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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Sustainer of humanity, thank You for faithfully providing for all of our needs. When we have trusted Your guidance, You have consistently ordered our steps, doing for us more than we can ask or imagine.

Today, give our lawmakers a generous portion of Your wisdom. Remind them that Your wisdom is pure, peace-loving, considerate, humble, merciful, and impartial. Provide our Senators with power to carry out their responsibilities in a way that honors You.

Lord, as Memorial Day approaches, we praise You for all of the sacrifices made for this land we love.

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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years; and Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we are in the midst of quite a productive week in the Senate. Yesterday, this body did its part in fulfilling an important promise to our Nation's veterans. We passed the VA MISSION Act by a wide, bipartisan margin.

Having already passed the House, this truly landmark bill will now head to the White House where the President will soon sign it into law.

It will bring more options and greater flexibility to veterans who have spent years driving long distances to the nearest VA care facility, only to face long lines and waiting lists when they got there.

It will bring more peace of mind for veterans of all eras and their families who have faced uncertainty and limitations as their needs for care have evolved.

This legislation continues, expands, and improves the successful Veterans Choice Program that has already helped millions of veterans nationwide, including more than 23,000 Kentuckians last year alone.

Thanks to the stalwart leadership of Chairman ISAKSON and the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the hard-and-fast time and distance thresholds that kept too many veterans out of the Choice Program will soon be gone.

The providers we trust to provide top-notch care for our heroes will have clearer guidelines for prescribing opioids and more tools to attract and retain experienced professionals.

I have heard from Kentucky veterans exactly what this bill will mean to them. One wrote: ''Kentucky disabled veterans greatly appreciate Congress is finally taking action to correct deficiencies in the Caregiver Program.''

Another explained that the legislation ''strikes the right balance to make sure we strengthen the VA system and provide veterans with the best care possible.''

I thank my friend Chairman ISAKSON once more on this achievement. I am proud the Senate stepped up to the plate and showed America's veterans that, on our watch, a promise made is a promise kept.

What is more, we have already confirmed two executive branch nominees and will process two more before the end of the week. First up is Jelena McWilliams, President Trump's well-

qualified pick to chair the FDIC Board of Directors.

This week, we have also seen an impressive proposal to reform the way Congress handles workplace claims, especially claims of harassment. The Democratic leader and I strongly support this proposal, as do our colleagues Senator BLUNT and Senator KLOBUCHAR.

All this comes in addition to two major Senate-passed bills that passed the House this week and are now heading to the President's desk to become law: the legislation championed by our colleague Senator JOHNSON, which will give terminally ill patients the right to try experimental drugs that are still making their way through the full FDA approval process, and the mainstreaming of Dodd-Frank regulations for small lenders and community banks, thanks to the leadership of Senator CRAPO. This legislation will help secure access to credit for middle-class families and small businesses, and the President will sign it just a few hours from now.

There is also important activity underway at the committee level. Chairman BARRASSO is leading the Environment and Public Works Committee through consideration of measures to improve and expand America's waterways infrastructure. Chairman SHELBY and the Appropriations Committee today have already begun their work on the annual funding bills. Following the committee's robust discussions, I look forward to bringing the appropriations bills they craft to the Senate floor. Earlier this week, the Armed Services Committee began considering this year's Defense authorization bill. They have a solid foundation on which to build, thanks to the historic agreement reached earlier this year that delivered the highest year-on-year increase in funding for our Armed Forces in 15 years.

One bill after another, one confirmation after another, the Senate continues to produce major accomplishments that will directly improve the lives of the American people.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on that subject, yesterday brought yet another piece of exciting news for American workers and middle-class families. The U.S. manufacturer United Technologies announced new plans to invest $15 billion right here in America and hire 35,000 American workers in the next several years.

This Fortune 100 company makes a wide variety of engineered products, from jet engines to elevators. Now, because of this favorable climate for business growth, investment, and job creation, they are putting billions into research and development and capital investment and creating tens of thousands of new job openings.

To fill some of these job openings, the company is partnering with community colleges, high schools, and other workforce training programs. This all comes on the heels of the company's other recent investments, like the new 93,000-square-foot facility in Lansing, MI, and a new 80,000-square-foot facility in Foley, AL.

What is making all this possible? According to United Technologies' announcement, ''The competitive tax system resulting from U.S. tax reform is encouraging global companies, such as United Technologies, to make long-term investments in innovation in America.''

This announcement is exactly the kind of headline you would expect to see in an America that is growing again. It is exactly what you would expect to happen as Republican policies continue to get Washington, DC, out of the way of American workers and job creators, and let them do what they do best—build an economy that is the envy of the rest of the world.

Yesterday's announcement was no isolated incident. We are hearing announcements like this from job creators, large and small, from national employers to Main Street businesses in my State of Kentucky and all across the country.

Back in 2013, under the Democrats' policy agenda, more than two-thirds of U.S. manufacturers reported that a hostile business climate due to taxes and regulation was a primary obstacle in their way. That was in 2013.

Today, just 16 months into this unified Republican government, fewer than one in five say that. This comeback for American manufacturing means new job openings for American workers, more prosperity for our small towns and cities, and higher take-home pay for middle-class American families.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning, I would like to address four issues at varying lengths: recent news on the North Korea summit, the Russia probe, the proposed recission of Ebola funding, and a word about the upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

NORTH KOREA

First, Madam President, on the very recent news that President Trump has canceled the planned summit with Kim Jong Un of North Korea, the fear many of us had was that the summit between President Trump and Kim Jong Un would be a great show that produced nothing enduring. If a summit is to be reconstituted, the United States must show strength and achieve a concrete, verifiable, enduring elimination of Kim Jong Un's nuclear capabilities.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Second, Madam President, on the Russia probe, today on Capitol Hill, Department of Justice, FBI, and intelligence community officials are scheduled to brief the Members of Congress on a few issues related to Special Counsel Mueller's investigation into Putin's meddling in the 2016 election.

There will be two briefings—one for a House Republican partisan who has relentlessly harassed the Justice Department to reveal sources and methods to him for the sole purpose of interfering with and denigrating the special counsel's investigation. After several requests, the Department of Justice will also brief the bipartisan Gang of 8 on the same information separately later in the day.

While we believe no briefing should occur, it is a good thing that the Gang of 8 will be briefed. The overwhelming fact remains that a separate meeting with a known partisan whose only intent is to undermine the Mueller investigation makes no sense and should be called off. What is the point of a separate briefing if not to cause partisan trouble and create a he said, she said scenario? It is so damaging to the way our officials in the Justice Department have always worked.

Representative NUNES, the architect of this sham briefing, no longer deserves the benefit of the doubt. He lost all claims to objectivity long ago with his ridiculous, late-night charade at the White House and his conduct on the House Intelligence Committee, culminating in a document of innuendo and whitewashing that has recently come to be called the Nunes memo.

The reason Leader PELOSI and I requested a Gang of 8 briefing was because that is the process for Congress to review sensitive and potentially classified information—it has been the process for decades—the reason being, the Gang of 8 is already read into sensitive national security information and because the Gang of 8 is bipartisan. When one party—Representative NUNES, who so clearly wants to distort national security information for partisan purposes—asks for a solitary briefing, there shouldn't be a briefing at all.

Our preference would still be for the Justice Department to cancel the briefing today, but if it goes forward, there should be one briefing and one briefing only: bipartisan, Gang of 8.

It is also wholly inappropriate that General Kelly is at all involved in these briefings. The White House should never be allowed to interfere in an ongoing DOJ investigation, but it is absolutely beyond the pale that they are interfering in an investigation involving the President and his campaign. The person and people being investigated are being briefed on their investigation before it concludes. That doesn't happen in our justice system no matter who you are. Americans will rightly wonder why General Kelly was present. To erase their doubts, he should skip the meeting.

Alongside all the action on Capitol Hill today, President Trump continues to fabricate a false narrative about deep-state bias against his Presidency. This is what a child does. You look at them like they are doing something wrong, and they blame something else. They try to divert your attention. That is how the President is acting.

Yesterday, he tweeted: ''Look at how things have turned around on the Criminal Deep State.'' Well, Mr. President, I direct you to your own Secretary of State. You just appointed him, promoted him. Here is what he said yesterday:

I don't believe there's a deep state at the State Department. . . . The employees . . . at the CIA nearly uniformly were aimed at achieving . . . America's objectives.

That is the President's own Secretary of State, his own former CIA Director, dispensing with this fantastical notion of a deep state.

The President says there were spies in his campaign. It is all in the same vein of his other conspiracy theories. Remember, President Trump said that Obama tapped his phones. That was false. He said before that Russia did not interfere in our elections. That was false. Why should we think the claim that there were spies in his campaign is any different? He makes it up as he goes along to divert attention from the real issue: that Russia tried to influence our election; did influence our election; and there may, may, may—we don't know for sure, but we have to find out—have been collusion with members of President Trump's campaign and even President Trump in that regard. That is serious stuff. We have already had 13 indictments. It is beyond any doubt that Russia did try to influence our election. We need to find out who participated. That is imperative to the future of this country.

The President, acting like he has something to hide, keeps trying to subvert the investigation by simply inventing enemies out of shadows and sowing division in our country. If it were anyone else, we would call it paranoia.

Meanwhile, the President continues to risk our national security by using an unsecured cell phone for some of his communications. When the Washington Post asked a national security expert the odds of a foreign adversary having gained access to the President's unsecured cell phone, the expert responded: ''100 percent, the question is how many foreign powers.''

So while President Trump points the finger of blame in every direction and was relentless that Hillary Clinton broke security protocols, he is guilty of creating a real national security threat every time he picks up his cell phone to call Sean Hannity or Rudy Giuliani. It is amazing. It is utterly amazing, the times we are living in, and it amazes me so that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle still remain silent—still remain silent. Who would have thought.

EBOLA FUNDING

Madam President, in early May, President Trump proposed rescinding $250 million meant to combat the Ebola virus and other infectious diseases. Not only are these rescissions a slap in the face of the bipartisan budget process, but they are dangerous to our national health and security.

Just last week, a new case of the Ebola virus was confirmed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and at least two dozen people have already died in this most recent outbreak.

Let's not forget how vociferously our friends on the other side of the aisle criticized President Obama on how he handled the Ebola outbreak in 2014. Once again, Donald Trump totally contradicts what he said in the past with what he is doing now.

Here is what Donald Trump tweeted in 2014:

Ebola has been confirmed in NYC with officials frantically trying to find all of the people and things he had contact with. Obama's fault.

Well, does he now say that it is Trump's fault? What mind-bending hypocrisy.

Now President Donald Trump proposes rescinding the same funding that Congress passed to help handle the Ebola crisis in 2014 and that continues to keep America safe. God forbid this funding is rescinded and Ebola outbreaks reemerge. It would actually be President Trump's fault.

The President should withdraw his rescission request for this funding, as Senator LEAHY and his colleagues on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee asked in a letter this week. That funding should be free for USAID to use as Congress intended. And Donald Trump ought to learn from his past statements. If he can blame Obama for not fully going after the Ebola outbreak in 2014, why is he cutting money for Ebola now?

MEMORIAL DAY

Finally, Madam President, on a solemn note, before the Memorial Day weekend, I want to express my deep and abiding gratitude to the men and women in the armed services who gave their last full measure of devotion in defense of our Nation and our freedoms. This morning, I am thinking of one veteran: Larry Reilly, Sr., of Syracuse, NY. He was known to us by his naval rank: Chief Reilly. Chief Reilly served on the USS *Frank E. Evans*, along with his son who carried his name, Larry Reilly, Jr. The *Frank E. Evans* sunk, tragically, in a training accident just outside the combat zone during the Vietnam war, killing 74. Chief Reilly survived the accident; Larry Reilly, Jr., did not.

Because the Department of Defense did not consider the *Frank E. Evans* disaster a wartime casualty—it was a short distance outside the combat zone—we will not find the name of Larry Reilly, Jr., on that wall of black stone a few miles from here. None of the names of the 74 sailors who died that day grace the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Chief Reilly spent much of his energies in the years since the war trying to right that wrong, to get his son and his son's fellow shipmates who passed away in that tragedy their rightful place in our Nation's history.

Chief Reilly, I regret to inform everyone, passed away earlier this week. We who knew Chief Reilly remember him fondly. We send our condolences to his friends and his family, along with the message that his cause does not die with him. In his honor, we will continue to pressure the Pentagon to recognize the *Frank E. Evans*, and those who were killed when it suffered this tragedy, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This weekend, as we honor our fallen veterans in big cities and in small towns throughout this grand country, I will be thinking of Chief Reilly and his son. May we never forget the sacrifices they made, along with so many others, so that we may all enjoy the full blessings of liberty.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

(The remarks of Mr. WICKER pertaining to the introduction of S. 2955 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. WICKER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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.

ABORTION

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, last week, the Trump administration proposed new rules to finally bring Federal policy back in line with Federal law. This should not be controversial in a republic committed to the rule of law. But this new policy touches the question of abortion, which tempts all three branches of our Federal Government to turn truth, justice, and the law inside out in the service of violence. President Trump, to his credit, is resisting those temptations and affirming what the law should do—affirming the fact that the law should do what the law says.

The particular law in question is the Public Health Service Act. Every year, it allocates hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to public health centers across the country. Under the 1970 statute, no Public Health Service dollars ''shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.'' That is, the bill was expressly written to fund healthcare for lower income communities, including family planning services, but not to fund or facilitate abortion, which, of course, is the opposite of healthcare.

Yet in the 1980s, the General Accounting Office found that abortion providers were colocating their nonabortion and abortion-providing services and just keeping two different sets of books. This put patients, policymakers, and taxpayers in an impossible position. So regulations correcting this obvious abuse of the law were implemented; then they were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Subsequent Democratic Presidents rescinded these regulations, leaving the abortion industry free to indulge its ever-growing appetite for Americans' blood and treasure. This is the unacceptable status quo that the Trump administration would correct.

By reinstating some of those prior regulations, President Trump is following through on his campaign promise to the American people to get taxpayer money out of the abortion industry. This is to his great credit. Wherever you stand on the question of legalized killing of unborn children, it is essential that we draw the line at taxpayer funding of it.

The new rule would indeed reduce the flow of Federal dollars to abortion providers, including the billion-dollar behemoth of the grisly industry, Planned Parenthood. Even a modest step in this direction—in this case, about 15 percent—is to be commended.

In addition to incremental reform, this new rule is also a clarifying asset. After all, it does not deny Planned Parenthood or any colocated clinics anything. It doesn't deny anything to them. It simply offers them a choice, and given Planned Parenthood's protestations that abortions are just a tiny fraction of what Planned Parenthood does, the choice should be easy enough.

If, despite their billions of dollars of taxpayer subsidies and private donations, Planned Parenthood and its accomplice organizations can't afford two local facilities—one for abortion and one for nonabortion care and counseling—they will just have to choose which clinic to keep open. They will have to decide—or, perhaps, just publicly admit—what business it is that they are really in: healthcare or abortion, life or death. Of course, we already know the answer. That is why Planned Parenthood is widely expected to lead a lawsuit to block the regulation just as soon as it is implemented.

As the New York Times recently put it, abortion is to Planned Parenthood what the internet is to Facebook; that is, like justice and the rule of law are to the American Republic.

Our abortion-on-demand legal regime today is doubly unjust, first, because it was created by judges rather than elected lawmakers and, second, because it denies the undeniable humanity of the unborn. President Trump's new policy would improve the law on both counts. First, it would bring the administration of the law back into line with Congress's clear, statutory text. Second, it would signal that in this White House, the protection of innocent human life will be the guiding principle that it should be in any civilized society.

The new rule will protect Americans' right to protect themselves and the unborn from taxpayer-funded abortions and, hopefully, create just a little more space for the weakest and the most vulnerable among us to grow, to thrive, and to hope that we will one day see that inevitable day not so far from now when our laws and our hearts answer the immutable call of justice, love, and respect for the dignity of the human soul.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Massachusetts.

CONFIRMATION OF BRIAN MONTGOMERY

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, Donald Trump promised during his inaugural address to fight for ''the forgotten men and women of our country,'' but in Donald Trump's Washington, the Senate sits on its hands as the revolving door spins faster and faster. Brian Montgomery is just the latest in a line of bankers, lawyers, investors, and consultants who cashed in on their big-time public service and now want back in.

Mr. Montgomery has just been confirmed to be the Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration, the FHA, which provides taxpayer-backed insurance that helps millions of Americans buy homes they might not otherwise be able to afford. Lenders make loans to these families because the FHA gives them some protection in case the families default. Like any insurance, there are strict rules about who qualifies. Unless it is managed well, the FHA could expose taxpayers to a risk of billions of dollars in losses.

Mr. Montgomery knows something about the FHA. He was the Commissioner from 2006 to 2009 while the housing market was flying high and when it all came crashing down. Since almost the day he left, he has been making buckets of money selling his knowledge to banks who broke the rules and are trying to escape the consequences.

