, blast out emails, pressure lawmakers, sponsor seminars, appear on television. They even made a documentary movie.

This article in the Washington Post told the story behind this coalition. Obviously, the coalition, this Cooler Heads crowd, is paid for. "The Cooler Heads have received more than \$11 million in donations over the years from coal and oil companies." Who knew? "They've taken in tens of millions from nonprofit foundations, such as those controlled by the wealthy Koch brothers. . . ." Guess what. There is more fossil fuel money. The Koch brothers run a fossil fuel empire.

The Cooler Heads Coalition . . . are allied with industry trade groups, public relations companies and lobbyists, all of whom are working to influence public debate about global warming.

Climate scientists said there is no doubt about the reality of climate change and its consequences, including melting polar ice caps, rising sea levels, and the intensification of storms.

Benjamin Santer is a scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We are pretty proud of our National Laboratories, and we usually don't think people who are there are idiots or are fooling us or are part of a hoax. Dr. Santer, by the way, also received a MacArthur Foundation Genius award. He told the Washington Post that this Cooler Heads outfit is "attempting to turn back the clock on knowledge and science."

The history of this is rooted in a complex influence campaign that began in support of tobacco. The tobacco plan foreshadowed the tactics that Cooler Heads members would soon employ on climate change.

First, there were millions in contributions from affected industries, often laundered through front groups and through foundations. "The same array of donors," the Washington Post reports, "would help finance charities behind" the fight against climate science.

They took the skills they learned, denying the health harms of tobacco, and moved that same technology of propaganda, influence, and politicking into climate change. The Competitive Enterprise Institute became the lead group in this Cooler Heads Coalition, taking over management of the coalition, joined by groups such as the Heartland Institute. The Heartland Institute is really a classy group. They are the ones that put up billboards comparing climate scientists to the Unabomber. That is the quality of debate we get out of the Heartland Institute.

Americans for Prosperity is another influential nonprofit organization, which is a front for—guess whom—the Koch brothers and Koch Industries; i.e., the fossil fuel industry. They got particularly cranked up by the Kyoto Protocol, and the story continues:

The energy industry went on a spending spree to thwart Kyoto, devoting at least \$13 million to public relations and information campaigns in 1997. . . . The Cooler Heads Coalition was in effect a loose confederation of groups with the declared mission of countering "the myths of global warming."

In early 1998, this Cooler Heads group met with energy industry executives and lobbyists in closed-door meetings at the American Petroleum Institute and began to soak up more money, and here is what the plan was. I am quoting from the story in the Post.

One former Cooler Heads member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of fear of a punitive backlash, said the coalition's mission . . . was to . . . simulate a "cacophony of voices" against climate-change science.

"There's a whole web," the former member said [out to do this].

The ExxonMobil Foundation, of course, had given millions to Cooler Heads members.

A 2009 IRS filing for the Competitive Enterprise Institute—the group that took over the coalition and managed it—inadvertently made public a filing that disclosed their funding from two coal mining companies, Ohio-based Murray Energy and Richmond-based Massey Energy.

"Contributions to CEI during the Obama administration rose to \$7.6 million in 2014." As the article continues, "CEI and the Cooler Heads were just the tip of the spear. . . . [B]etween 2003 and 2010, energy companies, corporations and conservative foundations contributed hundreds of millions to 91 nonprofit 'think tanks,' educational groups and associations involved in the fight against global-warming regulations."

To put it mildly, as the expert who chronicled this concluded, "This is a large-scale political effort."

We have one last report from inside that large-scale political effort. This is the firsthand voice of the individual. His name is Jerry Taylor. Here is what he says:

I used to be the number two person at the Cato Institute.

The Cato Institute is one of this constellation of rightwing groups that foment and support climate denial and receives money from fossil fuel interests.

He continues:

I was responsible for building our resistance to climate action. . . . I discovered that a lot of the scientific narratives I was offering were really dodgy. . . . [O]ne of the people that I trusted the most was in the business of consciously misrepresenting the debate. This really rattled me.

He goes on.

[O]nce I started looking closely at a lot of the convenient, plausible talking points I was offering they began to fall apart. [I then turned to look at] economic arguments.

He says:

This is pretty hard. It's a very difficult thing . . . to find that you cannot trust any of the scientists that are being offered to resist climate action.

This is the guy who used to lead the anti-climate action effort of the Cato Institute, saying it is a very difficult thing to find that you cannot trust any of the scientists who are being offered to resist climate action, and then the economists whom you have been relying on to put cautious remarks about cost-benefit are now all walking away from the game.

He goes on to say:

We got to the point . . . where you could not find an academic economist who studies climate change who argued against climate action—not one single one.

Here is his conclusion:

Believe it or not, libertarians and conservatives and Republicans were put on this earth with the perfect answer to climate change—harnessing markets and price signals via a carbon tax or a carbon tax-like mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emission. We're perfectly placed to do that.

[What is it that] keeps Republicans from coming to the conclusion that climate change doesn't just threaten polar bears in the Arctic, it threatens the global economy, it threatens capital flows, it threatens capitalism. . . . It's not the Republican base, let me tell you.

