

purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2188. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide protections for consumers after a data breach at a consumer reporting agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2189. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower and settlement of Plymouth Colony, the signing of the Mayflower Compact near Provincetown, and the role of the indigenous Wampanoag Tribes in the realization of the settlement; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 2190. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to remove a limitation on funding for emergency assistance for livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 2191. A bill to promote investments in renewable energy and consumer loans for residential solar energy systems; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 348. A resolution reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States of America and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and encouraging inclusive governance in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 115

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 115, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for an operation on a live donor for purposes of conducting a transplant procedure for a veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 856

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 856, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual assault, and for other purposes.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1295, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

S. 1901

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1901, a bill to require global economic and political pressure to support diplomatic denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, including through the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and any enablers of the activities of that Government, and to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

S. 2070

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2070, a bill to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

S. 2114

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2114, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 348—RE-AFFIRMING THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA AND ENCOURAGING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 348

Whereas the first pillar of the 2012 United States Strategy toward Sub-Saharan Africa is to strengthen democratic institutions;

Whereas the third pillar of the 2012 United States Strategy toward Sub-Saharan Africa is to advance peace and security;

Whereas Ethiopia is one of the top troop contributing countries to the United Nations' peacekeeping missions, providing over 8,000 soldiers to United Nations missions around the world;

Whereas Ethiopia has contributed over 4,000 troops to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM);

Whereas the Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with the United States Government, trained the National Army for Somalia, supported the fight against Al-Shabaab militants, and deployed its troops in support of regional protection force in South Sudan;

Whereas the close cooperation and strategic partnership between the United States of America and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been built on over a century of close cooperation and support;

Whereas the Government of Ethiopia continues to play a crucial role in Africa and specifically in East Africa, and the partnership in counterterrorism activities with the United States is vital for regional peace and stability;

Whereas the United States has welcomed Ethiopia's participation in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS;

Whereas the United States held a Strategic Dialogue with Ethiopia in Addis Ababa on July 27, 2015, during the visit by President Barack Obama to strengthen the bilateral relationship;

Whereas respect for democracy, inclusive governance, human rights, and civil liberties have been core pillars of United States foreign policy;

Whereas the Government of Ethiopia expressed its commitment to the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights by taking necessary measures to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan adopted by the House of Peoples Representative of the FDRE;

Whereas the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) conducted an independent and thorough investigation into the deaths and injuries caused during the protests in Ethiopia in 2016 and submitted its report with recommendations to the House of Peoples Representative of the FDRE; and

Whereas, on August 9, 2017, the Government of Ethiopia lifted a State of Emergency that had been imposed on October 9, 2016, to bring about peace and stability following violent protests that resulted in the destruction of government and personal property and the deaths of civilian and security officials: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States Government to support the Government of Ethiopia—

(A) to provide training and resources to counter terrorism and violent extremism and address security concerns in the Horn of Africa;

(B) to bolster trade and investment in the private sector between the United States and Ethiopia;

(C) to continue the support to strengthen higher education and promote health through the existing mechanisms;

(D) to continue the humanitarian assistance with the United States Agency for International Development to the people affected by the drought; and

(E) calls on the Secretary of State to engage with the Government of Ethiopia in strengthening the bilateral Working Group on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, and provide support in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan;

(2) condemns the violence that resulted in the death of over 500 Ethiopians;

(3) calls on the Government of Ethiopia—

(A) to hold accountable all personnel responsible for the death and destruction that took place as a result of violent protests in the Oromia and Amhara regions and publicly release information in a written report;

(B) to respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and guarantee freedom of the press and mass media in keeping with Articles 30 and 29 of the Ethiopian constitution; and

(C) to engage in open and transparent consultations relative to its development strategy, especially those strategies that could result in people's displacement from land, offering those displaced from their land the

right to seek remedy or redress in courts and providing a transparent means to access justice for those displaced;

(4) calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to continue to lead efforts to work with the Government of Ethiopia to improve democracy and governance; and

(5) calls on the United States Agency for International Development to assist the Government and people of Ethiopia in capacity building in all areas.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2017, IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 371.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 371) entitled "An Act to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017," do pass with an amendment.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 5; further, that following the prayer and pledge, 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; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Nielsen nomination; further, that at 12:30 p.m., the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postclosure on the Nielsen nomination.