Here is what I mean. One month after leaving the FHA, Mr. Montgomery founded and became vice chairman of a new company called Collingwood Group which, according to reports, was known in the housing finance industry as a specialist in helping firms navigate FHA-related penalties and lawsuits. Who better to navigate the rules of the FHA than the guy who used to be in charge of the FHA?

One of Collingwood's clients was Wells Fargo. They were in trouble for defrauding FHA, and in 2016 paid HUD a $1.2 billion fine. That is billion with a ''b.'' Wells Fargo admitted that from 2001 to 2008, it had lied to the FHA about whether certain loans were eligible for FHA insurance. Mr. Montgomery was in charge of the FHA from 2006 to 2008 and let that fraud happen. After he left, he went to the other team, giving Wells Fargo the inside scoop on how to beat the rap.

Collingwood also represented U.S. Bank. In 2014, U.S. Bank paid $200 million for defrauding FHA. In its settlement, U.S. Bank admitted that ''from 2006 through 2011, it repeatedly certified for FHA insurance mortgage loans that did not meet HUD underwriting requirements.'' The taxpayers paid Mr. Montgomery to manage the FHA for 3 of those years, and he didn't stop the fraud. When he left, U.S. Bank paid him to help them get away with it. I guess it pays to be an inside guy.

I have seen some amazing cases of people spinning through the revolving door, but this one might take the cake. First, Montgomery runs an agency that puts taxpayer money on the line. While there, he looks the other way as the banks submit piles of fraudulent mortgages. The government then loses millions and millions of taxpayer dollars. Then, Mr. Montgomery waltzes right out the door and 1 month later starts a company advising the same big banks on how to pay the government back as little as possible for frauds they committed on his watch.

Look, he may have the best of intentions, but we can never expect the American people to trust Washington if we approve nominees like Mr. Montgomery. It is bad enough that he put taxpayer money at risk by looking the other way as the banks committed fraud and then bad enough that he got rich working for those same banks. Now the Senate is letting him go back and do it all over again? No way. It is finally time to crack down on the revolving door.

Mr. President, 10 years ago, as the economy lurched toward a financial crisis, millions of American families braced for the impact. Over the next few years, almost 9 million families lost their jobs and millions more lost their homes and their savings. Giant banks—pillars of Wall Street for generations—crumbled, bringing communities across this country with it.

In the aftermath of the crisis, Congress passed commonsense rules to make sure Wall Street could never again crash the economy and leave American families with the wreckage, but Donald Trump thinks that Dodd-Frank is ''a disaster,'' and he has promised to do a ''big number'' on the safeguards it created. He hired an army of bankers and bank lawyers from Wall Street to do the deed, and now Jelena McWilliams is the latest piece in the puzzle.

Here is just one example. In the runup to the crisis, giant banks proved to be terrible judges of risk and ended up sucking down billions of dollars in taxpayer bailouts just to survive. To fix this, Dodd-Frank directed the banking regulators to set strong capital standards that limited how much risk the big banks could load up on and required them to hold enough cushion to survive in case their bets went bad.

Policymakers and regulators from both sides of the aisle agree that these financial regulations made our economy safer. Former FDIC Chair Sheila

Bair and former Vice Chairman Thomas Hoenig—both Republican appointees—recently wrote in the Wall Street Journal that gutting capital rules ''would weaken system resiliency.'' Current FDIC Chair Martin Gruenberg—a Democrat—said that strong capital requirements were ''among the most important post-crisis reforms'' and has opposed joint efforts by the Fed and the Treasury to undermine them.

Ms. McWilliams would drop that opposition. In fact, she is not even sure there was anything wrong with the capitalist standards before the crisis. That is not the only rule she would roll back. Donald Trump's Wall Street mercenaries have taken aim at a lot of critical post-crisis rules, and everything we know about Ms. McWilliams suggests she will support those efforts. Here is what is on the agenda.

First, there is the Volcker rule, which prohibits bank deposits from gambling with Grandma's checking money. Banks are looking to scrap this rule, even though they are raking in literally record profits, but the FDIC has to agree before there are any changes. As soon as Ms. McWilliams is confirmed, bingo. Sorry, Grandma.

Next is guidance that prevents banks from offering abusive, short-term loans similar to payday loan products. The OCC has told the banks it regulates to have at it. With Ms. McWilliams in charge, it is only a matter of time before the FDIC banks get in the game.

Third, there is also the Community Reinvestment Act, the CRA, which is designed to make sure a bank serves all credit-worthy customers in its community, regardless of the color of their skin. Lending discrimination is rampant in America, even though 98 percent of banks pass their CRA exams, but banks and the Trump appointees they send to Washington want to make the test for passing even easier. Under Ms. McWilliams, the FDIC evidently will not stand in the way.

I could go on and on, but here is the thing. It is not just that I disagree with Ms. McWilliams or think her actions will make consumers and our economy less safe; it is that Senate Republicans are stacking the deck to allow Ms. McWilliams to make these decisions without any discussion.

The five-member FDIC Board is supposed to be split between Republicans and Democrats, but the Senate is moving to confirm Ms. McWilliams before the White House has even nominated a Democratic Vice Chair for the agency. If Ms. McWilliams moves forward, the FDIC will be under complete Republican control for an indefinite amount of time. Democrats should oppose the McWilliams nomination on this basis alone.

Ms. McWilliams is the latest Trump appointee who thinks the biggest problem with our financial rules is that the government is just too darn hard on the banks. Most Americans don't feel that way. They want tougher rules on Wall Street, not weaker ones. We should listen to them because they are the ones who pay the price when things go wrong on Wall Street.

I urge my colleagues to vote no.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Jelena McWilliams to be the Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

A native of the former Yugoslavia, Jelena earned her bachelor's degree and J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. From tough experiences that her family shared in Europe, Jelena understands the value hard work provides in a free market environment like ours.

The FDIC plays an important role in ensuring consumer confidence in our Nation's banks. In addition to their work as the prudential regulator for State-chartered banks, the FDIC is also a key part of many interagency efforts to appropriately regulate financial institutions.

Due to her vast experience, Jelena is beyond qualified for this esteemed position. To put it clearly, she has worked in all fields that interact with her new role. She is certainly no stranger to the Senate. During my time as chairman, Jelena served as chief counsel and deputy staff director of the Senate Banking Committee. Additionally, she was assistant chief counsel on the Senate Small Business Committee and has experience working for the Federal Reserve. Jelena also has private sector experience as an attorney in private practice. She also served as executive vice president, chief legal officer, and corporate secretary for Fifth Third Bank.

Opposition to her nomination is unfathomable. Ms. McWilliams was reported out of the Banking Committee by a voice vote in February. She understands all sides of the areas she will regulate with the highest level of sophistication. However, that has not prevented Members of this body from being unreasonable. Opposition has appeared due to the nature of the Senate today, not due to any question regarding Jelena's qualification for the job.

Passage of her nomination builds on positive moment this week. With the passage of S. 2155, Congress has advanced appropriate scaling back of over-burdensome financial regulations. By confirming Jelena, the Senate has the opportunity to continue providing Main Street with commonsense regulatory relief. I am certain that Jelena is up for the challenge and confident that she will do an excellent job in this esteemed position.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this weekend, we honor those who have fought on the frontlines in battle and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the United States of America. These men and women represent America at its best—a nation that is restless and unwavering in combating tyranny, that facilitates peace, and defends human rights and individual liberty across the globe; a nation that is unafraid to call evil by its name and then works to eradicate it through force, if necessary, even at great cost to itself and its own people.

Today, in advance of the holiday weekend, I say thank you to the 200,000 military men and women who are stationed in my State, the State of Texas, and to the 1.7 million veterans who call Texas home.

Thank you for having served over the course of so many years in the face of so many dangers and at such great individual sacrifice.

Of course, many of their predecessors gave their lives defending this country on the bloody fields of Gettysburg, in the trenches of the Western Front, during the storming of the beaches at Normandy, and during the Shock and Awe in Baghdad. These are just some examples, each of them unique but none of which we should ever forget.

We must also thank the military families of those warriors. I pray they find peace on Monday, when many of them will place flowers on military grave sites and speak privately to their loved ones who have passed on.

In just a few days, I will have the chance to speak to young Texans who thought hard about their futures and the future of our country and decided they want to attend our U.S. military academies. These talented high school students are the cream of the crop. They have been accepted to our Nation's five prestigious military service academies, and they will be gathering together, on Monday, in San Antonio.

Even though I am not the one who has nominated all of them, we invite everyone who has been nominated—and their families—to come to this academy sendoff. This sendoff is something I look forward to each year because it is an inspiration to me. At a time when people talk about the next generation and America's future, they reassure me that our country still produces talented, patriotic young men and women who want to serve their country and want to preserve our freedom. Meeting these young people who are making such bold and selfless decisions speaks well of the character of our Nation's next generation.

Then I will be heading down to Georgetown, TX, which is just outside of Austin, to a community called Sun City, which has a large veteran population. There, I will join in celebrating Memorial Day in a place where patriotism is not a dirty word. In Sun City, it is not an act either. Loving one's country and honoring fallen soldiers is simply a given, and I know there will be a lot of American flags on full display.

In the few days leading up to Memorial Day, we should also reflect on our duty as Members of Congress and as a nation to support our military servicemembers and their families and ask whether we are living up to our end of the bargain in Washington, DC.

Just yesterday, we took a very important step in that regard by passing the VA MISSION Act, which includes some of the most substantial reforms to the veterans' healthcare system that have been made in years.

It lowers the barriers to care for veterans and gives them more treatment options. It also simplifies the bureaucratic system of community care programs and streamlines them from seven to one. It expands the family caregivers program, which I became convinced was important after having visited wounded warriors at Walter Reed. Frequently, because of the catastrophic injuries they have suffered, a spouse has had to quit his or her job and basically tend to the needs of that wounded warrior, just as a practical matter, and provide assistance in addition to the medical care that has been received. Expanding the family caregivers program is, I think, a step in the right direction.

In this bill, we also address opioid prescription guidelines for outside providers and encourage the hiring and retention of more Veterans Health Administration healthcare professionals.

So there is a lot to talk about when we go home for Memorial Day, and I look forward to talking to our Active-Duty military and our veterans and to demonstrating that we are doing more than just talking about it; we are actually doing something that will make a difference in their lives.

Upon our return, I am also looking forward to continuing our hard work on the National Defense Authorization Act, which is something the Presiding Officer is intimately involved in, which was marked up yesterday in the Armed Services Committee.

For 57 straight years, a Defense authorization bill has been signed into law by Presidents of both parties and through the hard work of congressional majorities that have been led by both parties. This year's legislation will help ensure our military has what it needs to achieve the most difficult missions they have ever faced and to embark on those that will inevitably arise tomorrow.

I have spoken quite a bit about the China threat recently at this podium, and that country bears mentioning again, right now, because of its connection to the Defense Authorization Act.

As the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee said recently, it is ''[i]n the Indo-Pacific region [where] the United States faces a near-term, belligerent threat armed with nuclear weapons and also a longer-term strategic competitor.''

China is that longer term strategic competitor, of course, and that is what Congressman MAC THORNBERRY was talking about. Yet we can't just stop with China and North Korea. We need to talk about Russia, Iran, and the civil war and terrorist threat arising out of Syria and the Middle East.

All of those are important in our deliberations on the Defense authorization bill because the NDAA prioritizes military readiness across the globe where American leadership remains indispensable. It promotes security and stability in the Indo-Pacific, particularly through military exercises with our allies, and it improves Taiwan's defense capabilities while we keep our commitment to Taiwan that was established a long time ago.

The Defense authorization bill is important for reasons that hit much closer to home as well. In past years, this bill has authorized needed improvements at Texas military facilities like Fort Hood, Joint Base San Antonio, the Red River Army Depot, and Ellington Field. It has also given our troops a much needed pay raise and updated advanced aircraft, ships, and ground vehicles. All of these have implications in Texas.

As we get closer and closer to Memorial Day, let's remember what our Armed Forces have given for us, including their very lives, and everything they have given to us, which is our freedom that we enjoy every day.

Let's make sure we keep up our end of the bargain here in Washington with legislation like the VA MISSION Act and the Defense authorization bill and at home with our patriotism and our frequent signs of appreciation for their service to our great country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Texas for his inspiring words and for his devotion to Texas veterans and to American veterans across our country.

As we approach Memorial Day, this is a time to honor our fallen soldiers and to reflect on the enormous sacrifices the men and women in uniform have made for us who were killed while serving this Nation.

Mr. President, I rise to recognize the service and ultimate sacrifice of four Hoosier servicemembers who gave their lives in defending our country in the last year. The sacrifices of Ryan Lohrey, Jonathon Hunter, Mark Boner, and Clayton Cullen will not be forgotten.

In July 2017, we lost Navy Corpsman Ryan Lohrey. He died with 15 other servicemembers when a military refueling aircraft crashed in a soybean field in Mississippi. He was 30 years old.

Born in Anderson, Ryan was described as selfless and patient and humble. He played football at Shenandoah High School in Middletown, where he graduated in 2005. Two years after graduation, Ryan joined the Navy and served our country in deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. During his service, he earned a Purple Heart for being wounded in battle.

Last August, Army SGT Jonathon Hunter was killed in Afghanistan. Jonathon was born in Columbus. He was a man of faith who loved his country and his family. Before joining the Army, Jonathon played football at Columbus East High School and then pursued his dream of becoming a music producer before enrolling at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

He left college to join the Army. He was 23 years old and just 32 days into his first deployment when he and a fellow soldier were killed in a suicide bombing attack on a NATO convoy in southern Afghanistan. Jonathon was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart as well as a Bronze Star.

In January, we lost SFC Mark Boner of the Indiana Army National Guard. Mark was born in Fort Wayne. After graduating from Elmhurst High School in 1993, he answered the call to serve his country.

Mark enjoyed being at the lake, and he was a fan of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. He served in the Army and in the Indiana National Guard. Mark had completed tours in both Iraq and Kuwait and died at Fort Hood, TX, where he was training for his third deployment for his country. He was only 43 years old.

Also in January, we lost another Hoosier: Army 1LT Clayton Cullen, of Bicknell. Clay graduated from North Knox High School in 2011, where he played soccer and served as student body president. After high school, he earned a degree from Indiana University and was in the school's ROTC program.

Clay was 25. He died when the helicopter he was aboard with another servicemember crashed at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA.

Each of these courageous men has left behind family, friends, and loved ones who miss them every day, miss them more tomorrow, and even more the following day.

As we pay tribute to these servicemembers, let us also recognize their families. Our hearts go out to every one of them, not only on Memorial Day but every day. At everything from family dinners and get-togethers to holidays, someone is missing their husband, their father, their brother or son. There is an empty seat that every heart wishes was filled.

While nothing could ever fill the void left by the loss of these servicemembers, their legacies live on through their families. The people I speak about represent not only the best of Hoosier values but of America's values. They serve their country so that we all can be safe, so that we all can be secure, so that we all can have our freedom protected. We grieve for them and we miss them. I join every Hoosier in praying for their friends, family, and fellow servicemembers.

On Memorial Day, we will pause to commemorate the extraordinary sacrifice so many men and women in uniform from across our State and Nation have made. Every day, in conflict zones across the world, American servicemembers put themselves in harm's way. We thank them for their courage

and bravery, and we remember the patriots who lost their lives and exemplified the very best of what our country is and can be.

One other note, I remember a few years ago when I was driving through Starke County, IN. It was early in the morning on Memorial Day. I drove through the town of Walkerton, IN. It was early in the morning. In the town cemetery there were a couple of dads and moms and their children. They were putting flags on every veteran's grave who had served our country and devoted their lives to our Nation. That scene that I saw was being duplicated in towns all across my State and all across our country, because the one thing all of us as Americans understand—whether we live in Indiana, Philadelphia, or in Ohio—is that there are young men and women from other towns and from other States who lost their lives to protect us, and we are all in it for each other. We are all in it together as Americans.

On Memorial Day, please say a prayer and think about all those who gave us the chance to celebrate our freedoms.

May God bless Indiana, and may God bless the United States of America.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield back.

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

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last week, Pope Francis released an unprecedented document detailing what is wrong with our financial system. That the Pope thought it was that important to weigh in tells you a lot about where we are as a nation.

We have an economy, the Pope noted, that defines success by corporate profits and measures time in quarterly earnings reports. That is not how families think. Washington may think that way, corporate CEOs may think that way, but families mark time in school years, in 30-year mortgages, and in years left to save for retirement. That is why the Pope called our current financial system ''an inadequate framework that excludes the common good.''

Right now, working families are struggling in this country. The economic statistics may look rosy, but they mask serious problems that hold too many workers back and prevent entire communities from sharing in that growth.

