

they were children. They have been law-abiding residents. They have learned English. They pay taxes. They have secured jobs that have supported themselves and their families. They were made a promise.

What are some of the numbers? Here is the economic impact in the context of one State in our country. In Pennsylvania alone, estimates say that ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program would cost the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania nearly \$357 million per year in GDP losses. This is according to the Center for American Progress. So, for one State, it is \$357 million. How about for the Nation? The comparable number for the Nation is about \$460 billion. The first number was with an “m”—millions—in the context of the State. The second number is \$460 billion, with a “b”—almost half a trillion dollars—from the GDP over the next decade. Roughly, in the context of a yearly number, it is \$46 billion a year.

Even if you don't think that we have to honor the promise, even if you don't believe in the program, why would we want to take a step that would hurt our economy in our losing about \$46 billion every year for 10 years, adding up to \$460 billion over 10 years?

According to FWD.us, 91 percent of DACA recipients are employed, and repealing DACA could result in an average of 8,500 DACA recipients—young people—losing their jobs each week as a result of that. There are 91 percent of them who are employed—working—in the United States of America. It is the country that promised them that if they came forward, we would give them protection. They are working every day, following the law, loving this country.

We have told them, at best, that their status or their fate is uncertain. That is the best that we can say about what has happened between the administration's making the announcement a number of months ago and Congress's doing nothing to address this problem.

DACA recipients have jobs in sectors that are critical to our economy, such as healthcare, science and technology, and engineering and math—so-called STEM jobs. Additionally, more than one out of every seven DACA-eligible immigrants has language skills that are currently in short supply in the U.S. military, according to the New American Economy. The U.S. military benefits when we have individuals residing in our country who have that skill in languages. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that the 1.3 million young people who are enrolled in or who are eligible for DACA pay \$2 billion each year in State and local taxes. So they are working, and they are paying taxes.

Dreamers across Pennsylvania and the Nation represent the America that we should all be proud of. I think everyone could agree to that in the work that they are doing and their commitment to our country. We should be

proud of that. This is a country in which hard-working young people who are working to better themselves and their communities are given a chance to do just that. That is the kind of country we all profess to believe in. That is the kind of Nation that we want to be.

Another estimate is that between September 5, 2017, when the program was terminated, and March 5, 2018, which is the deadline that is coming up, 122 DACA recipients will lose their protection every day. That means that by March 5 of 2018, 22,000 Dreamers will have lost their DACA protection.

Congress should move immediately—the U.S. Senate should move immediately—to make sure that we protect these Dreamers and pass the so-called bipartisan Dream Act. Here is what the bill would do in short form. It would allow the Dreamers to become permanent residents if they meet the very stringent qualifications outlined in the bill. We aren't talking about any kind of a free pass. These are young people who have worked so hard to become the very sort of Americans we want: employed, law-abiding, and paying taxes. The numbers of Dreamers in Pennsylvania are about 5,900 individuals who have been given DACA status. Passing the Dream Act would give these young people some security and a future they can count on.

I was proud to support a version of the Dream Act back in 2007 and 2010. We should have an up-or-down vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate that is a clean version of the Dream Act—not embedded in some other legislation—but an up-or-down vote on the Dream Act. Let's see where people stand. I would hope it would be an overwhelming vote. I think it probably would be. Let's have an up-or-down vote for these young people.

Let's keep the promise to these Dreamers so our promise is good here at home, and our promise and our word and our credibility will be good the world over because if we break that promise, it is going to be pretty difficult for people around the world to believe us on a whole host of fronts. I know that may offend somebody, but that is the way I see it.

Keeping a promise is the principal reason to pass the Dream Act, but we should also try to help our economy, not allow our economy to lose hundreds of billions of dollars over 10 years, tens of billions each and every year because we are deporting people who have offered so much to the country, who have worked so hard, who have become part of the fabric of American life, part of the fabric of the American family. These are folks who live in every community, who are part of the fabric of a neighborhood, part of the fabric of a community, part of the fabric of a school, part of the fabric of a State, and the fabric of a nation.

The third reason we should pass the Dream Act is to unite our country. This is one area where we can all come

together. We might have a lot of disagreements, and they will be played out this week on the tax bill, on this issue or that issue, but we can bring the country together. Most people in both parties understand what this is all about. They understand the promise, they understand the impact on our economy, and they also understand that a great country can make the right decision on this issue.

By uniting our country on the Dream Act, we can make a downpayment on a bright future for these young people who love the United States of America and who have demonstrated that by their commitment to the country, by their work ethic, and by the commitment they have made to their communities. Let's pass the Dream Act.

I yield the floor.

#### CONFIRMATION OF DON R. WILLET

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I opposed the nomination of Don Willet to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit. Senate Republicans, lacking a robust legislative agenda, despite unilateral control of the government, decided to confirm another highly controversial nominee.

Last week, Republicans confirmed three circuit court judges. In early November, Senate Republicans confirmed four judges in 1 week. This accelerated confirmation pace is unconventional and alarming. Republicans on the Judiciary Committee are willing to set aside decades of standing tradition and policies in order to confirm highly ideological judges who, in many cases, seem to have more of a political agenda than the impartial temperament necessary for the fair administration of justice.

This seat has been open for years because Senate Republicans refused to work with the Obama administration and agree upon a consensus mainstream nominee that reflects the views and opinions of the majority of Americans. Now that Republicans are in the majority and no longer need to obstruct the White House, they have decided to advance Judge Willet, a judge described as the “most conservative justice in Texas.”

