

22. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

23. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Slovakia.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES ACT OF 2018

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018, a bipartisan bill developed by House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairman SAM JOHNSON and Ranking Member JOHN LARSON. This bill updates the representative payee program by strengthening oversight and beneficiary protections, while improving payee selection and quality. As a true testament to Chairman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LARSON's bipartisan work, the bill passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously just before Congress adjourned in March.

Social Security's Representative Payment program provides financial management for the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income, SSI, payments of beneficiaries who are incapable of managing their Social Security or SSI payment. Today almost 6 million representative payees manage benefits on behalf of about 8 million Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients. Most often, the representative payee is a family member, like a spouse or a parent. When friends or family are not available to serve as payees, Social Security can use qualified organizations to be representative payees.

Most payees perform their duties responsibly and with care. Some do not, and stakeholders in this process have raised concerns. The Social Security Advisory Board, the National Academy of Sciences, the Government Accountability Office, and Social Security's inspector general have uncovered problems with current policy and ideas for improvement. It has been almost 15 years since the last significant change to the law in this area, and this bill makes several needed policy changes and common sense improvements.

The bill strengthens oversight of representative payees by requiring additional types of reviews of payee performance and draws on the expertise of each state to conduct the reviews. The bill reduces the burden on families by eliminating the requirement to file the annual accounting form for representative payees who are parents or spouses and are living with the beneficiary. The bill requires data exchanges between SSA and State foster care agencies to identify when there is a change

in status of a beneficiary in foster care and reassess whether the payee is appropriate. The bill allows new beneficiaries to make an advance payee designation. Finally, the bill codifies current policy that bars felons from serving as a payee and requires SSA to recheck all existing payees.

In 2016, my office was contacted by Lexie Gruber, a former foster youth from Connecticut. Lexie's story brought a human face to this issue and showed where the system had gone wrong. This young woman had recently aged out of foster care, graduated college at the top of her class, and moved to Washington, DC, for a new job, a success story that is unfortunately all too rare for children who have grown up in foster care. Lexie was working hard, but still struggled to afford living expenses in an expensive city while trying to work hard to save for law school. That was before the IRS notified her that the value of outstanding SSI overpayments were going to be withheld from her tax returns. This was outstanding debt she didn't know she had for benefits she never even got. To me, this is the definition of unjust. She had to contact Congress for help and since then has worked tirelessly to help ensure that other former foster youth aren't forced through her experience. This bill fixes this flaw in the system to ensure that youth aging out of care, struggling to make it on their own, aren't held liable for the mistakes of or misinformation from foster care agencies.

I thank Chairman JOHNSON, Ranking Member LARSON, and their staff for putting together this bipartisan bill. It is another example of what can be accomplished when working together.

HONORING DEPUTY JACOB PICKETT

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and sacrifice of Boone County Deputy Jacob Pickett of Zionsville, IN. His life was characterized by selflessness, dedication to his community, and a deep love for his family and faith.

Jake graduated from Brownsburg High School in 2002. He graduated from the Marion County Sheriff's Office Training Academy in 2010 and the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 2014. He was employed as a detention deputy with the Marion County Sheriff's Office for 3 years. After serving the Marion County Sheriff's Office, he served as a deputy at the Tipton County Sheriff's Department from 2013 to 2015. In 2015, he began his work in Boone County as a taser instructor, K-9 team leader, and a member of the Fraternal Order of Police No. 110. From the start, his colleagues say they knew he would be a great officer and that he was the one who would be there to help if anyone ever needed him.

Jake grew up with a kind heart, always standing up for those in need. He

was described by Rev. Steve Reeves, his little league coach and pastor who baptized him as a teenager, as someone who "had a kindness about him. He wanted to do well." His selflessness carried over into adulthood; whether it was serving in uniform, organizing a Christmas card drive, or volunteering to rescue animals, he continuously gave back to his community. Ultimately, Jake put his life on the line to protect the community he loves, and for his service, we are forever grateful.

The morning that he was killed, he was greeting students at Perry-Worth Elementary with his sidekick K-9, a German Shepherd named Brik. Those who knew Jake best said his love for Brik was unwavering, and he extended that love to his family and those in the community he worked to protect.

On Friday, March 2, 2018, Jake was fatally shot following a pursuit in Lebanon, IN. He was kept on life support for a few days, so that his life of service could continue through organ donation. After he was taken off life support, his heart was donated to a patient in need at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

A devoted and loving father and husband, he is survived by his wife, Jennifer Pickett, a teacher at White Lick Elementary School; his two sons; parents Marlin and Rebecca Pickett; sister Kristi M. Woo; niece Hannah N. Woo; parents-in-law Jon and Carol Lindstrom; brothers-in-law Jeremy Lindstrom and Christopher Lindstrom; his faithful K-9 partner Brik; and many other relatives and friends. Jake went above and beyond for his children, and it was well known that the happiest day of his life was when he became a father. He was often seen giving his sons rides around the yard on the lawnmower for fun, and he will be remembered by his loving spirit.

Jake set an example for others and will be remembered for his love for his family, his faith in God, and his bravery. Let us remember and emulate the example this man set for us and honor his commitment to serving his fellow citizens.

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

RECOGNIZING NAPERVILLE RESPONDS TO OUR VETERANS

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the "Strength and Honor" event being hosted by Naperville Responds to Our Veterans on April 11, 2018. This event aims to honor and give thanks to veterans around the community. This year's feature speaker, Mike Barbour, is a well-known Army veteran who has devoted his life to advocating for those who have so bravely fought for our country. I encourage veterans around the community to attend this event, enjoy a free lunch, and be paid the respect they so well deserve.

I applaud the commendable work being done by Naperville Responds to