The Pope warned last week that ''work itself, together with its dignity, is increasingly at risk of losing its value.'' Work is increasingly at risk of losing its value. Our economy simply doesn't value work the way it should.

Over the past 40 years, the link between productivity and wage increases has eroded. Profits have gone up, CEO compensation has gone up, worker productivity has gone up, but wages have been stagnant. Workers simply don't get the help they should in compensation. Workers simply don't share in the wealth they create for stockholders and the wealth they create for executives and the wealth they create for CEOs.

Wages have ticked up a tiny bit recently, but, looking at the long run, they have been largely flat. Think about this: If there are 100 people in the Galleries, if they are average—maybe they are, maybe they aren't. If there are 100 people in the Galleries, 44 of them can't afford an emergency expense of $400. Think about that. If they are a $15-an-hour worker and their car breaks down and it costs $600, what do they do? They go to get a payday loan, and we know what happens when they do that. Forty-four percent of American adults can't afford an emergency expense of $400.

This is even more troubling: One in four renters in this country spends at least half their income on housing. If one thing goes wrong in their lives—if their child gets sick—they are unlikely to have sick leave or vacation days. So if their child gets sick, they either send their child to school sick or they stay home with their daughter or son and lose a day's pay. And if they are spending 50 percent of their income on housing, what happens? They are likely to be evicted, likely to be foreclosed on if they own their home and then their lives really spiral down.

In light of all that, this Congress thought the best thing to do was pass another giveaway to the big banks because Wall Street hasn't done enough. This body can't help itself. They fall all over themselves. The lobbyists going in and out of Leader MCCONNELL's office, and the Wall Street lobbyists—the White House increasingly looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives. This body just falls all over itself. We always have to help Wall Street. Over the next 7 or 8 years, 80 percent of the tax-cut bill that was passed last year will go to the richest 1 percent of the country, as if they need the help.

The giveaway to the big banks the President is going to sign tomorrow comes on the heels of a $1.5 trillion—how much is a trillion? A trillion is 1,000 billion. How much is a billion? A billion is 1,000 million. It was a $1.5 trillion deficit-financed tax cut for millionaires and more likely billionaires who control one political party in this body. It was tax cuts for billionaires and corporations that ship jobs overseas. Apparently that is just not enough, so this week, the House passed a bill loosening taxpayer protections on big banks that received a combined $239 billion in taxpayer bailouts. Think about that. It weakens stress tests for all large banks. It opens the door to less oversight of foreign megabanks.

This bill also eliminates data-gathering that guards against mortgage discrimination. We are bringing back redlining. There has been no racial discrimination in housing in this country, apparently, so let the banks and let the government that sometimes goes along with the banks get that red pencil—it is done with computers now—and draw around those neighborhoods so that those families—often people of color but not always—can't get equal access to home mortgages.

The Congressional Budget Office, which is the independent, nonpartisan scorekeeper, confirmed that this bill that just passed would increase the likelihood of a big bank failure and a financial crisis and would add $670 million to the deficit.

What problem exactly is this Congress trying to solve?

One of my favorite quotes is from Abraham Lincoln. He was in the White House, and his staff wanted him to stay there and win the war and free the slaves and preserve the Union. He said: No. I have to go out and get my ''public opinion baths.''

When I go back to Cleveland, where I live, or when I see my grandkids in Columbus or when I go anywhere else in the State, I go out and listen to people, and I try to get these public opinion baths. Never once have I heard somebody say: You know, Senator, with the problems we have, the first thing we have to do is weaken regulations to help Wall Street. I never hear that. The only people who say that are bankers and a bunch of politicians who are all well compensated, who have very good healthcare paid for by taxpayers, and who do what the banks want them to do.

The FDIC—the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation—released new data this week. Banks increased their profits by 13 percent over the last year. Of those 100 people in the Galleries, how many of them got a 13-percent raise last year? Well, banks increased their already strong profits by another 13 percent. It has happened almost every year this decade, since Congress bailed out the banks 8 years ago. That 13 percent is not even counting the windfall profits they got from the windfall tax bill. When they take the tax bill into account, banks profits went up not 13, not 15, not 20, but 28 percent.

The banking sector bought back $77 billion worth of stock last year. Do you know what that means? That is all about raising compensation for the biggest stockholders and the CEO. The average bank teller in this country makes $26,000 a year. Bank profits are up. CEO compensation is up. They are all doing very well. They got a big tax cut. The average teller makes $26,000.

At my high school reunion in Mansfield a couple of years ago, I sat across the table from a woman with whom I graduated. She has worked as a teller in a large, well-known bank for 30 years, and she makes $30,000 a year. She has worked there for 30 years. But the bank CEOs are doing very well—

millions and millions of dollars in compensation.

If these banks fail again, it will be those tellers, it will be the middle manager, it will be the millions of other American taxpayers who will be called on to bail them out. That is why we did Wall Street reform—Dodd-Frank—several years ago. We passed a law that created important protections for the financial system, for taxpayers, for homeowners, to hold banks and watchdogs accountable and prevent another crisis.

Do you know what? The day that bill was signed, the chief Financial Services—do you know what the chief bank lobbyist in this city did? The day it was signed, he said: ''You know, it is halftime.''

What does that mean? ''It is halftime'' means that you might have passed this law that we didn't like—we, Wall Street—but we are going to fight like hell to weaken the rules to implement the law. And once we get a Republican majority and we have a majority leader and, further down the hall, a Speaker of the House who does whatever Wall Street asks them to do, then it will be time to come back and weaken the laws.

That is what happened with the election of this President and the election of the majority leader and the Speaker of the House. It is time to go back to Wall Street and say: How can we help you, sir? It is almost always a sir.

Another bank lobbyist, when he talked about these negotiations, said: We don't want a seat at the table; we want the whole table.

Wall Street greed knows no bounds. That is why it is a huge concern that the White House looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives. Special interests are getting the whole table. The President is signing the big bank giveaway into law.

Here is the last point I want to spend a little time on. They are trying to install yet another Wall Street nominee with the troubling record of dismissing the harm Wall Street inflicted on Main Street—Jelena McWilliams, who is listed as Ms. McWilliams of Ohio, my State. I would like to support a fellow Ohioan. She hasn't really lived in Ohio very long. I know she has moved back. But I would still like to support a fellow Ohioan. She has been nominated to be the Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, but she has never supported the need for strong rules and tough supervision for the banking system.

At her nomination hearing, she declined to acknowledge the role that excessive bank borrowing played in causing the 2008 collapse. What are we going to do? On whom are we going to blame the bank collapse, the economy going into the toilet, the fact that millions of Americans lost jobs, millions of Americans had their homes foreclosed on, and billions and billions of dollars were lost from seniors' retirement accounts? We are going to blame that on them? Wall Street, of course, had nothing to do with it.

Right now, the Fed is considering a proposal to weaken protections and give a $120 billion windfall to the eight largest banks. Even former Chairs and Vice Chairs of the FDIC appointed by Republicans, two people I admire—Sheila Bair, who used to be chief of staff for Bob Dole, appointed to the FDIC by President Bush and kept by President Obama; and Thomas Hoenig, another Republican from the Kansas City Fed and a Republican regulator—they have opposed this proposal. But Mrs. McWilliams refused to do so.

On issue after issue—payday lending at banks, cost-benefit analysis, the Volcker rule—she has shown no independence from this White House that looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives.

The FDIC was designed to be independent and nonpartisan. We don't need another rubberstamp from Wall Street's agenda on the FDIC board, particularly when we have no commitment to move the nominations for Democratic seats. We need independent thinkers at these agencies who are willing to push back against a big-bank agenda.

Last week, Fed Vice Chair Randall Quarles gave a speech saying—just as we predicted—the Federal Reserve wants to loosen rules on foreign megabanks. So it is not just that we are doing favors for Wall Street, but we are doing favors for these multi-decabillion or hundreds of billions of dollars foreign banks. We decided to make it easier on them.

Yesterday, former OneWest banker Joseph Otting announced that he wants banks to get into the business of payday loans. They have always said they have nothing to do with these payday loans. Well, they do. Otting has other plans to gut the Community Reinvestment Act—a 40-year old law that ensures that banks serve their communities. And we could spend hours detailing what Mick Mulvaney is doing to the Consumer Protection Bureau.

In closing, I will go back to the Pope's message. He noted that ''while most of [the financial industry's] operators are singularly animated by good and right intentions, it is impossible to ignore the fact that the financial industry . . . is a place where selfishness and the abuse of power have an enormous potential to harm the community.''

A little selfishness, a little abuse can have massive consequences when it comes to the financial system. Families in Ohio can't afford that risk. It is our job to protect those families.

The Pope said: ''Those entrusted with political authority find it difficult to fulfill to their original vocation as servants of the common good.''

We should listen a little more to the people we serve, and we should listen a little less to Wall Street. We should break the addiction to Wall Street money. We should break our allegiance to Wall Street interests. That is how we create an economy that values work and create an economy that serves the common good and not corporate special interests.

I ask my colleagues to vote against the nomination of Ms. McWilliams.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes following the first vote in this series be 10 minutes in length.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jelena McWilliams to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation?

Mr. COTTON. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Alexander	Ernst	Manchin
Barrasso	Fischer	McCaskill
Bennet	Gardner	McConnell
Blunt	Graham	Menendez
Boozman	Grassley	Moran
Burr	Hatch	Murkowski
Capito	Heitkamp	Murphy
Cardin	Hoeven	Nelson
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Casey	Inhofe	Perdue
Cassidy	Isakson	Peters
Collins	Johnson	Portman
Coons	Jones	Reed
Corker	Kaine	Risch
Cornyn	Kennedy	Roberts
Cotton	King	Rounds
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sasse
Daines	Lankford	Scott
Donnelly	Leahy	Shaheen
Enzi	Lee	Shelby

Sullivan	Tillis	Warner
Tester	Toomey	Wicker
Thune	Van Hollen	Young

NAYS—24

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schatz
Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Booker	Heinrich	Smith
Brown	Hirono	Stabenow
Cantwell	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Sanders	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Cruz	Hassan	Rubio
Duckworth	Heller	
Flake	McCain	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jelena McWilliams to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill 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 nomination of James Randolph Evans, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg.

Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Ron Johnson, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Todd Young, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, David Perdue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of James Randolph Evans, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 110 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Capito	Hoeven	Sasse
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott
Collins	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Isakson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Johnson	Tester
Cotton	Kennedy	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tillis
Daines	Lee	Toomey
Donnelly	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Jones	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Harris	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—7

Cruz	Hassan	Rubio
Duckworth	Heller	
Flake	McCain	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of James Randolph Evans, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 1:45 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO VAUGHAN WEHR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime scheduler and dear friend, Vaughan Wehr. After 5½ years in Washington, Vaughan is returning home to her sprawling, tight-knit family in Omaha.

Vaughan started with me as an aide in my legislative office in Lincoln. It was an easy decision to ask her to come to Washington as an original member of my team. She did a good job, she worked hard, and she was a joy to have around. She started out in the Senate, where so many do, answering phones and greeting constituents. That is hard work, but Vaughan always did it with a smile on her face.

It didn't take long for her to take on more responsibility, first as a deputy scheduler and later as a scheduler for nearly 4 years. Throughout that time, Vaughan always did her job with a special blend of diligence and humor. She has earned a reputation in the Senate as a top scheduler and the life of any party.

It is no exaggeration to say that Vaughan has been the beating heart of my office. She has made a mark here by doing her job with love and laughter every single day.

My husband, Bruce, and I are very thankful for her service, and most importantly, we are thankful for her friendship. She is one of a kind. We wish her the very best as she returns home to Nebraska.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

VENEZUELA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was about 5 or 6 weeks ago that I accepted an invitation and an opportunity to visit Caracas, Venezuela. I had never been to that country before and spent 4 days. It turns out that not many Members of Congress go to this country and very few are given permission if they ask, but for some reason, I was given permission and went down there to meet with the leaders of the government and to take stock of what was happening in Venezuela.

Sadly, I have to report that Venezuela—that proud nation—is teetering on collapse. I met with President Maduro, members of his government, opposition leaders, civic and humanitarian leaders, medical experts, victims of the regime's political repression, and an American who is currently jailed on political charges in Caracas.

What I found there and recounted on the floor a few weeks ago was a heartbreaking set of overlapping crises—humanitarian, economic, and political. While these three inexcusable crises of the government's making continue, the people of this poor nation are increasingly suffering and leaving in desperation. It is one of the most desperate situations I have ever seen in a country that is not in the midst of a war. In my discussion with President Maduro, I urged him to help get his country out of the international isolation that it currently faces and put an end to the human suffering by starting with a clean election.

Last Sunday, there was an election. It was a farce. I asked him to release political opponents so they could run for office. I asked him to authorize parties to field candidates. I asked him to

create enough time in the election cycle so there could be a real campaign. I told him, if he didn't and went through with his election campaign, it would not be a credible result. We know the Maduro regime was using food, among its starving people, to manipulate votes. The regime had, unfortunately, no credible election monitors before or during the vote, and, of course, it rushed the election to get the result it was looking for.

I recently joined with Senator MENENDEZ of New Jersey. We said, quite simply, that Maduro should have the courage to have an open election, a democratic process. As we arrived at the airport, we noticed the great hero of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez. Hugo Chavez won his first election in a democratic manner, and I urged President Maduro to now do the same.

I was also direct in saying to him that he had to release the American, Josh Holt, who is being held in prison, in Caracas, on political charges. Why is he being held? It is that he traveled to Venezuela to be with and to marry the woman he loved and to bring her and her two daughters back to his home State of Utah? He crossed the Maduro regime, and in that process, he was arrested on charges that are outrageous. He has been held now for almost 2 years without having had a meaningful trial or a resolution of the dispute.

As the events of the last few weeks have shown, the obvious path forward for Venezuela has been rejected by the Maduro regime. Instead, it went ahead with last Sunday's widely discredited election in which his regime jailed or disqualified any meaningful opponent. It was a farce. It will only result in the further isolation and suffering of the Venezuelan people. I know President Maduro is blaming Yankee imperialists for the problems his country is facing or the opposition to his leadership. He need only look to neighboring nations in Central and South America to see that they also reject what he has done politically.

Despite stirring video pleas from the prison in which Josh Holt, the American, is being held, Maduro's regime wouldn't even meet with our top diplomat in Caracas. Todd Robinson is the Charge d'Affaires who represents the United States since we are not allowed to have an ambassador in that country. He went to the Foreign Ministry on behalf of Josh Holt when he heard about the prison riot and the danger to this American prisoner who is being held on political charges. Obviously, he got under President Maduro's skin, and he has now expelled him.

The Trump administration has been unequivocal in claiming that the Venezuelan election was a sham and also in imposing new economic sanctions in order to put pressure on the leaders in the Venezuelan Government to change. As I told President Maduro and members of his government, both parties in America may have their squabbles and differences, but when it comes to Venezuela, we stand together. Republicans and Democrats agree that things need to change dramatically in Venezuela if it wants to enter the family of civilized nations around the world.

President Maduro has responded not by reaching out to the opposition and not by showing any true reform but by rejecting every overture. He refuses to release Josh Holt and his Venezuelan wife and daughters to allow them to come to the United States. He still keeps Leopoldo Lopez, a political leader in Venezuela, under house arrest. I spoke to Mr. Lopez by phone and met personally with his wife. It is shameful what they are doing to him.

By restoring the power of a legitimate national assembly, President Maduro would show he is willing to move toward the Constitution which guided his country, but he refuses. He refuses to start a meaningful dialogue with the Lima Group—other nations in the region—that want to work with him toward moving Venezuela to a better day. He refuses to work with neighbors and humanitarian groups that truly want to address the suffering in that country.

It was not until the public health briefing I had in Venezuela and a personal visit to a local hospital that it really hit me and hit me hard how bad things are. This is a country—one of the few on Earth—that is not at war but that is currently facing epidemics of measles, diphtheria, and malaria. When you go to Caracas city hospitals—not to remote, rural hospitals—and ask them what they need, they tell you vaccines, antibiotics, cancer drugs—the basics. They don't have them in that country.

You can just see on the streets of Caracas that the people are starving. They are starving. They don't have enough food to eat in that country. The inflation is so out of control that people stand in line for an hour a day to get the maximum withdrawals on their credit cards, in hard currency, because the withdrawals are worth the 60 cents they need for round trip bus fare to their places of work. At 11 o'clock at night, in the darkness, you will see people standing by ATM machines to withdraw wads of currency worth 60 cents so they can board the buses the next morning.

The expulsion of our Charge d'Affaires, Todd Robinson, was really disgraceful. He was accused of conspiring against the Venezuelan Government. What did he do? He stood up for the American prisoner, Josh Holt. That is all. Todd Robinson is one of the Nation's highly respected diplomats who carries the rank of Ambassador and has served with distinction in some of the most challenging countries in the world. I spoke with him on the phone yesterday. He is disappointed. He knows there is much work to be done in Venezuela to protect innocent people and to make sure the Americans have a strong presence in order to protect them as well, and now he is being expelled.

