

(\$ in millions)

	2018				
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority					552,266
General Purpose Outlays					1,188,350
	OCO	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Total
Memorandum Detail of Adjustments Made Above:					
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	4,686	4,686
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0
General Purpose Outlays	0	0	0	803	803

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER STRANGE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my good friend and colleague from Alabama, Senator LUTHER STRANGE, prior to his departure from the U.S. Senate.

While LUTHER and I have worked closely together in the Senate, our friendship dates back nearly four decades. Over the years, I have had the privilege of not only getting to know LUTHER, but also getting to know his wife, Melissa, and his two sons, Luke and Keehn.

Even before LUTHER was appointed to the U.S. Senate, he and I worked alongside each other throughout much of our careers. When LUTHER was sworn in to fill Attorney General Sessions' seat, I was pleased to have him just down the hall from my office.

As soon as LUTHER was sworn into the Senate, he hit the ground running. His camaraderie, integrity, and great attitude did not go unnoticed. Another thing we all quickly observed about LUTHER in the Senate was his willingness to help in any situation. He was always the first to volunteer, whether the task be big or small. LUTHER is admired by Members on both sides of the aisle, which is rare in Washington. He has made a lot of friends in the Senate and has worked in a bipartisan fashion.

In addition to his work ethic and great attitude, LUTHER was able to accomplish an incredible amount legislatively in a short period of time. His successes include his work on the final National Defense Authorization Act conference negotiations, securing three littoral combat ships, his help in achieving the 51 votes needed to pass a once-in-a-generation tax reform package, and helping repeal Obamacare.

LUTHER's time in the Senate was cut too short. I would be remiss not to mention how much I, along with my Senate colleagues, have enjoyed his company.

I thank Senator STRANGE for his time and service both to Alabama and our Nation here in the Senate. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors, and I look forward to continuing our close friendship.

Thank you.

TAX REFORM BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week Congress sent the President a tax reform bill that will translate into real relief for American families.

I have spent a lot of time on the floor of the Senate talking about how this

bill will benefit these families in South Dakota and around the country.

Today I would like to take a few minutes to recognize the hard work of those Members and staff who made the legislative goal of tax reform a reality.

First, thank you to Senator Hatch for his leadership and members of the Finance Committee for a job well done.

Numerous hearings, member meetings, and a lot of compromise helped us get this bill to the finish line.

As a result, the contributions and priorities of each member of the Finance Committee and, frankly, those of the entire conference are reflected in the final product.

Having once served as a staffer here myself, I would like to recognize the many staff members who contributed to this product.

Mark Warren, who serves as my tax counsel, has put in countless hours on this legislation.

It has not been unusual over the last several months to find him in his office when I arrive at work before 7 a.m. and still at his desk late into the evening. With decades of experience, including time spent at the House Ways and Means Committee and at the Treasury Department, I and other members of the committee and conference relied heavily on Mark's intricate knowledge of tax policy as we crafted this legislation.

He worked very hard to help me advance priorities in this legislation including provisions benefiting small businesses, farmers, and ranchers. Thanks in no small part to his efforts, we successfully delivered a tax reform bill that will work for them. Time spent at the office is time away from family. I am grateful to both him and his family for his efforts.

I would also like to thank my legislative director, Jessica McBride, and my staff director, Brendon Plack. Brendon is a native of Madison, SD, and has been with my office for over 12 years. Jessica is a native of Miller, SD, and has been with my office for 8 years. Their work, advice, and counsel were invaluable as we moved this bill across the finish line.

I would also like to recognize a few other staff members for their hard work: Jay Khosla, Mark Prater, Jeff Wrase, Nick Wyatt, Matt Hoffman, Tony Coughlan, Eric Oman, Jen Acuna, Marty Pippins, Alex Monie, Preston Rutledge, Bryan Hickman, Brendan Dunn, and Monica Popp.

I would also like to recognize Senator Toomey's tax staff member,

Randy Herdon, Senator Portman's tax staffer, Zach Rudisill, and Senator Scott's tax staffer, Shay Hawkins.

I know many of them over the last few months were running on very little sleep and perhaps missing important events at home with family and friends in order to be here at work. Nevertheless, they were patient, thoughtful, and tireless in their efforts because they knew the work was important and the impact would be significant.

We have all benefited from their wise counsel and have a better product for it.

Early next year, this legislation is going to have a real impact on people's lives across this country. Their hard work and contributions helped make it possible. They all worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of the work you have done on behalf of the American people.

I thank them for their service, and congratulations on a job well done.

CONFIRMATION OF JAMES C. HO

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I wish to voice my disappointment that Mr. James Ho was confirmed to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit.

While at the Department of Justice, Mr. Ho wrote a memo that the George W. Bush administration used to greenlight the CIA's use of torture. Furthermore, Mr. Ho's comments on campaign finance reveal a common thread among Trump judicial nominees that I find particularly disturbing.

Mr. Ho argued that some of the detainees held by the U.S. at Guantanamo were not protected under the Geneva Convention. The memo Mr. Ho wrote allowed the CIA to use interrogation techniques banned by the Geneva Convention that caused the death of a detainee. The interrogation techniques Mr. Ho claimed were legal were ineffective and their use hidden from lawmakers. As my colleague Senator MCCAIN said when he introduced an amendment to reaffirm our government's prohibition on torture in 2015, "Our enemies act without conscience. We must not."

I am also deeply concerned by Mr. Ho's radical views on money in politics. Mr. Ho has said, "For truly radical but effective reform, we must reverse course and abolish all restrictions on campaign finance." The overwhelming majority of Americans, both Republicans and Democrats, disagree strongly with Mr. Ho and believe that