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

#### TAKING OF OFFICIAL SENATE PHOTOGRAPH

Mr. McCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, the official Senate photograph will be taken tomorrow immediately following the conference lunches.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

#### S. 2155

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for recognizing me.

Last week, the Senate gave tax handouts to millionaires, billionaires, and multinational corporations that ship jobs overseas, and the middle class got almost nothing. This week, it is the banks' turn, and just like last week, working people get ignored again.

The bill the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee will take up tomorrow, S. 2155, puts taxpayers at risk of another bank bailout and puts homeowners at risk of the same traps that led to the foreclosure crisis, all while, again, doing virtually nothing for hard-working Americans.

While Congress has been preoccupied doing the bidding of special interest lobbyists, American families started getting notices in the mail that their Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, health insurance will be yanked away. There are 209,000 children in my State, the sons and daughters of low-income workers making 8, 10, or \$12 an hour and who don't have insurance. Having started bipartisan and having always been enacted and renewed in a bipartisan manner over the last 20 years, the CHIP program will be yanked away. Virginia will be next, then Ohio, and then other States where parents will go to their mailbox and open up a letter from the government saying: Sorry, your children's health insurance is gone.

The Senate is doing nothing to stop it. Instead this body, made up of Senators who have insurance paid for by taxpayers, devotes its energy to helping banks of all sizes that are making record profits. In the third quarter of this year, the five largest U.S. banks—just the five largest U.S. banks—raked in a combined \$21 billion in profits. In the third quarter only, the five banks have \$21 billion in profits. In fact, profits at the five biggest banks are even higher than they were before the crisis. Meanwhile working Americans haven't gotten a raise in 16 years.

I sat at my high school reunion in Mansfield, OH, about a year ago, with a woman who has been a teller at a large bank for 30 years. Her income, after 30 years at this bank, is \$30,000 a year. She is working for one of those largest five banks. Yet those banks, as I said, have \$21 billion in profits in the third quarter.

Forty-four million Americans are saddled with student loan debt. Communities are littered with abandoned homes and hollowed-out factories. Yet this bill has no help for Americans burdened with student loan debt, no help for homeowners still underwater, and no help for workers who haven't had a raise in years.

Congress, especially the Banking Committee, have a collective amnesia

about the financial crisis. It is like it didn't even happen 10 years ago. They have a collective amnesia about the housing crisis and the devastation it brought to families across the country. We know how many people lost jobs 10 years ago because of Wall Street's overreach. We know how many people lost their savings. We know how many people lost their homes. Families in Ohio don't have the luxury of this collective amnesia. Families don't have the luxury in my neighborhood of forgetting what happened 10 years ago because so many of them are still digging out.

We passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform legislation to protect those families and make sure a crisis like we saw 9 years doesn't happen again. Stress tests were put in place to ensure that banks could weather the next downturn without putting the economy at risk. According to the President's designee to be Chair of the Federal Reserve and according to so many others who understand these issues and understand banking, stress tests are one of the most effective tools we have to prevent taxpayers from being asked once again to bail out the banks.

This bill weakens stress tests for all large banks, which together took \$239 billion—that is \$239,000 million—in taxpayer bailouts last time. They are banks like JPMorgan Chase and other Wall Street megabanks that are designated as global systemically important banks—we call them G-SIBs around here—which means their collapse could cause harm that ripples throughout the world. It is not just the damage it does to Main Street in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Cleveland, or Toledo, but it would do damage to the economy all over the world. Without rigorous, annual stress tests, taxpayers could once again be on the hook if those too-big-to-fail banks collapse and we don't have the right tools in place to see it coming.

So I ask my fellow Senators: Are you willing to go back to your homes, are you willing to go back to your States and tell taxpayers you work for that you are willing to gamble another \$240 billion of their money on a bill like this? For some other large banks, those stress tests could be even easier under this bill. Make no mistake, these aren't small banks we are talking about, and I am not talking about the largest 10 banks. I am talking about the banks in more detail affected by this bill. Together these banks—about 30 of them—hold \$4 trillion in combined assets. That is \$4,000 billion in combined assets. That is more than one-quarter of all assets across the entire banking industry. Would you trust your family's health to a doctor who only passed a dumbed-down version of their board exams? Why would we trust the health of our economy to banks that only passed diluted weakened stress tests?

This bill doesn't stop at stress tests. It allows these same large banks to