During my visit to Caracas a few weeks ago, I watched him try to establish a dialogue with the Maduro regime. It was next to impossible. A dialogue requires someone on the other side who will listen and respond in good faith. That was not the case. When I spoke to him—our Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Robinson—he was packing up and helping the Embassy staff prepare for his departure. He will be back in the Washington area over the weekend. I thanked him for his service in Venezuela and for his team that continues to soldier on under some of the most difficult circumstances in the world.

Until the Maduro regime stops dismantling its country's democracy and starts to address the true humanitarian crisis which exists in its country, I will continue to support U.S. and regional measures to put pressure on the Maduro regime to change. I know of no other way to do this that will not bring more suffering and death to the innocent people of Venezuela. This once great nation will not be great again until its leadership understands that the current approach—denying democracy, denying the electoral process, refusing to have an open dialogue with democratic nations around the world—will only sink them further into the abyss.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

LAW ENFORCEMENT'S LEGAL PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION FOR COOPERATING WITH CONGRESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as I often have to come to the floor to clear things up, I am back once again.

I have been seeing reports—reports that are wrong—that individuals within our Federal law enforcement agencies who want to talk to Congress about problems they have seen on the job have a fear that if they do that, they could be punished. The reports say these individuals then want to be subpoenaed by congressional committees rather than come forward voluntarily. There is a perception that without a subpoena, they have no legal protection against retaliation for their cooperating with Congress.

That is nonsense, and that is a misrepresentation that has been fomented by the FBI's and the Department of Justice's leadership for many years under both Republican and Democratic administrations. I have worked hard to strengthen legal protections, especially for FBI employees. FBI employees have a right to cooperate with congressional inquiries just as they have a right to cooperate with the inspector general. Anyone who tells these FBI agents anything else is lying. FBI agents and all Federal law enforcement are protected if they want to provide information to the Congress. That is true whether it is by subpoena or not.

If that is news to law enforcement people, including the FBI, I would encourage you to research the law individually. It is found at title 5, U.S. Code, section 2303.

As you will see in the law, nowhere in that language do its protections require a subpoena, nor do they require the approval of an agent's chain of command or congressional affairs staff approval.

Moreover, Federal appropriations law also forbids the use of taxpayers' dollars to pay the salary of any individual who interferes with or attempts to interfere with a Federal employee's right to communicate directly with Congress.

The Government Accountability Office recently found that an Obama Housing and Urban Development congressional affairs official did interfere that way in 2013, so paying that salary violated the restrictions Congress had placed on the money. Based on that ruling, Housing and Urban Development initiated collection efforts to recover a portion of the salary paid illegally, as a debt owed back to the United States from this executive branch staffer, as a result of interfering with somebody's right to talk to Congress.

Congress has the power of the purse, and bureaucrats need to understand that funding for their salaries comes with strings attached. Federal employees cannot be prevented from talking directly to Congress—pretty plain—period.

There can be no interference with any Federal employee talking directly to Congress. I should add that you shouldn't even try.

If unelected bureaucrats have so much contempt for an employee who voluntarily informs the people's elected representatives of facts necessary to do our constitutional responsibility of oversight, then we still have a lot of work to do. That kind of thinking is dangerous. It leads to irresponsible government, and is totally contrary to law. If that perception is persisting throughout law enforcement, including the FBI or, indeed, throughout government generally, then the leaders of those agencies are not doing their job. They are failing in their responsibility as leaders, they are failing the workforce, and they are failing the American taxpayer.

I don't want anyone out there to be confused. It is pretty simple. If you are a Federal employee and you want to disclose wrongdoing and waste to the Congress or you want to cooperate with a congressional inquiry, you are legally allowed to do so. You should not have to fear retaliation. No FBI agent or other government employee should be afraid to cooperate with Congress or with the inspector general.

Any FBI agent who has information to provide, or questions about their rights to provide it, should not hesitate to reach out and ask. Contact the committee. Contact the inspector general. There are people there who can tell you more about what protections may apply to your specific situation.

It seems to me that if you know something is wrong, you have a patriotic responsibility to expose it. Transparency brings accountability, and what we don't have enough of in the U.S. Government is accountability.

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

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, what is the pending order at the desk as it relates to the time of the vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The vote is to occur at 1:45 p.m.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we are considering today the nomination of James ''Randy'' Evans to be Ambassador to Luxembourg. I opposed Mr. Evans' nomination in committee, and I will again oppose his confirmation on the floor.

My concerns with Mr. Evans center around his tenure on the Georgia State Election Board from 2002 to 2010. In March of 2005, Georgia passed a controversial new law requiring voters to show a photo ID in order to cast a vote.

Despite the fact that both Federal and State judges prohibited the law from going into effect, the Election Board made a decision in 2006 to send a letter to 200,000 voters with the false impression that the law would be in effect for the upcoming election. Appropriately, this action caused an uproar, and multiple voices accused the Board of defying the injunction in a deliberate attempt to mislead voters and possibly suppress minority turnout. The board subsequently mailed out a clarification letter, but the damage had already been done.

During his confirmation process, Mr. Evans unfortunately presented conflicting accounts of his involvement in this effort to suppress voter turnout. He first said he could not remember the details of how the letter was sent or who wrote it. However, other board members who served during that time period, as well as summaries of election board meeting minutes from 2006, clearly reflect that Mr. Evans and the board as a whole appeared to play a central role in drafting and distributing the letters.

These conflicting accounts trouble me. The right to express one's vote at the ballot box is fundamental to our democracy. Throughout our Nation's history, various actors have sought to systematically deny different groups of people this core right.

Those representing the United States abroad must embody and embrace our fundamental democratic values and ideals. I am not convinced that Mr. Evans will do that. One cannot be advocating for democracy and human rights and suppressing votes here at home. I do not think he has demonstrated the judgment I would expect from our Ambassadors, and for this reason I will urge my colleagues to reject sending Mr. Evans to Luxembourg as the U.S. Ambassador.

Because my colleagues are here on the floor, although I have time reserved to speak on North Korea, I will yield, because I think they have an important action to take place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 REFORM ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2952.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2952) to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to establish protections against congressional sexual harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. BLUNT. 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. BLUNT. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2952) was passed, as follows:

S. 2952

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act''.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, wherever an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references in Act; table of contents.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation and Resolution of Claims

Sec. 101. Description of procedures available for consideration of alleged violations.

Sec. 102. Reform of process for initiation of procedures.
Sec. 103. Availability of mediation during process.
Sec. 104. Hearings.
Subtitle B—Other Reforms
Sec. 111. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse treasury for damages paid as settlements and awards for certain violations.
Sec. 112. Automatic referral to congressional ethics committees of disposition of certain claims alleging violations of Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 involving Members of Congress and senior staff.
Sec. 113. Availability of option to request remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.
Sec. 114. Modification of rules on confidentiality of proceedings.
Sec. 115. Reimbursement by other employing offices of legislative branch of payments of certain awards and settlements.
TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS
Sec. 201. Reports on awards and settlements.
Sec. 202. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.
Sec. 203. Record retention.
Sec. 204. Confidential Advisor.
Sec. 205. GAO study of management practices.
Sec. 206. GAO audit of cybersecurity.
TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS
Sec. 301. Application of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.
Sec. 302. Extension to unpaid staff of rights and protections against employment discrimination.
Sec. 303. Provisions relating to instrumentalities.
Sec. 304. Notices.
Sec. 305. Clarification of coverage of employees of Stennis Center and Helsinki and China Commissions.
Sec. 306. Training and education programs of other employing offices.
Sec. 307. Support for out-of-area covered employees.
Sec. 308. Renaming Office of Compliance as Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.
TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE
Sec. 401. Effective date.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation and Resolution of Claims

SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

(a) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—Section 401 (2 U.S.C. 1401) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 401. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

''(a) FILING OF CLAIMS.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the procedure for consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II consists of—

''(1) notification of intent to file, and filing of, a claim by the covered employee alleging the violation, as provided in section 402, which may be followed, as described in section 403(a), with mediation under section 403; and

''(2) an election of proceeding, as provided in this section, of—

''(A) a formal hearing as provided in section 405, subject to Board review as provided in section 406, and judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as provided in section 407;

''(B) a civil action in a district court of the United States as provided in section 408; or

''(C) in the case of a Library claimant (as defined in subsection (d)(1)), a proceeding described in subsection (d)(2) that relates to the violation at issue.

''(b) ELECTION OF FORMAL HEARING OR CIVIL ACTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered employee who seeks to make—

''(A) the election described in subsection (a)(2)(A) shall file the request for the formal hearing as provided in section 405(a)(1), by the deadline described in paragraph (2); or

''(B) the election described in subsection (a)(2)(B) shall file the civil action as provided in section 408, by the deadline described in paragraph (2).

''(2) DEADLINE FOR ELECTION.—The deadline described in this paragraph shall be 90 days after the later of—

''(A) the date on which either party opts out of mediation under section 402(c); or

''(B) the end of the period of mediation under section 403(c).

''(3) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—If the covered employee—

''(A) elects to file a request for a formal hearing as provided in section 405(a), the procedure for consideration of the claim shall not include a civil action or other proceeding described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2); or

''(B) elects to file a civil action as provided in section 408(a), the procedure for consideration of the claim shall not include any formal hearing, review, or other proceeding described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of subsection (a)(2).

''(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL AND CAPITOL POLICE.—In the case of an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police, the Office, after receiving a claim filed under section 402, may recommend that the employee use, for a specific period of time, the grievance procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police for resolution of the employee's grievance. If the grievance procedures do not resolve the grievance, the employee may resume the procedure described in subsection (a), starting with section 403, except that the deadline for opting out of mediation under that section shall be 10 business days after the last day of the grievance procedures.

''(d) ELECTION OF REMEDIES FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) DIRECT ACT.—The term 'direct Act' means an Act (other than this Act), or provision of the Revised Statutes, that is specified in section 201, 202, or 203.

''(B) DIRECT PROVISION.—The term 'direct provision' means a provision (including a definitional provision) of a direct Act that applies the rights or protections of a direct Act (including rights and protections relating to nonretaliation or noncoercion) to a Library claimant.

''(C) LIBRARY CLAIMANT.—The term 'Library claimant' means, with respect to a direct provision, an employee of the Library of Congress who is covered by that direct provision.

''(2) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER THIS ACT.—A Library claimant who initially files a claim for an alleged violation as provided in section 402 may, instead of proceeding with the claim in accordance with sections 403 (if applicable) and 405 or filing a civil action in accordance with section 408, during the period described in subsection (b)(2) but before the Office commences a formal hearing under section 405, elect to bring the claim for a proceeding before the corresponding Federal agency, under the corresponding direct provision.

''(3) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS OR LABOR LAW.—A Library claimant who initially brings a claim, complaint, or charge under a direct provision for a proceeding before a Federal agency may, prior to requesting a hearing under the agency's procedures, elect to—

''(A) continue with the agency's procedures and preserve the option (if any) to bring any civil action relating to the claim, complaint, or charge, that is available to the Library claimant; or

''(B) file a claim with the Office under section 402, make an election under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 401(a)(2), and continue with the corresponding procedures of this subtitle.

''(4) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall take effect and shall apply as described in section 153(c) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) (except to the extent such section applies to any violation of section 210 or a provision of an Act specified in section 210).

''(e) RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO RETAIN PRIVATE COUNSEL.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the authority of any particular individual, including a covered employee, the head of an employing office, or an individual who has a right to intervene under section 415(d)(6), to retain private counsel to protect the interests of the particular individual at any point during any of the procedures provided under this Act for the consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II, including procedures described in section 415(d)(6).

''(f) STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES OR UNREPRESENTED PARTIES.—

''(1) STANDARDS.—Each designated representative of a party, and unrepresented party, participating in any of the procedures (including proceedings) provided under this Act shall have an obligation to ensure that, to the best of that designated representative or unrepresented party's knowledge, information, and belief, as formed after an inquiry which is reasonable under the circumstances, each of the following is correct:

''(A) No pleading, written motion, or other paper is presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of resolution of the matter.

''(B) The claims, defenses, and other legal contentions the designated representative or unrepresented party advocates are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law.

''(C) The factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

''(D) The denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identified, are reasonably based on belief or a lack of information.

''(2) SANCTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a decisionmaker described in subparagraph (B) determines that a designated representative of a party, or unrepresented party, has failed to comply with the standards specified in paragraph (1), then that decisionmaker may impose appropriate sanctions.

''(B) DECISIONMAKER.—A decisionmaker described in subparagraph (A) is—

''(i) a hearing officer or mediator chosen from the list specified in section 405(c)(2), who is not serving as a hearing officer or mediator to resolve any claim filed under section 402 that is associated with—

''(I) the designated representative or unrepresented party; or

''(II) an individual identified in claim.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO CIVIL ACTION.—Section 408(a) (2 U.S.C. 1408(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 404'' and inserting ''section 401'';

(2) by striking ''who has completed counseling under section 402 and mediation under section 403'' and inserting ''who filed a timely claim under section 402, elected to file a civil action under section 401(a)(2)(B), and made a timely filing under this section as described in section 401(b)''; and

(3) by striking the second sentence.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title IV is amended by striking section 404 (2 U.S.C. 1404).

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended by striking the item relating to section 404.

SEC. 102. REFORM OF PROCESS FOR INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

(a) INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.—Section 402 (2 U.S.C. 1402) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 402. INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) INTAKE OF CLAIM BY OFFICE.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO FILE.—To commence a proceeding under this title, a covered employee alleging a violation of law made applicable under part A of title II shall notify the Office of intent to file a claim with the Office.

''(2) INFORMATION.—On receiving a notification under paragraph (1), the Office shall provide to the covered employee all relevant information with respect to the employee's and the employing office's rights under this Act, the process for filing the claim, and the option for the employee to elect, if the employee so chooses, to file a civil action regarding the alleged violation. The Office shall discuss the information and covered employee's claim with the covered employee. The Office shall initiate the procedures described in this paragraph on the date of the notification.

''(3) FILING.—Upon providing the notification described in paragraph (1), and not later than the expiration of the 180-day period in subsection (e), the covered employee may file the claim. The claim shall be made in writing under oath or affirmation, shall describe the facts that form the basis of the claim and the violation that is being alleged, shall identify the employing office alleged to have committed the violation or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, and shall be in such form as the Office requires.

''(b) INITIAL PROCESSING OF CLAIM.—Upon the filing of a claim by a covered employee under subsection (a), the Office shall take such steps as may be necessary for the initial intake and recording of the claim and shall transmit a copy of the claim to the head of the employing office not later than 3 business days after the date on which the claim is filed.

''(c) MEDIATION.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF MEDIATION.—

''(A) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—Upon receipt of a claim, the Office shall notify the covered employee about the process for mediation under section 403, the right to opt out of the mediation, and the deadline for opting out of the mediation.

''(B) EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Upon transmission to the employing office of the claim pursuant to subsection (b), the Office shall notify the employing office about the process for mediation under section 403, the right to opt out of the mediation, and the deadline for opting out of the mediation.

''(2) DEADLINE TO OPT OUT OF MEDIATION.—Either party may opt out of the mediation. The deadline for opting out shall be 10 business days after the date on which the claim that would be the subject of the mediation is filed.

''(d) USE OF ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND TRACKING SYSTEM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—The Office shall establish and operate an electronic reporting and tracking system through which a covered employee may initiate a proceeding under this title, and which will keep an electronic record of the date and time at which the proceeding is initiated and will track all subsequent actions or proceedings occurring with respect to the proceeding under this title.

''(2) ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL PARTIES.—The system shall be accessible to all parties to such actions or proceedings, but only until the completion of such actions or proceedings.

''(3) ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCEDURES.—The Office shall use the information contained in the system to make regular assessments of the effectiveness of the procedures under this title in providing for the timely resolution of claims, and shall submit semiannual reports on such assessments each year to the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

''(e) DEADLINE.—A covered employee may not file a claim under this section with respect to an allegation of a violation of law after the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the alleged violation. The Office shall not accept a claim that does not meet the requirements of this subsection.

''(f) NO EFFECT ON ABILITY OF COVERED EMPLOYEE TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM OFFICE OR PURSUE RELIEF.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the ability of a covered employee—

''(1) to contact the Office or any other appropriate office prior to filing a claim under this title to seek information regarding the employee's rights under this Act and the procedures available under this Act; or

''(2) in the case of a covered employee of an employing office described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 101(9), to refer information regarding an alleged violation of part A of title II to the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate (as the case may be).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by amending the item relating to section 402 to read as follows:

''Sec. 402. Initiation of procedures.''.

SEC. 103. AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION DURING PROCESS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—Section 403(a) (2 U.S.C. 1403(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Unless the covered employee who filed a claim under section 402 or the employing office named in the claim opts out of mediation by the deadline described in section 402(c)(2), the Office shall promptly assign a mediator to the claim, and conduct such mediation under this section.