There is poll after poll, survey after survey showing that most Republicans believe in doing something about climate.

He continues:

What prevents Republican politicians from acting is that there are significant members in the Republican Party Coalition who are denialist demanders.

They are not just climate deniers themselves, they are denialist demanders.

They have outsized influence in the party.

He says:

[T]he Koch-controlled Tea Party movement [has] held the GOP by the throat.

By the way, if you were somebody who was trying to find some comfort in the widely reported phenomenon that 97 percent of climate scientists conclude the global warming is real and problematic for the planet and has been exacerbated by human activity, if you are comforting yourself that maybe the 3 percent were right, that the really smart place to place your bet for the future of the planet and our economy and our standing in the world is on those 3 percent—not take the 97 percent bet; no, take the 3-percent bet—if that is the way you are thinking, you got bad news.

Researchers tried to replicate the results of those 3 percent of papers. Guess what. They found biased, faulty results.

Katharine Hayhoe is an atmospheric scientist at Texas Tech University. She said this:

Every single one of those analyses had an error—in their assumptions, methodology, or analysis—that, when corrected, brought their results into line with the scientific consensus.

If you are hoping that 3 percent was somehow going to bail you out from having to face this crisis, that just blew up. There is no 3 percent.

Broadly, there were three main errors in the papers denying climate change. Many had cherry-picked the results . . . some that applied inappropriate “curve-fitting” [to try to step] away from data until the points matched the curve of their choosing.

This is my favorite.

Sometimes the papers just ignored physics altogether.

It has been quite a month with the West ablaze, Houston underwater, the most powerful storm ever measured in the Atlantic is headed our way, heat and rain and other measures breaking records year after year, multiple departments of governments aligning to warn us, and how does the Trump Administration respond?

The Energy department asked scientists to remove the word “climate change” from a grant proposal.

I have been asked to contact you to update the wording in your proposal abstract to remove words such as “global warming” or “climate change.”

Not just one fluke. In March, POLITICO reported as follows:

[T]hat staff at the Department of Energy . . . were told not to use the terms “climate change,” “emissions reduction” or “Paris Agreement.”

The Department put out a power grid study that has been long delayed, and in the power grid study, the words “climate change” never appeared. Wherever they were in earlier drafts, they got scrubbed. The only reference to climate is a reference to “rescinding energy and climate-related policies.”

The EPA has been scrubbing the word “climate change” from its website. It removed its climate change page and then got hammered with a series of Freedom of Information Act requests as to what is going on with that so they quickly scrambled and pub-

lished an archived version but buried it back in the website.

The Department of Interior has also removed discussions of the effects of global warming from several of its pages. The Department of Agriculture has emails showing how staff in their Natural Resources Conservation Service was coached by managers to avoid the term “climate change” and instead use other language.

That is where we are—all of those facts, the motive behind it, the fingerprints of the fossil fuel industry, the confessions by participants in those schemes. Where are we? In this room, silence. Nobody will talk about it because the power of the fossil fuel industry is so strong, the threats are so bloodcurdling that nobody dares. We cannot have a grownup, factual discussion about climate change in this building either. Of course, over in the Trump administration, they have completely thrown in the towel to the fossil fuel industry, and now we are hoping to dodge the problem by forbidding people from using the words “climate change.” It is pathetic.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 11.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:15 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 11, 2017, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

R. STAN BAKER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE WILLIAM T. MOORE, JR., RETIRED.
JEFFREY UHLMAN BEAVERSTOCK, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN

DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE CALLIE V. GRANADE, RETIRED.

RYAN WESLEY BOUNDS, OF OREGON, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE DIARMUID F. O'SCANNLAIN, RETIRED.

JOHN W. BROOMES, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS, VICE JOHN THOMAS MARTEN, RETIRED.

REBECCA GRADY JENNINGS, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY, VICE JOHN G. HEYBURN II, RETIRED.

TERRY FITZGERALD MOORER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE WILLIAM H. STEELE, RETIRED.

FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE GREGG JEFFREY COSTA, ELEVATED.

KAREN GREN SCHOLER, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE JORGE A. SOLIS, RETIRED.

BRETT JOSEPH TALLEY, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE MARK E. FULLER, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WILLIAM L. WEHRUM, OF DELAWARE, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE REGINA MCCARTHY, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

RAINEY R. BRANDT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE JUDITH NAN MACALUSO, RETIRED.

DEBORAH J. ISRAEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE MELVIN R. WRIGHT, RETIRED.

ELIZABETH L. BRANCH, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE FRANK M. HULL, RETIRED.

MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE MARY LOU ROBINSON, RETIRED.

GREGORY C. KATSAS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT, VICE JANICE R. BROWN, RETIRED.

EMILY COODY MARKS, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, VICE MYRON H. THOMPSON, RETIRED.

JEFFREY CARL MATEER, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE RICHARD A. SCHELL, RETIRED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 07, 2017:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN K. MULLER