Judge Willet was on Trump's Supreme Court short list which indicates that he met the Federalist Society's and the Heritage Foundation's ideological litmus test. This should concern all Americans, regardless of party affiliation. Our judicial system should not be outsourced to outside groups who want to stack the courts with judges who share their extreme political agenda.

Judge Willet has expressed insensitive views towards the LGBTQ community and skepticism that women face unique challenges in the work place, such as unequal pay and sexual harassment and discrimination. In light of the #MeToo movement and the countless women who have shared their stories of workplace sexual harassment,

Judge Willet's opinion is at best misinformed. I hope that Judge Willet's views have evolved since he wrote that opinion for then-Governor George W. Bush.

I also hope my colleagues will start to recognize that they are setting a dangerous precedent by turning the Senate into an assembly line for highly ideological judges who appear to be more aligned with a political agenda than the impartial administration of justice.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JONATHON MICHAEL HUNTER

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice of U.S. Army SGT Jonathon Michael Hunter of Columbus, IN. Dedication to his country, loyalty to his fellow servicemembers, and a deep love for his family were the qualities that defined Jonathon's life.

Jonathon graduated from Columbus East High School in 2011. While in high school, Jonathon played football for 4 years and was described by his coach as an unselfish player who put the team first. After high school, Jonathon pursued his dream of becoming a music producer in Nashville, TN, before enrolling at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, where he studied criminology and business. A selfless young man, Jonathon left college to join the Army.

In the Army, he was a member of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, NC. There he distinguished himself among his fellow soldiers as cheerful and a man of faith, who loved his country and fellow servicemembers. Jonathon enlisted in the Army because of his intense love for his country and wanted to make a difference in the lives of his fellow countrymen.

On Wednesday, August 2, 2017, Jonathon and one other American soldier were tragically killed in a suicide bombing attack on a NATO convoy in southern Afghanistan, a mere 32 days into his first deployment. Among some of the awards he earned for his service were a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, NATO Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. Jonathon was also a proud paratrooper who earned the German Parachutist Badge and was also an expert marksman.

Jonathon put his life on the line in order to protect his country, and we are forever grateful for his service.

Jonathon was a devoted patriot, son, and husband. He is survived and will be deeply missed by his wife, Whitney; his parents Mark Hunter of Columbus and Kimberly and Brian Thompson of Nashville, IN; his brother, Marcus Hunter; his sisters Lindsey—and her husband, Andy—England and Kelsey Thompson; his grandparents Jack and Linda Gilbert, Keith and Beulah Thompson, and Theola Hunter; as well as many rel-

atives, friends, his U.S. Army family, and Hoosiers from across our great State.

Jonathon set an example for others and will be remembered for his strong, selfless character and his drive to fight for justice and to make the world a better, more peaceful place. Let us remember and emulate the shining example this brave man set for us and honor his commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome Jonathon home and give comfort to his family.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MATTHEW W. TAYLOR

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Maj. Matthew W. Taylor, USAF, for his dedication to duty and service as an Air Force legislative fellow. Matt, a special operations pilot, was recently selected to be the assistant to the Vice Commander of the Special Operations Command, SOCOM, a post he will assume in January.

A native of Ohio, Matt received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Miami University and was commissioned as an officer following graduation. He earned his wings and qualified as an Air Force pilot following completion of undergraduate pilot training. Matt also has secured a master's degree in diplomacy from Norwich University.

Matt has served in a broad range of assignments during his career with the U.S. Air Force. He has served as the deputy commander of the 353rd Expeditionary Special Operations Group and as an MC-130P instructor pilot and flight commander of the 17th Special Operations Squadron. In addition to serving overseas in Europe, Asia, and Africa, Major Taylor has also been deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Matt's leadership has brought great credit to the Air Force. I appreciate and commend his commitment to continue to serve our Nation in an era when pilot shortages are a growing concern for U.S. military leaders.

This year, Matt was selected to be an Air Force congressional fellow assigned to my office. In this role, Matt has served the State of Mississippi and the Nation admirably. I have enjoyed the benefit of Matt's counsel over the past year, and my office has been privileged to host him.

It is a pleasure to recognize and to thank Maj. Matthew W. Taylor for his exceptional service to our country. My staff and I wish him, his wife, Kotona, and their son Bruce, all the best as they continue their journey in the U.S. Air Force.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO PAT ROURKE

• Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Pat Rourke for her

44 years of Federal service at the Boston Passport Agency. After serving in nearly every department within the agency, Pat will retire at the close of this year from her post as customer service manager.

Pat's expertise combined with her eagerness to assist the people of Massachusetts has been an invaluable resource to me and my staff. Throughout her esteemed career, she issued countless passports. Pat made the difference to families eager to explore the world and to those with an emergency need to travel. Working in customer service is not always an easy task, but Pat is widely known for her compassion, patience, and good humor. She has fostered an environment at the Boston Passport Agency where customers and employees feel welcome and supported. Pat has always provided my office with sound advice to ensure that we best meet the needs of our traveling constituents. While she will be sorely missed, she will leave a lasting legacy at the Boston Passport Agency, and she will be fondly remembered by all those she has helped and mentored throughout her career.

My staff and I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Pat for her years of dedicated service and wish her well as she embarks on this next chapter in her life. Congratulations, Pat, and thank you for the enormous contributions you have made to the community, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States of America.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

##### REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 3043), I have enclosed the National Security Strategy of the United States.

This National Security Strategy sets forth my guidance and direction for an America First foreign policy and charts a path to achieving the goals and objectives that will make America great again.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 18, 2017.