''(2) IMPACT OF DECISION.—A decision by a party to engage in or opt out of mediation as provided in this Act shall not be used for or against the party in any proceeding under this Act.''.

(b) REQUIRING PARTIES TO BE SEPARATED DURING MEDIATION AT REQUEST OF EMPLOYEE.—Section 403(b)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1403(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''meetings with the parties separately or jointly'' and inserting ''meetings with the parties during which, at the request of the covered employee, the parties shall be separated,''.

(c) PERIOD OF MEDIATION.—Section 403(c) (2 U.S.C. 1403(c)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''beginning on the date the request for mediation is received'' and inserting ''beginning on the first day after the deadline described in section 402(c)(2)''; and

(2) by striking the second sentence and inserting ''The mediation period may be extended for one additional period of 30 days at the joint request of the covered employee and employing office.''.

SEC. 104. HEARINGS.

(a) HEARINGS COMMENCED BY OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—Section 405 (2 U.S.C. 1405) is amended as follows:

(1) In the heading, by striking ''**COMPLAINT AND**''.

(2) By amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) REQUIREMENT FOR HEARINGS TO COMMENCE IN OFFICE.—

''(1) HEARING REQUIRED UPON REQUEST.—If a covered employee elects to file a request for a hearing under this section by the deadline described in paragraph (2), the Executive Director shall appoint an independent hearing officer pursuant to subsection (c) to consider the claim and render a decision, and a hearing shall be commenced in the Office.

''(2) DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING HEARING.—The deadline described in this paragraph shall be 90 days after the later of—

''(A) the date on which either party opts out of mediation under section 402(c); or

''(B) the end of the period of mediation under section 403(c).

''(3) EFFECT OF FILING CIVIL ACTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the covered employee files a civil action as provided in section 408 with respect to a complaint, the provisions of section 401(b)(3)(B) shall apply with regard to a hearing under this section.''.

(3) In subsection (b), by striking ''dismiss any claim'' and inserting ''dismiss any cause of action within a claim''.

(4) In subsection (c)(1), by striking ''Upon the filing of a complaint'' and inserting ''Upon receipt of a request for a hearing in accordance with subsection (a)''.

(5) In subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(6) In subsection (g), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(b) ADDITIONAL TIME TO COMMENCE A HEARING BEFORE A HEARING OFFICER.—Section 405(d) (2 U.S.C. 1405(d)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) commenced no later than 90 days after the Executive Director receives a request filed under subsection (a), except that, upon mutual agreement of the parties or for good cause, the Office shall extend the time for commencing a hearing for not more than an additional 30 days; and''.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 414 (2 U.S.C. 1414) is amended by striking ''**OF COMPLAINTS**''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents, as amended by section 101(d), is further amended as follows:

(1) By amending the item relating to section 405 to read as follows:

''Sec. 405. Hearing.''.

(2) By amending the item relating to section 414 to read as follows:

''Sec. 414. Settlement.''.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

SEC. 111. REQUIRING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REIMBURSE TREASURY FOR DAMAGES PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.

(a) MANDATING REIMBURSEMENT OF AMOUNTS PAID.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) REIMBURSEMENT BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR DAMAGES PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS.—

''(1) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement in connection with a claim alleging a violation described in subparagraph (D) perpetrated directly against a covered employee by an individual who, at the time of committing the violation, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, that individual who committed the violation shall reimburse the account for the amount of compensatory damages included in the award or settlement attributable to that violation.

''(B) SEPARATE FINDING REQUIRED IN CASE OF AWARD OR SETTLEMENT.—Personal liability or a reimbursement requirement may not be imposed on an individual under this subsection unless the hearing officer, the court, or the corresponding committee described in section 416(e)(1) (as the case may be) makes a finding, separate from the finding on the underlying claim, that the individual perpetrated a violation requiring reimbursement under this subsection.

''(C) MULTIPLE CLAIMS.—If an award or settlement is made for multiple claims, some of which do not require reimbursement under this subsection, the Member or Senator shall only be required to reimburse for the amount of compensatory damages included in the portion of the award or settlement attributable to a claim requiring reimbursement.

''(D) VIOLATION DESCRIBED.—A violation described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) unwelcome harassment by an individual described in subparagraph (A) on any basis protected by section 201(a) or 206(a) that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering, and is sufficiently severe or pervasive to unreasonably interfere, with a covered employee's work performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment; or

''(ii) in the case of a violation of section 201(a) on the basis of sex, conduct by an individual described in subparagraph (A) that is an unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favors, when—

''(I) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the covered employee's employment; or

''(II) submission to or rejection of such conduct by the employee is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting such employee.

''(2) WITHHOLDING AMOUNTS FROM COMPENSATION.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES BY COMMITTEES.—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (B), the applicable Committee shall establish a timetable and procedures for the withholding of amounts from the compensation of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator.

''(B) DEADLINE.—The payroll administrator shall withhold from an individual's compensation and transfer to the account described in subsection (a) (after transferring to the account of the individual in the Thrift Savings Fund any amount that the individual had requested to be so transferred) such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account described in subsection (a) for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1) if the individual has not reimbursed the account as required under paragraph (1) prior to the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date a payment is made from the account for such an award or settlement.

''(C) APPLICABLE COMMITTEE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the 'applicable Committee' means—

''(i) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Member of the House; or

''(ii) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Senator.

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE WAGE GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES FROM A SUBSEQUENT POSITION.—

''(A) INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION.—Subparagraph (B) shall apply to an individual who is subject to the reimbursement requirement of this subsection if, by the expiration of the 180-day period that begins on the date a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) relating to an award or settlement described in paragraph (1), the individual—

''(i) has not reimbursed the account for the entire reimbursable portion as required under paragraph (1); and

''(ii) is not employed as a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator but is employed in a subsequent non-Federal position.

''(B) GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES.—On the expiration of that 180-day period, the amount of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) (reduced by any amount the individual has reimbursed, taking into account any amounts withheld under paragraph (2)) shall be treated as a delinquent nontax debt and transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for collection. Upon that transfer, the Secretary of the Treasury shall collect the debt, in accordance with section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, including by administrative wage garnishment of the wages of the individual described in subparagraph (A) from the position described in subparagraph (A)(ii). The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer the collected amount to the account described in subsection (a).

''(4) NOTIFICATION TO OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—If the individual does not obtain employment in a subsequent position referred to in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), not later than 90 days after the individual is first no longer receiving compensation as a Member or a Senator, the amounts withheld or collected under this subsection have not been sufficient to reimburse the account described in subsection (a) for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1), the payroll administrator—

''(A) shall notify the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who shall take such actions as the Director considers appropriate to withhold from any annuity payable to the individual under chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1); and

''(B) shall notify the Secretary of the Treasury, who (if necessary), notwithstanding section 207 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 407), shall take such actions as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate to withhold from any payment to the individual under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1).

''(5) COORDINATION BETWEEN OPM AND TREASURY.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out paragraph (4) in a manner that ensures the coordination of the withholding and transferring of amounts under such paragraph, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Director and the Secretary.

''(6) RIGHT TO INTERVENE.—An individual who is subject to the reimbursement requirement of this subsection shall have the unconditional right to intervene in any mediation, hearing, or civil action under this title to protect the interests of the individual in the determination of whether an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) should be made, and the amount of any such award or settlement, except that nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require the covered employee who filed the claim to be deposed by counsel for the individual in a deposition that is separate from any other deposition taken from the employee in connection with the hearing or civil action.

''(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term 'payroll administrator' means—

''(A) in the case of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this subsection; or

''(B) in the case of an individual who is a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out this subsection.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to claims made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 112. AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.

Section 416(e) (2 U.S.C. 1416(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) AUTOMATIC REFERRALS TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITIONS OF CLAIMS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.—

''(1) REFERRAL.—Upon the final disposition under this title (as described in paragraph (6)) of a claim alleging a violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) that is perpetrated directly against a covered employee by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, or by a senior staffer of an employing office described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 101(9), the Executive Director shall refer the claim to—

''(A) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of a Member or senior staffer of the House (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress); or

''(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of a Senator or senior staffer of the Senate.

''(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—If the Executive Director refers a

claim to a Committee under paragraph (1), the Executive Director shall provide the Committee with access to the settlement documents in the case of a settlement and findings by the hearing officer involved in the case of an award under this title.

''(3) REVIEW BY CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF SETTLEMENTS OF CERTAIN CLAIMS.—After the receipt of a settlement agreement for a claim that includes an allegation of a violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) that is perpetrated directly against a covered employee as described in section 415(d)(1)(D) by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or a Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, the corresponding committee described in paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) not later than 90 days after that receipt, review the settlement agreement;

''(B) determine whether an investigation of the claim is warranted; and

''(C) if the committee determines, after the investigation, that the claim that resulted in the settlement involved an actual violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) perpetrated directly against a covered employee as described in section 415(d)(1)(D) by the Member or Senator, then the committee shall notify the Executive Director to request the reimbursement described in section 415(d) and include the settlement in the report required by section 301(l).

''(4) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—If a Committee to which a claim is referred under paragraph (1) issues a report with respect to the claim, the Committee shall ensure that the report does not directly disclose the identity or position of the individual who filed the claim.

''(5) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) REDACTIONS.—If a Committee issues a report as described in paragraph (4), the Committee may, in accordance with subparagraph (B), make an appropriate redaction to the information or data included in the report if the Committee and the appropriate decisionmakers described in subparagraph (B) determine that including the information or data considered for redaction may lead to the unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant. The report including any such redaction shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(B) AGREEMENT ON REDACTIONS.—The Committee shall make a redaction under subparagraph (A) only if agreement is reached on the precise information or data to be redacted by—

''(i) the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of a report concerning a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a senior staffer who is an employee of the House of Representatives; or

''(ii) the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of a report concerning a Senator or senior staffer who is an employee of the Senate.

''(C) RETENTION OF UNREDACTED REPORTS.—Each committee described in subparagraph (B) shall retain a copy of the report, without redactions.

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) FINAL DISPOSITION.—The 'final disposition' of a claim means the following:

''(i) An agreement to pay a settlement, including an agreement reached pursuant to mediation under section 403.

''(ii) An order to pay an award that is final and not subject to appeal.

''(B) SENIOR STAFFER.—The term 'senior staffer' means any individual who, at the time a violation occurred, was required to file a report under title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).''.

SEC. 113. AVAILABILITY OF OPTION TO REQUEST REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 417. OPTION TO REQUEST REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT.—At the request of a covered employee who files a claim alleging a violation of part A of title II by the covered employee's employing office, during the pendency of any of the procedures available under this title for consideration of the claim, the employing office may permit the covered employee to carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location (referred to in this section as 'permitting a remote work assignment') where such relocation would have the effect of materially reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation, instead of from a location of the employing office.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRED TO BE CARRIED OUT ONSITE.—If, in the determination of the covered employee's employing office, a covered employee who makes a request under this subsection cannot carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location or such relocation would not have the effect described in paragraph (1), the employing office may during the pendency of the procedures described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee;

''(B) permit a remote work assignment and grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee; or

''(C) make another workplace adjustment, or permit a remote work assignment, that would have the effect of reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ENSURING NO RETALIATION.—An employing office may not grant a covered employee's request under this subsection in a manner which would constitute a violation of section 207.

''(4) NO IMPACT ON VACATION OR PERSONAL LEAVE.—In granting leave for a paid leave of absence under this section, an employing office shall not require the covered employee to substitute, for that leave, any of the accrued paid vacation or personal leave of the covered employee.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR ARRANGEMENTS SUBJECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that it is inconsistent with the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining agreement which is in effect with respect to an employing office.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to tile IV the following new item:

''Sec. 417. Option to request remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.''.

SEC. 114. MODIFICATION OF RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS.

(a) MEDIATION.—Section 416(b) (2 U.S.C. 1416(b)) is amended by striking ''All mediation'' and inserting ''All information discussed or disclosed in the course of any mediation''.

(b) CLAIMS.—Section 416 (2 U.S.C. 1416), as amended by section 112, is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking ''subsections (d), (e), and (f)'' and inserting ''subsections (c), (d), and (e)''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CLAIMS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a covered employee from disclosing the factual allegations supporting the covered employee's claim, or to prohibit an employing office from disclosing the factual allegations supporting the employing office's defense to the claim, in the course of any proceeding under this title.''.

SEC. 115. REIMBURSEMENT BY OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF PAYMENTS OF CERTAIN AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415), as amended by section 111, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REIMBURSEMENT BY EMPLOYING OFFICES.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE FROM ACCOUNT.—As soon as practicable after the Executive Director is made aware that a payment of an award or settlement under this Act has been made from the account described in subsection (a) in connection with a claim alleging a violation described in section 201(a) or 206(a) by an employing office (other than an employing office described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 101(9)), the Executive Director shall notify the head of the employing office associated with the claim that the payment has been made, and shall include in the notification a statement of the amount of the payment.

''(2) REIMBURSEMENT BY OFFICE.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a notification from the Executive Director under paragraph (1), the head of the employing office involved shall transfer to the account described in subsection (a), out of any funds available for operating expenses of the office, a payment equal to the amount specified in the notification.

''(3) TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—The head of an employing office shall transfer a payment under paragraph (2) in accordance with such timetable and procedures as may be established under regulations promulgated by the Office.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made under section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415) for an award or settlement for a claim that is filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

SEC. 201. REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

(1) REQUIRING SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(A) in subsection (h)(3), by striking ''complaint'' each place it appears and inserting ''claim''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the beginning of each calendar year,

the Office shall submit to Congress and publish on the Office's public website a report listing each award that is the result of a violation of part A of title II or settlement that is attributable to a finding described in section 415(d)(1)(B) and that was paid during the previous calendar year from the account described in section 415(a). The report shall include information on the employing office involved, the amount of the award or settlement, the provision that was the subject of the claim, and (in the case of an award or settlement resulting from a finding described in section 415(d)(1)(B)), whether the Member or former Member is in compliance with the requirement of section 415(d) to reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement.

''(2) PROTECTION OF IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—In preparing and submitting the reports required under paragraph (1), the Office shall ensure that the identity or position of any claimant is not disclosed.

''(3) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Executive Director may make an appropriate redaction to the data included in the report described in paragraph (1) if the Executive Director determines that including the data considered for redaction may lead to the identity or position of a claimant unintentionally being disclosed. The report shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(B) RECORDKEEPING.—The Executive Director shall retain a copy of the report described in subparagraph (A), without redactions.

''(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'claimant' means an individual who received an award or settlement, or who made an allegation of a violation against an employing office.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to 2018 and each succeeding year.

(b) REPORT ON AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY PAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on the Office's public website a report on all payments made with public funds prior to the date of the enactment of this Act for awards and settlements in connection with violations of section 201(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1311(a)), or section 207 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1317) and shall include in the report the following information:

(A) The amount paid for each such award or settlement.

(B) The source of the public funds used for the award or settlement, without regard to whether the funds were paid from the account described in section 415(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1415(a)), an account of the House of Representatives or Senate, or any other account of the Federal Government.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF HOUSE AND SENATE ACCOUNTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1)(B) may be construed to require or permit the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights to report the account of any specific office of the House of Representatives or Senate as the source of funds used for an award or settlement.

SEC. 202. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING SURVEYS.—Title III (2 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 307. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT SURVEYS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Office shall conduct a survey of employees of employing offices described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of section 101(9), regarding the workplace environment of such office. The Office shall make the survey available (which may include making the survey available electronically) to all such employees. Employee responses to the survey shall be voluntary.

''(b) SPECIAL INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION.—In each survey conducted under this section, the Office shall survey respondents on attitudes regarding sexual harassment and discrimination.

''(c) METHODOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall conduct each survey under this section in accordance with methodologies established by the Office.

''(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Under the methodologies established under paragraph (1), all responses to all portions of the survey shall be anonymous and confidential, and each respondent shall be told throughout the survey that all responses shall be anonymous and confidential.

''(3) SURVEY FORM.—The Office shall not include any code or information on the survey form that makes a respondent to the survey, or the respondent's employing office, individually identifiable.

''(d) USE OF RESULTS OF SURVEYS.—The Office shall furnish the information obtained from the surveys conducted under this section to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Rules and Administration, of the Senate.

''(e) CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEES.—The Office shall carry out this section, including establishment of methodologies and procedures under subsection (c), in consultation with the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Rules and Administration, of the Senate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title III the following new item:

''Sec. 307. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.''.

SEC. 203. RECORD RETENTION.

Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381), as amended by section 201(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) RECORD RETENTION.—Not later than 180 days following the date of enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, the Office, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, shall create a program to be enforced by the Office for the proper and timely disposition of confidential documents and data created or obtained by mediators or hearing officers in connection with their service in confidential proceedings under this Act.''.

SEC. 204. CONFIDENTIAL ADVISOR.

Section 302 (2 U.S.C. 1382) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) CONFIDENTIAL ADVISOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director shall—

''(A) appoint, and fix the compensation of, and may remove, a Confidential Advisor; or

''(B) designate an employee of the Office to serve as a Confidential Advisor.

''(2) DUTIES.—

''(A) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—The Confidential Advisor shall offer to provide to covered employees described in paragraph (4) the services described in subparagraph (B), which a covered employee may accept or decline.

''(B) SERVICES.—The services referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

''(i) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has experienced a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the employee's rights under this Act;

''(ii) consulting, on a privileged and confidential basis, with a covered employee who has experienced a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II regarding—

''(I) the roles, responsibilities, and authority of the Office; and

''(II) the relative merits of securing private counsel, designating a non-attorney representative, or proceeding without representation during proceedings before the Office;

''(iii) assisting, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who seeks consideration under title IV of an allegation of a violation of part A of title II in understanding the procedures, and the significance of the procedures, described in that title IV; and

''(iv) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has experienced a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the option of pursuing, in appropriate circumstances, a complaint with the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

''(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Confidential Advisor shall be a lawyer who—

''(A) is admitted to practice before, and is in good standing with, the bar of a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States; and

''(B) has experience representing clients in cases involving the workplace laws incorporated by part A of title II.

''(4) INDIVIDUALS COVERED.—The services described in paragraph (2) are available to any covered employee (which, for purposes of this subsection, shall include any staff member described in section 201(d) and any former covered employee (including any former staff member described in that section)), except that—

''(A) a former covered employee may only request such services if the practice that may be a violation of part A of title II occurred during the employment or service of the employee; and

''(B) a covered employee described in this paragraph may only request such services before the expiration of the 180-day period described in section 402(e).

''(5) RESTRICTIONS.—The Confidential Advisor—

''(A) shall not provide legal advice to, or act as the designated representative for, any covered employee in connection with the covered employee's participation in any proceeding, including any proceeding under this Act, any judicial proceeding, or any proceeding before any committee of Congress; and

''(B) shall not serve as a mediator in any mediation conducted pursuant to section 403.''.

SEC. 205. GAO STUDY OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

SEC. 206. GAO AUDIT OF CYBERSECURITY.

(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the audit conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

SEC. 301. APPLICATION OF GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.

Section 102 (2 U.S.C. 1302) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.—The provisions of this Act that apply to a violation of section 201(a)(1) shall be considered to apply to a violation of title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), consistent with section 207(c) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000ff–6(c)).''.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION TO UNPAID STAFF OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 201(d) (2 U.S.C. 1311(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) APPLICATION TO UNPAID STAFF.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) and section 207 shall apply with respect to any staff member of an employing office who carries out official duties of the employing office but who is not paid by the employing office for carrying out such duties, including an intern, an individual detailed to an employing office, and an individual participating in a fellowship program, in the same manner and to the same extent as such subsections and section apply with respect to a covered employee.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to extend liability for a violation of subsection (a) or section 207 to an employing office on the basis of an action taken by any person who is not under the supervision or control of the employing office.

''(3) INTERN DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'intern' means an individual who performs service for an employing office which is uncompensated by the United States, who obtains an educational benefit, such as by earning credit awarded by an educational institution or learning a trade or occupation, and who is appointed on a temporary basis.''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATING TO OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF PAY TO HOUSE EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(7) (2 U.S.C. 1301(7)) is amended by striking ''disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives''.

SEC. 303. PROVISIONS RELATING TO INSTRUMENTALITIES.

(a) REFERENCES TO FORMER OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT.—

(1) PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS PROVISIONS.—Section 210(a) (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (9), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (10); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (10).

(2) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROVISIONS.—Section 215(e)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''the Office of Technology Assessment,''.

(3) LABOR-MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS.—Section 220(e)(2)(G) (2 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)(G)) is amended by striking '', the Office of Technology Assessment,''.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO LOC COVERAGE OF LIBRARY VISITORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 210 (2 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) ELECTION OF REMEDIES RELATING TO RIGHTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR LIBRARY VISITORS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF LIBRARY VISITOR.—In this subsection, the term 'Library visitor' means an individual who is eligible to bring a claim for a violation under title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (other than a violation for which the exclusive remedy is under section 201) against the Library of Congress.

''(2) ELECTION OF REMEDIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Library visitor who alleges a violation of subsection (b) by the Library of Congress may, subject to subparagraph (B)—

''(i) file a charge against the Library of Congress under subsection (d); or

''(ii) use the remedies and procedures set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16), as provided under section 510 (other than paragraph (5)) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12209).

''(B) TIMING.—A Library visitor that has initiated proceedings under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) may elect to change and initiate a proceeding under the other clause—

''(i) in the case of a Library visitor who first filed a charge pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), before the General Counsel files a complaint under subsection (d)(3); or

''(ii) in the case of a Library visitor who first initiated a proceeding under subparagraph (A)(ii), before the Library visitor requests a hearing under the procedures of the Library of Congress described in such subparagraph.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect as if such amendments were included in section 153 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), and shall apply as specified in section 153(c) of such Act.

SEC. 304. NOTICES.

Part E of title II (2 U.S.C. 1361) is amended—

(1) in section 225 (2 U.S.C. 1361)—

(A) by striking subsection (e); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 226. NOTICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Every employing office shall post and keep posted (in conspicuous places upon its premises where notices to covered employees are customarily posted) a notice provided by the Office that—

''(1) describes the rights, protections, and procedures applicable to covered employees of the employing office under this Act, concerning violations described in subsection (b); and

''(2) includes contact information for the Office.

''(b) VIOLATIONS.—A violation described in this subsection is—

''(1) discrimination prohibited by section 201(a) (including, in accordance with section 102(c), discrimination prohibited by title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.)) or 206(a); and

''(2) a violation of section 207, or a violation of section 4311(b) of title 38, United States Code, that is related to discrimination described in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 305. CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF STENNIS CENTER AND HELSINKI AND CHINA COMMISSIONS.

(a) COVERAGE OF STENNIS CENTER, CHINA REVIEW COMMISSION, CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE CHINA COMMISSION, AND HELSINKI COMMISSION.—

(1) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS COVERED EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(3) (2 U.S.C. 1301(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (I);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (I); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development;

''(K) the China Review Commission;

''(L) the Congressional-Executive China Commission; or

''(M) the Helsinki Commission.''.

(2) TREATMENT OF CENTER AND COMMISSIONS AS EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Section 101(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(9)(D)) is amended by striking ''and the Office of Technology Assessment'' and inserting the following: ''the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development, the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission''.

(3) DEFINITIONS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 101 (2 U.S.C. 1301) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(13) CHINA REVIEW COMMISSION.—The term 'China Review Commission' means the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission established under section 1238 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as enacted into law by section 1 of Public Law 106–398.

''(14) CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE CHINA COMMISSION.—The term 'Congressional-Executive China Commission' means the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China established under title III of the U.S.–China Relations Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–286; 22 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.).

''(15) HELSINKI COMMISSION.—The term 'Helsinki Commission' means the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe established under the Act entitled 'An Act to establish a Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe', approved June 3, 1976 (Public Law 94–304; 22 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).''.

(b) LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 509 as section 512; and

(B) by inserting after section 508 the following:

''SEC. 509. LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION.

''Legal assistance and representation under this Act, including assistance and representation with respect to the proposal or acceptance of the disposition of a claim under this Act, shall be provided to the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

''(1) by the Office of the House Employment Counsel of the House of Representatives, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Member of the House, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties; or

''(2) by the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment of the Senate, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Senator, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(A) by redesignating the item relating to section 509 as relating to section 512; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 508 the following new item:

''Sec. 509. Legal assistance and representation.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 101 (2 U.S.C. 1301) is amended, in paragraphs (7) and (8), by striking ''through (I)'' and inserting ''through (M)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) through (c) shall apply with respect to claims alleging violations of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) which are first made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 306. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as amended by section 305(b), is further amended by inserting after section 509 the following:

''SEC. 510. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Each employing office shall develop and implement a program to train and educate covered employees of the office in the rights and protections provided under this Act, including the procedures available under this Act to consider alleged violations of this Act.

''(b) REPORT TO COMMITTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the beginning of each Congress (beginning with the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress), each employing office shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate on the implementation of the program required under subsection (a).

''(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, each employing office shall submit the report described in paragraph (1) to the Committees described in such paragraph.

''(c) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICES OF CONGRESS.—This section does not apply to an employing office described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 101(9).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 509, as inserted by section 305(b), the following new item:

''Sec. 510. Training and education programs of employing offices.''.

SEC. 307. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as amended by section 306(a), is further amended by inserting after section 510 the following:

''SEC. 511. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—All covered employees whose location of employment is outside of the Washington, DC area (referred to in this section as 'out-of-area covered employees', shall have equitable access to the resources and services provided by the Office and under this Act as is provided to covered employees who work in the Washington, DC area.

''(b) OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—The Office shall—

''(1) establish a method by which out-of-area covered employees may communicate securely with the Office, which shall include an option for real-time audiovisual communication; and

''(2) provide guidance to employing offices regarding how each office can facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for its out-of-area covered employees, including information regarding the communication methods described in paragraph (1).

''(c) EMPLOYING OFFICES.—It is the sense of Congress that each employing office with out-of-area covered employees should use its best efforts to facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for those employees.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 510, as inserted by section 306(b), the following new item:

''Sec. 511. Support for out-of-area employees.''.

SEC. 308. RENAMING OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AS OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.

(a) RENAMING.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 101(1) (2 U.S.C. 1301(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(2) In section 101(2) (2 U.S.C. 1301(2)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(3) In section 101(3)(H) (2 U.S.C. 1301(3)(H)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(4) In section 101(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(9)(D)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(5) In section 101(10) (2 U.S.C. 1301(10)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(6) In section 101(11) (2 U.S.C. 1301(11)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(7) In section 101(12) (2 U.S.C. 1301(12)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(8) In section 210(a)(9) (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)(9)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(9) In section 215(e)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(10) In section 220(e)(2)(G) (2 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)(G)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(11) In the heading of title III, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''.

(12) In section 304(c)(4) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(4)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(13) In section 304(c)(5) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(5)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by amending the item relating to the title heading of title III to read as follows:

''TITLE III—OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS'';

and

(2) by amending the item relating to section 301 to read as follows:

''Sec. 301. Establishment of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.''.

(d) REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.—Any reference to the Office of Compliance in any law, rule, regulation, or other official paper in effect as of the effective date specified in section 401(a) shall be considered to refer and apply to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 401. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) NO EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to affect any proceeding or payment of an award or settlement relating to a claim under title IV of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) which is pending as of the date of the enactment of this Act. If, as of that date, an employee has begun any of the proceedings under that title that were available to the employee prior to that date, the employee may complete, or initiate and complete, all such proceedings, and such proceedings shall remain in effect with respect to, and provide the exclusive proceedings for, the claim involved until the completion of all such proceedings.

Mr. BLUNT. 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.

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to turn to my colleague, Senator KLOBUCHAR. We have worked together on this bill. We are pleased to be able to bring it to the Senate floor today. We are pleased that all of our colleagues had time to see it, that it went through the process on both sides without objection, and that now it has been voted on by the Senate.

Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator BLUNT for his work on this. This is an incredibly important moment. We are completely overhauling the sexual harassment policies of the Congress. This was an antiquated policy that literally required 30 days of forced counseling, 30 days of forced mediation, and 30 days of a cooling-off period. It was time for a change, and that is what we came together to do.

I wish thank our colleagues who have worked on this with us: Senators GILLIBRAND, MURRAY, MCCASKILL, HARRIS; our working group on Rules, including Senators BLUNT, FEINSTEIN, CORTEZ MASTO, CAPITO, and FISCHER; and of course the two leaders, Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER, who worked on this.

Senators ENZI and KENNEDY would always say: If you can agree on things 80 percent of the time, that is a good day. This is a good day for changing the rules so that the deck is not stacked against victims, who should be in a safe workplace.

Thank you, Senator BLUNT.

Mr. BLUNT. I certainly appreciate the opportunity we have had to work on this. Senator KLOBUCHAR and I work together on the Rules Committee, as well, where I am the chairman and she is the ranking member, and the daily activities of the Senate come to us often.

This was an action that created an opportunity where we looked at the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995. As Senator KLOBUCHAR has suggested, there are things that may have been well-intended at the time, but they really put too many obligations and too many restrictions, in our view, on victims. Those things are all eliminated.

Members of Congress, if they are personally involved in harassment, will be personally liable for the compensatory damages of that. I think it puts the responsibility where the American people think it should be.

Both of our leaders have been very supportive—both Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL. Many of our Members were involved in drafting this legislation, and there were many more who, after they had time to look at the final product, cosponsored the legislation. I think approximately one-third of the Senate by the time this bill came to the floor were cosponsors of the bill.

We look forward to this bill further defining what we see as our responsibilities. I am pleased to see the action of the Senate today with the unanimous clearance of every Senator on both sides, which enabled this bill to come to the floor and now has been approved.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much.

Mrs. MURRAY. I want to thank my colleagues from Minnesota and Missouri for all of their hard work on this issue. I would like to ask my colleagues through the chair about section 111 of the bill amending section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act. A new subparagraph, which will become 415(d)(1)(D), describes certain violations for which reimbursement is required by a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator. I am interested in my colleagues' understanding regarding how that language should be interpreted?

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I Thank the Senator for her question. The description of harassment in section 111 of the bill is only relevant to the determination of whether a Member is required to reimburse the Treasury and is not intended to be used in other contexts.

Mr. BLUNT. Section 111 of the bill includes a new requirement for Members to reimburse the Treasury in specific circumstances. The description of harassment in this section is only intended to be used during adjudicatory processes to determine whether a Member is required to reimburse the Treasury.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you. That clarification is helpful for my understanding and for my colleagues' understanding as we take important steps to better address harassment in the U.S. Congress.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Evans nomination?

Mr. CASSIDY. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Boozman	Cassidy
Barrasso	Burr	Collins
Blunt	Capito	Corker
Cornyn	Hoeven	Risch
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Crapo	Inhofe	Rounds
Daines	Isakson	Sasse
Donnelly	Johnson	Scott
Enzi	Kennedy	Shelby
Ernst	Lankford	Sullivan
Fischer	Lee	Tester
Gardner	McConnell	Thune
Graham	Murkowski	Tillis
Grassley	Paul	Toomey
Hatch	Perdue	Wicker
Heitkamp	Portman	Young

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Udall
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	McCaskill	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Harris	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—9

Cruz	Hassan	Moran
Duckworth	Heller	Rubio
Flake	McCain	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for 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 Minnesota.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 REFORM BILL

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, Senator BLUNT and I were here on the floor earlier to talk about the bill that was just passed through the Senate unanimously. That is the bill dealing with sexual harassment and other harassment rules of the Congress. This was a joint effort, and I wish to take this opportunity, first of all, to thank everyone who was involved in this.

First and foremost is Senator BLUNT, who has been a true partner. We have worked on everything together, from adoption to tourism. Last month, when he took over from Senator SHELBY's able leadership of the Rules Committee, he and I worked together on changing the Senate rules, for the first time in the history of the Senate, to be more family friendly. We worked with Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH so that her baby will be allowed on the floor, as will other children of male and female Senators going forward.

The world is changing, and the Senate needs to change with it, and I would argue that the Senate should be in the lead.

It is no surprise, then, that we have had a number of women staff members take the lead and work with us on this bill. First is Lizzy Peluso, who is my lead and the ranking member's staff director of our Rules Committee. She was my chief of staff for a number of years and moved over to be our lead on the Rules Committee. She has done a tremendous job ushering in this legislation by listening to Members' concerns and working with people on the legislation.

There is also Stacy McBride, who has the same role working for Senator BLUNT and has worked with him on this. We thank her for her help as well.

I also want to mention Erin Sager Vaughn, who works with Senator SCHUMER and has really done a lot of work on this bill.

It just was a team effort.

To John Abegg, from Senator MCCONNELL's office, thank you for your help as well.

I want to thank Travis Talvitie from my office for his work on this bill.

This was a bill that was a long time in coming. I notice that there has been some excellent work over in the House. We want to thank Representative SPEIER and others who have been involved in their bill. We know it is a little different than our bill. We look forward to hearing them out and working with them as we move forward.

I did want to thank our colleagues in the Senate who supported this bill and worked with us. That would be Senator GILLIBRAND, who has been such a leader on this issue, Senator MURPHY, Senator MCCASKILL, and Senator HARRIS. Also, I want to thank our Rules Committee working group: Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator CORTEZ MASTO, Senator CAPITO, and Senator FISCHER. All are women who serve on the Rules Committee and know we had to change the rules.

I would say about this bill what Senator ENZI would always say about his work with Senator Ted Kennedy: You have to start with the 80 percent that you agree on.

We found a lot to agree on when it came to reforming the process in the Senate, which was literally staff against victims. It didn't include interns. It didn't include a number of people who had worked in the Senate. It was a very difficult process for people to bring claims.

Of course, our goal here is a safe workplace, not only in the Senate and in the House, not only in all of the Federal Government, but really across the country. So as much as this debate has been focused on people who serve in positions of power—as it well should be—we also have to remember the nurse on the frontline in the hospital and the factory worker on the poultry line in Minnesota, and we should have protections in place at all workplaces. I know this discussion is going on across America, and we are more than ready to be part of that discussion.

So what is the problem? First of all, we have a situation where we had a 30-day forced counseling period. If someone were to bring a harassment claim in the Senate, they had to go through 30 days of forced mediation, even if they didn't want to mediate the claim. We had a 30-day forced cooling-off period before they could have access to a court. They could have been forced into a nondisclosure agreement. Interns had no protection at all, and there was no actual transparency around awards or settlement. It was literally set up to muzzle the victims in these cases.

So what have we done? First of all, Senator GRASSLEY and I worked on this last fall, along with Senator SHELBY and others, and on mandatory training. I appreciate the leadership of Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER in working with us on this and getting this done quickly so that every staff member in the Senate, including every Senator, now goes through sexual harassment training. That had to happen for the first time by the end of January, and that happened.

We also were concerned that victims weren't reporting incidents. After all, 75 percent of individuals who experienced sexual harassment at work didn't report it. So we wanted to make sure we improved the process so that would change.

What does this legislation do? First of all, as I mentioned, it overhauls the process. That was our first and major goal—to make it easier for victims. It allows a victim to immediately pursue an administrative hearing or file a civil action—none of these cooling-off periods that are mandatory. It maintains the option for an employee to go into mediation.

Secondly, there are immediate protections for staff. The bill that just passed the Senate provides employees with immediate access to a dedicated advocate who would provide consultation and assistance and figure all of the options that they have and work with them on that.

As I mentioned, it covers interns, detailees, and others who work in the Senate as unpaid staff. It provides opportunities for employees to work remotely or request paid leave without fear of retribution, after they have made a complaint. It requires that a notification of rights of employees be posted within every employing office of the legislative branch, including State and district offices. There are a number of other provisions, which I will put in the RECORD, that are put in to immediately protect staff.

Last, there is accountability for Members. This bill holds Members of the House and Senate personally liable by requiring them to repay awards and settlements stemming from acts of harassment that they personally commit and ensures that Members who leave office would still be responsible for repaying the Treasury, including garnishing nongovernment wages and retirement annuities to ensure repayment.

It requires public reporting of awards and settlements, including identifying if a Member of the House or Senate was personally liable. It also requires claims to be automatically referred to the Committee on Ethics for investigation or further action when there is a final award or settlement.

Those are the top lines of the bill, but I think we know that it is more than words on a page. It is more than going back and forth about which provision would be better. This is really about the cases that we have seen in the Senate and the House—that they be handled correctly, and that we have a new and improved workplace going forward so that all people feel safe, so that the culture here feels safe, and so that we can be true leaders for workplaces across the country.

Again, this wouldn't have happened without the decision of many Members who work here to, one, go out of their comfort zone and, two, decide they were more interested in getting something done than having a messaging bill. That is what every Senator here decided—that it was more important to change this process.

A year from now—once we get this passed through the House, and we work with them and we get this done—I believe we are going to come back and have a different story to tell about the workplaces that we work in.

I wish to thank my colleagues for making that decision to concretely get something done instead of just pointing fingers at each other.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for her work on this. I think the Senate has done good work today.

TRIBUTE TO LORENZO D'AUBERT

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise just for a few minutes to do what we don't do often enough around here, and that is to recognize the extraordinary work of the people who actually labor in the trenches of the Senate.

Back in September of 2008, a young man came to work in my office as an intern. Now, almost 10 years later, he is an essential part of my life.

I am not sure that people understand what the beating heart of a Senate office is, but everything revolves around the schedule. This young man, Lorenzo d'Aubert, who came to work for me in 2008, worked his way up from intern to staff assistant, which means you answer the phones when everybody is upset. Then he became a legislative correspondent, and then he worked as a systems analyst and on all of the computer stuff in my office. Eventually, his talent was so obvious, that I said: Please come sit outside my office and make everything work right, and that is what he has done.

It is a really hard job because when you are the executive assistant and the scheduler, you have to say no to a lot of people, and you have to say it nicely. You have to make everyone happy, even when you are telling them that the schedule will not allow that to happen. You have to manage phone calls from all seven of my children and my husband, who is upset, and manage the birth of grandchildren, the birthdays, the schedule of when I can get there and when I can't. Is the plane delayed, or is it not? Can you get on Southwest? No, maybe you can make the American flight. On top of it all, he gets me to a million meetings and a million places all at the same time, with a smile on his face, with kindness in his heart, with a whip-sharp intellect, and with a work ethic that is astounding.

I am really upset because he has the nerve to leave and go to law school. I am proud of him for his determination to seek a degree in law. I know he will be an amazing lawyer because he has that touch, where even when he is giving you bad news, you know that he is delivering it with kindness. We need much more of that in the legal profession.

Lorenzo is really important to me, and I will miss him terribly. I think it is important that all of us around here—who crave the lime light, who want all the attention, and who want everybody to think that we are moving mountains—know that it is the people around us who are moving the mountains. We are just lucky to be on the ride.

We will all miss you, Lorenzo. Congratulations to you and to your parents, Linda and Sergio. I know they are here today. I know how proud they are of you. We will miss you terribly, and we will be really mad at you if you don't stay in touch.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

VA MISSION BILL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I will start by congratulating Senator KLOBUCHAR, who was on the floor earlier to speak about the Congressional Accountability Act, and Senator BLUNT for their hard work to enact legislation that will make this place work better. It is a rare display of bipartisanship, coming together to improve our processes with regard to sexual harassment and other issues, and I thank them for that.

Earlier this week, some of us talked about the veterans bill that passed this Chamber—another sign of bipartisanship. It passed with a big vote, and it will help our veterans in Ohio to get the care they need, where they want it. Going into Memorial Day, I am very glad it passed.

We have heard a lot of concerns that my colleagues raised about veterans not being able to get the care they wanted in their hometowns or the specialist they wanted or not being able to get reimbursed appropriately for care outside of the VA system, and now they will be able to do it.

Another part of that legislation that helps our veterans deals with an issue that is affecting all of the States in this body and sadly has become an epidemic in our country; that is, the opioid epidemic. It is an issue that some of our veterans are facing when they come back from service. Some have PTSD. Some have traumatic brain injuries and other injuries that require procedures. In response to the acute pain and some of these other conditions, they are given opioid medication. As a result, sadly, a number of our veterans have become addicted to opioids.

This legislation will help by, No. 1, cutting back on the overprescribing of opioids but also by using nonaddictive pain alternatives—medicines that do not have opioids in them—and other forms of therapy to help them deal with pain. These therapies will now be used more in our VA hospital system. That is a good thing for our veterans.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, talking about the opioid issue, sadly, this is gripping my State of Ohio in a way that has caused us to have more deaths by opioids than any other cause of death. But it is not just Ohio; it is an epidemic because now, nationally, it is the No. 1 cause of accidental death, and for Americans under 50, it is the No. 1 cause of death, period. This makes it the worst drug epidemic we have faced in this country—the worst since, we will recall, back in the 1980s and 1990s when we were very concerned about cocaine and other drugs. This has become the worst drug epidemic we have ever faced.

We had a tele-townhall meeting this week where I called several thousand Ohioans. We had about 20,000 people on the call at any one time. During that call, we had a survey question. Among other questions, it asked about opioids, and it asked a very simple question: Do you know someone who has been personally affected? Have you been or do you know someone who has been personally affected by this opioid epidemic? The numbers were shocking this week. Typically, over half of the callers say yes. That is how bad it is in Ohio. This week, it was 66 percent—two-thirds of the callers. Thousands of people in Ohio reported back from a tele-townhall. So it is not a self-selected group; it is people who have called in to talk about various issues, and 66 percent said they know someone who has been directly affected by this opioid addiction issue.

It has unfolded in three waves. The first wave was really prescription drugs, and this was back in the late 1990s and into the 2000s. There were pill mills in Southern Ohio and other States. Kentucky and West Virginia were hit hard. This was medication that was being abused, in many cases leading to an addiction.

The second wave was the heroin wave. This was when heroine became more readily available and was actually less expensive than prescription drugs, and many people turned to heroin. That heroin led to many more overdoses and other issues, including diseases associated with the use of needles, hepatitis C and others.

Now there is a new wave, and the new wave, sadly, is even more deadly than the first two. It is what is called synthetic opioids or synthetic heroin. The one that you have probably heard of is called fentanyl, sometimes carfentanil, which is even more powerful. It is truly at epidemic levels in my State, and it is being made worse by this new wave of synthetic heroin.

There are other drugs, as well, that are affecting us in our country. In my own State, in some regions of Ohio, crystal meth now coming up from Mexico is creating a bigger problem. Cocaine is certainly an issue. But as I have looked at the statistics and traveled the State, it is clear that our No. 1 issue is opioids and that synthetic opioids—50 times more potent than heroin—are the new face of the opioid epidemic.

Fentanyl was involved in about 37 percent of the deaths in Ohio as recently as 2015. By 2016, it was responsible for 58 percent of the overdose deaths. So it has gone from 37 percent to 58 percent in 1 year. We don't have all the numbers yet for 2017, but unfortunately the numbers we do have from various regions of the State indicate that 2017 is going to be just as bad, if not worse. Columbus, OH, as an example, has seen a staggering increase in opioid overdoses due to fentanyl. Two-thirds of the county's 2017 overdose deaths were due to fentanyl—two-thirds.

I am told by law enforcement that fentanyl—again, this drug that is so deadly that a few flakes of it can kill you—has also been sprinkled into other drugs. I have talked to recovering addicts who told me their stories about finding out that they were actually taking fentanyl when they thought they were taking another drug. It has been sprinkled into other street drugs, according to law enforcement and some of these recovering addicts I have talked to, including cocaine, even including marijuana, and including heroin.

Just last week, two men in the Toledo area were arrested for drug conspiracy with the intent to distribute. A little more than half a pound of fentanyl was seized upon their arrest. Half a pound of fentanyl would be equivalent to about 1 cup of fentanyl—small enough to fit into a ziplock bag in your kitchen. Yet that one drug seizure of 1 cup was enough fentanyl, according to experts, to kill 16,000 people. Remember, just a few flecks of it can

kill you. That is more than half of the population of Toledo, where this arrest took place. That is how dangerous these drugs are.

Fentanyl comes mostly from laboratories in China, and mostly it is shipped to the United States through a Federal agency; this is, the U.S. Postal Service. It is unbelievable to me that we are not doing more to push back on this given that it is actually a government entity through which the experts say most of this fentanyl is coming in, primarily from one country, primarily through the post office.

We looked into this in an 18-month investigation in the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair. Our investigators revealed just how easy it is to purchase fentanyl online and have it shipped to the United States. The drugs can be found through a simple Google search, and overseas sellers essentially guarantee delivery if the fentanyl is sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

I have spent time talking to Postal Service employees about this, including back home in Ohio, and they don't want to be any part of this. No. 1, it is very dangerous. You can imagine, if these packages leak—I talked earlier about the dangers of fentanyl—people can be subjected to it, exposed to it, overdose themselves, even die. Also, they don't want to be any part of it because they don't want to see these poisons coming into our country—that they are delivering—and going to an empty warehouse or a post office box or even being delivered to someone's home, and during our investigation, we found all three. We found in several instances that people had received fentanyl through the mail and then had died of overdoses. We would have tracked that from hearing who had died and being able to track some of the payments and shipments. So there is no question that people are receiving fentanyl at their homes and taking it and dying. No one wants to be a part of that.

Why is the post office the preferred way for these drugs to come? Why do the traffickers say: If you send it through the post office, then delivery is guaranteed. It is really pretty simple. The U.S. Postal Service is exempt from a Federal law that was passed post-9/11. In 2002, Congress passed a law that required the private carriers—think FedEx or DHL or UPS—to get advance electronic data from their customers, which would then be provided to law enforcement, and it would tell law enforcement where the package is from, what is in the package, and where it is going. With that information, using big data analytics, Customs and Border Protection has been able to identify suspicious packages because they have this data on the packages coming in—every package, 100 percent of the packages. They then are able to pull these packages off line, test them, and not have this poison come into our communities.

The same is not true, unfortunately, with regard to the U.S. Postal Service. Until we began this congressional investigation and began to push the Postal Service, there was very little electronic data being provided on any packages from the Postal Service. Now, remember, there are 900 million packages coming in a year. How can law enforcement possibly find the suspect packages without having this data and without having good detection equipment to be able to find it? It is like finding a needle in a haystack. But with this information, they are able to be much more effective, as they have been with these private carriers—DHL, UPS, FedEx, and so on.

Under pressure from Congress, over the last year or so, the Postal Service has been getting some data on international packages. Last year, they received data on about 36 percent of their packages, based on the testimony they have given us, meaning that the United States received about 318 million packages without any of the screening, without any of this data on it at all. So 36 percent is an improvement, but still the vast majority of packages are not being stopped.

By the way, 20 percent of the packages that were identified by law enforcement as being problematic based on the amount of electronic data that was provided—20 percent of those packages were not presented to law enforcement, based on the testimony we received.

Finally, we learned that even though 36 percent of the packages had some sort of data, much of that data was not useful. It was not decipherable, not helpful for law enforcement.

So we have a long way to go, and we have a crisis in front of us. It is time for Congress to act because it is clear to me that the Postal Service needs this congressional mandate to more expeditiously close this loophole that is allowing this deadly poison to continue coming into our homes and onto our streets.

Again, this is the No. 1 killer in my home State of Ohio, and when we look nationally, this is the new face of the opioid epidemic. There is legislation to deal with this. It is called the STOP Act. It is a bipartisan bill I introduced with Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR. She spoke on the floor earlier. We talked earlier about getting this legislation passed. This legislation will close the loophole. It will insist that our international mail screening take place, and it will stop some of this deadly fentanyl from coming into our communities. It will simply hold the Postal Service to the same standard as private mail carriers and require that within 1 year, they get electronic data on all packages entering the United States. It is fair, it is commonsense, and it is going to make a big difference in our communities.

By the way, that is why about one-third of the Senate and about half of the House of Representatives have already signed on as cosponsors of our legislation. It is bipartisan. It is bicameral. The President's Opioid Commission—we remember that President Trump asked a bunch of experts to come together, led by Governor Chris Christie, to have a commission look at this opioid issue and come up with recommendations. One of the recommendations: Pass the STOP Act. Keep some of this fentanyl out of our country.

Last week, the House Ways and Means Committee took up our legislation, and I appreciate their doing that. Sadly, what they reported out was a weaker version of the STOP Act than is necessary to address this problem.

Their version gives the Postal Service, as an example, 4 years to implement these changes at a time when this is a crisis. Remember, it is increasing every year, to the point of being the No. 1 cause of death in my State and in many other States.

It also only requires them to get data on 95 percent of packages—not 100 percent—eventually.

It also gives the Federal Government the ability to waive the requirement altogether if it is ''in the national security interest of the United States.'' I hate to see them use that waiver. How could it possibly be in the national security interest of the United States of America not to have information to give to law enforcement to stop something this deadly from coming into our country? That makes no sense. I know from what I have seen and heard in Ohio that we need this and we need it now. We need this data on all foreign packages. That is in our national security interest, not setting lower screening standards or creating a loophole to evade accountability.

I am encouraged that the Ways and Means Committee chairman, KEVIN BRADY, has acknowledged these concerns. By the way, having spoken to him, I know he has a passion for addressing this issue.

I know he is personally committed to coming up with legislation that works. We need to resolve these differences, get this legislation to the floor of the House and the Senate, and get it passed so that we can begin to stop the fentanyl flooding into our country. It is at the forefront of the epidemic that we see around the country. It is taking lives. It is sidelining workers.

The No. 1 cause of crime in my State is related to opioids. Often, the criminal acts committed—such as burglary, shoplifting, and fraud—are to pay for the habit. It is crippling communities. It is breaking families apart. It is doing so at an alarming rate.

This morning, we had testimony in the Committee on Finance regarding rural healthcare, and some of the providers were talking about the fentanyl crisis. I asked them what they are doing about it and how it is going, particularly with regard to kids who were born with what is called neonatal abstinence syndrome, meaning they were

born to an addicted mother, and they have to be taken through withdrawal as a baby. These little babies you could hold in the palm of your hand are having to go through withdrawal.

They told me that the foster care systems in their States are overwhelmed; mine is, in Ohio. We have more kids under State supervision and in foster care than ever. We can't find foster families fast enough because so many of the parents are unable to take care of the kids. There are more grandparents and great-grandparents than ever having to step forward and take care of these kids. It is affecting our communities in so many ways.

The STOP Act alone isn't going to solve of all of these problems. We get that. We have passed legislation around here in the last year and a half to increase prevention and education and to increase treatment and longer term recovery. That is very important, and we need to do more of it. We have new legislation to take that to the next level.

But combating this crisis at its source by making it harder for drugs to enter our country is certainly a step we can, and should, take. It is only common sense. At the very least, it would reduce supply and help to drive up the cost of this drug. One of our problems is that the drug is powerful, but it is also relatively inexpensive.

We have an opportunity with the STOP Act to make a real difference for families in every single State represented in this Chamber. If you are not already a cosponsor, I hope you will join us in this effort. If you are a cosponsor and you support this, I hope you will talk to your leadership, both sides of the aisle.

Let's get this to the floor. Let's get a vote. Let's ensure we are doing everything we possibly can to stop this poison.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). 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 move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 542.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Earl Wier, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

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 nomination of Robert Earl Wier, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, John Kennedy, Johnny Isakson, Jerry Moran, Cory Gardner, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, Pat Roberts, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Richard Burr, Tom Cotton, Jeff Flake.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 587.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

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 nomination of Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, Orrin G. Hatch, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Richard Burr, John Thune, Joni Ernst, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 625.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Annemarie Carney Axon, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

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 nomination of Annemarie Carney Axon, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, John Kennedy, Richard Burr, Mike Lee, David Perdue, Steve Daines, James Lankford, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Jeff Flake, Lindsey Graham, Patrick J. Toomey, Marco Rubio, Tom Cotton, James E. Risch.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

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

VA MISSION BILL AND MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, a lot of our colleagues have been coming down to the floor today and had come down yesterday to talk about two things that are actually very connected. The first is the VA MISSION bill, which we just passed, that is going to significantly transform how we treat our veterans and how we make sure our vets are getting the care they have earned and deserve. Also, appropriately, as that bill has just passed the Senate and is heading to the President's desk, we are talking about Memorial Day and the Memorial Day

weekend that is fast approaching—a very important, sacred time for our country and, certainly, for my State, the great State of Alaska.

What I would like to do is to talk a little bit about the bill and then reflect a little bit more on the importance of Memorial Day as we move forward into this weekend.

One of the things we all do is, certainly, with regard to legislation like this is to look at the national implications. We also look at how our own constituents will be impacted and make sure their interests are served when there is broader, national legislation that we have been working on for months. Many of us had been working on this bill for almost a year. The Presiding Officer and I are on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, so we were very focused on it.

In my State, we proudly claim more veterans per capita than in any State in the country, but we also have unique challenges. Alaska is a very, very big place. With regard to enabling our veterans to get the healthcare they need and the services they need from the VA, it can be a challenge. So one of the things that we worked hard on was to make sure that if a veteran lives in a big State in a very rural part of America, they will still get the benefits they have earned as a veteran.

There are a number of things in the VA MISSION Act, which we just passed, that focus on the unique elements of Alaska. I will give a couple of examples that are now in the legislation that will be signed by the President in a couple days.

The bill requires access to community care—non-VA care—where the VA does not operate a full-service facility in the State. Well, there is no full-service VA facility in Alaska. So what this enables our veterans to do is to get care from other medical service providers, particularly our veterans who are in some of the more rural parts of the State.

It has a specific Alaska fee schedule for the reimbursement of providers because healthcare costs are structurally so much higher in my State, as are transportation costs. There is a fee schedule that the VA uses in this bill just for Alaska. It continues to allow the VA to have Tribal sharing agreements with members of Tribal organizations that, again, have a very far reach and provide excellent care to so many Alaskans, both Natives and non-Natives.

By the way, Alaska Natives serve at higher rates in the U.S. military than any other ethnic group in the country. There is incredible patriotism from those constituents in my State, whom we are all very proud of.

The bill creates standards for timely payments to community care providers. One of the big challenges we had in the VA was that non-VA medical providers provide care for veterans, and then the VA does not reimburse them for months. This causes enormous challenges, including collection agencies calling the very veterans who got the care and services. This is completely unacceptable. We are trying to change that, and this bill will do it.

Finally, a bill that I had with Senator TESTER from Montana is called the Serving Our Rural Veterans Act, which is now part of the broader bill. What this does is create VA residency programs in States such as Alaska and Montana that don't have medical schools and where there are very few residency programs. Studies show that after doctors do their residency, well over 50 percent of the doctors stay in the States where they do residency programs. That is a great advantage if you have a lot of residency programs, but we don't. What this bill does is set up a pilot program by the VA to work with Native health organizations, DOD health organizations, IHS health organizations, and establish residency programs through the VA so that we can get doctors in Alaska who will do service for our veterans and then stay.

Those are just a few examples of how this bill helps not only veterans nationwide but certainly helps the veterans in my State. Of course, the implementation of this bill is going to be key. One thing that concerns me, to be frank, is that right now there is very little leadership at the highest levels of the VA. As a matter of fact, we have had four secretaries in 4 years. We need to start putting established, secure leaders in the VA to start implementing this important piece of legislation. We will continue the oversight role in Congress, but this is a good start.

More importantly, this bill also sends a strong message to our veterans throughout the country that the Senators in this body, Democrats and Republicans, have focused on them and have their backs, as do Americans all across the Nation.

This is what I want to talk about for the remainder of my remarks this afternoon, on the eve of Memorial Day weekend—looking at and reflecting for a little bit on the Senate floor about the ebb and flow of how we, as Americans, have treated our veterans and memorialized their service because that is what this weekend is all about.

We know and we continue always to lionize and celebrate our World War II veterans and the over 400,000 Americans who gave their lives defending freedom. That is who we are thinking about this weekend. During World War II, from ticker tape parades when they came home to Honor Flights that continue today, this ''greatest generation'' of Americans, both living and dead, has received the respect and honor that all of our veterans should have, and with good reason. Their sacrifice saved the world from authoritarian takeover, whether it was from Nazi Germany or Imperial Japan. So we always had the ''greatest generation'' up here in terms of how we view them, how we memorialize them—the veterans, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Then, just 5 years later came the Korean war, and the respect we gave to the tens of thousands of veterans returning home from Korea started to decline, something akin to benign neglect. Many in American society during that time seemed as if they didn't want to be bothered by what was going on in Korea or didn't want to think about the tens of thousands who were killed in action, the over 8,000 who are still declared missing in action, and the over 100,000 American servicemembers wounded in the Korean war. This is reflected even today in the name that many historians have given this conflict, the ''Forgotten War.''

I have never liked that phrase. I think it is actually borderline disrespectful. The better way to memorialize the sacrifice of our Korean war veterans is in the words etched into the marble of the incredibly moving Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, just a few miles from here. That memorial—for those who haven't visited, I highly recommend you do; for those who are visiting Washington, particularly on this weekend, it is great to go down there. But there is a simple phrase there: ''Freedom is not free.''

Freedom is not free. If this weekend means anything, it is the importance of that phrase on the Korean War Veterans Memorial. That memorial also states: ''Our Nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.''

If you want to see an example of American bravery and what it meant, take a look at the difference between North and South Korea today. There is a satellite photo that is very famous. It shows the Korean Peninsula at night. The North is dark; even today it is dark. The South is full of light, vibrancy, and energy. The reason that happened—the reason that happens to this day is because of the bravery, the service, and the sacrifice of American military members.

These are powerful words on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and to me the rightful tribute to that war and our veterans shouldn't be the ''Forgotten War''; it should be the ''Noble War.'' Think about what our men and women did. As I mentioned, they were sent overseas to ''defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.'' To this day, our troops are on the peninsula right now, keeping the peace—28,000 of them.

So we had benign neglect in the Korean war, and then what happened? Well, then came the Vietnam war.

We all know what happened. Yet to this day, we really don't know why it happened. Our country kind of went off-kilter, and in terms of the honor and respect we showed our Vietnam veterans and their wounded and fallen comrades, America hit rock bottom—

World War II, here; Korean war, benign neglect; Vietnam, disgraceful conduct toward the men and women serving in the military.

We have all heard the stories; they are sad and tragic. We have all heard the stories of young men and women who went to serve their country and fight overseas in Vietnam, who came home to protesters, were spit on, and called baby killers.

I remember hearing about one such episode from a senior marine officer when I was a young marine infantry lieutenant. He came home from combat and met his dad, who was a World War II veteran, at the airport. He was in his service alphas—the green uniform that marines wear—sea bag over his shoulder. His dad was with him. He came outside of the airport, and protesters were there, and someone threw red paint on him and his father.

Think about that. A dad and a young man who just came home from fighting in Vietnam—and that is what he got. But here is the amazing thing, and it is why our country owes such a debt of gratitude to our Vietnam veterans. Instead of being racked and incapacitated by bitterness and anger, these veterans did something amazing, something remarkable. They set out to make sure that future veterans of America's wars and their fallen comrades would receive better attention and better treatment and better respect than they did. They made it their mission in life that we as a nation would once again honor our military as we honored the veterans coming home from World War II—at the highest level. That is what they did.

Here is the amazing thing. They succeeded. They succeeded, and we need to really be thinking about our Vietnam veterans and those killed in action in Vietnam this Memorial Day.

Again, for those who haven't been there, if you want to go to a moving memorial about America's war sacrifices and war dead, there is nothing more moving than the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

As someone who has seen what our Vietnam veterans have done for the next generation of veterans, I have also seen this throughout my own military career: When we come home from doing our duty, it is the Vietnam veterans who are there making sure that the current generation of American soldiers, American warriors, gets the respect and honor that these veterans never got.

Let me give you one example. Many years ago, I was commanding a Marine recon unit in Alaska. One of my soldiers—one of my sergeants, one of my marines, a great marine—was killed. We had a memorial service. It was a small memorial service for this young Marine sergeant at Fort Richardson. It was outside. We were in our dress blues in a very somber service. Four guys pulled up on Harley Davidson motorcycles. They were older. They pulled up on their bikes, and they just sat there through the whole service—a very, very powerful presence.

At the end of the service they came up to me. I was a captain at the time. They asked if I was the senior officer, and I told them I was. I said: Thanks for coming. What are you doing here? Did you know my sergeant?

They said: No, we just read about the service in the paper today, and we wanted to be here to show our respect and honor for this young Marine sergeant.

Think about that. Vietnam vets who weren't treated well at all when they came home were making sure that one Marine Corps sergeant in Alaska got the respect and dignity he deserved as a veteran. Our Vietnam vets used their painful experience to become our Nation's guardians of military respect, honor, and dignity.

So, right now, where are we as a country? Well, I think we are back at that high level. I think we are back at that high level of not only respecting members of the military—veterans, Active Duty, Reserves—but certainly our wounded and fallen warriors. It is, in large measure, because of the efforts, sacrifice, and courage of our Vietnam veterans. So we can't thank them enough. As Alaska's Senator, I am so honored to represent so many veterans and so many Vietnam veterans.

Here is what I think is important to talk about on the Senate floor. As we move into Memorial Day weekend, let's resolve—not just as a community, in places like Alaska, but as a country, as a Senate—that we will always, always stay at this high level of respect for our fallen, for our veterans and their families, and, particularly, for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and the men, women, wives, husbands, and children they have left behind.

I think this is also important. Even though we are back as a nation at this very high level—you always hear it; you always hear it; it is always in the background—some start to question the service and sacrifice of America's military. You have heard it a little bit when ISIS was running amok in Iraq and Syria. You heard some people say: Geez, we took these places with a lot of blood and treasure, and now they have fallen to terrorists. Was that worth the cost of the young men and women who died in those battles? Did our soldiers, marines, and sailors die in vain?

I think it is really important to answer that question right here on the Senate floor, and it is something I hope we can all agree on. No American who has ever worn the uniform of our country to fight for freedom and defend our Nation and die for this country—whether at Valley Forge, Iwo Jima, Hue City, Ramadi, Fallujah—has ever, ever died in vain. We always need to remember that, particularly as we are coming upon Memorial Day weekend.

I wish to thank again all of the members of the military and their families who protected our freedom for centuries and will continue to do so. We are working hard in the Senate to make sure our veterans are taken care of. The VA MISSION Act, which we just passed and which is going to the President's desk for his signature, is part of that sacred commitment we have to our veterans and their families. I wish to thank them all as we come upon Memorial Day weekend.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

STEPHEN CURREN, GUY DEMETER, MATT NIMS, ANDY NEAL, AND DAVID HUIZENGA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the important efforts made each day by our public servants.

At the beginning of this month, this very body honored our public servants by adopting a resolution marking the first week of May as Public Service Recognition Week. We need to do more to continue that sentiment year round. But on the same day the Senate adopted a resolution honoring our public servants, Congress received a letter from the administration looking to use Federal employees to solve our budget problems, with cuts to retirement and freezes in pay. Is this really in the best interest of our public servants? Is this really the best method to attract and retain the best and the brightest to work across vital agencies to keep our government running?

That is why today I wish to continue the longstanding tradition of honoring exemplary Federal employees—a tradition that was begun by my friend Senator Ted Kaufman from Delaware. It is my hope that the story of these five Virginians will remind my colleagues and the administration that public servants go to work every day with the sole mission to make this country a better and safer place to live.

First, I would like to acknowledge Stephen Curren. In Stephen's capacity as Director of the Division of Resilience at the Department of Health and Human Services, he coordinated the national response to help protect public and private healthcare computer systems from the worst effects of WannaCry, a global cyber attack that threatened patients' health and safety.

Stephen's team applied existing processes for dealing with physical disasters like hurricanes and tornados and adapted them to prepare for a cyber attack response. They continue the critical work necessary to improve the collaboration on cyber security with private healthcare agencies and the public.

Next, I would like to share a bit about Guy Demeter, the FBI's first-

ever data scientist. In his work, Guy develops technological solutions to organize the Bureau's data and has helped the FBI to track down child predators, identify banks evading sanctions, assist counterterrorism investigations, and guard against internal threats. His innovative strategies are efficient, cost-effective, and have been a crucial part of increasing our national security.

Third, I would like to recognize the work of Matt Nims, the Acting Director of the Office of Food for Peace at USAID. Under Matt's leadership, last year his office distributed emergency food and nutrition assistance to 20 million people facing severe hunger and starvation in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and northeast Nigeria as a result of drought, extreme poverty, and violent armed conflicts.

Matt's team used data from USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network to anticipate food shortages before they became full-fledged crises and then developed innovative ways to deliver food, plan managed food distribution, and keep up with the day-to-day challenges of working under difficult and dangerous conditions, saving countless lives.

Next, I would like to recognize Andy Neal. Andy is the Branch Chief for Actuarial and Catastrophic Modeling at FEMA. We have all seen the devastating effects of floods across the country, but what many don't know is that the National Flood Insurance Program provides critical financial help to victims of hurricanes and other storms. By the end of 2016, the program was $25 billion in debt.

In response, Andy led his team in an unprecedented effort to persuade private reinsurers for the first time to assume some potential flood damage liability. They were extremely successful. The government paid 25 private insurance companies $150 million in premiums in 2017, and the insurers ended up covering more than $1 billion of the $7.6 billion in claims to policyholders in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and has secured even more coverage for 2018.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to recognize David Huizenga, the Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration.

In his everyday work, David confronts some of our most pressing international threats, formulating national security policy, monitoring compliance with nuclear agreements, and working with other nations to safeguard nuclear stockpiles and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism.

In the past 3 years, David has worked to remove nuclear material from Poland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Japan, and Ghana, relying on relationships with his international counterparts to make the world more secure. Here in the United States, David and his team have also worked to reduce the amount of radioactive materials used in medical and commercial applications. A Federal employee for 28 years, David's work as a nonproliferation expert is widely respected both in the United States and around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring these outstanding individuals, as well as government employees at all levels around the country, for their excellent work and their commitment to public service.

I yield the floor.

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

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

GAS PRICES

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, as we head into Memorial Day weekend and the summer driving season, gas prices are up nearly 25 percent since President Trump took office. That means American consumers are paying $350 more per year to fill up under President Trump, and here is why:

No. 1, President Trump's incoherent foreign policy has been exacerbating the geopolitical risk premium on oil prices and driving them up, and President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Iran deal is further roiling oil markets. Because of these actions that increase risks around the world, gas prices could keep going up even more this summer. I call this the ''Trump oil risk tax,'' and its impacts are being felt right now.

The oil risk tax completely wipes out any tax savings from the Republican tax scam for the poorest Americans. The lowest 40 percent of earners are projected to get roughly $200 this year from the GOP tax plan. That is eliminated, obviously, by the $350 more they are paying now to gas up thanks to Donald Trump's policies.

Donald Trump loves having his name on things—towers, steak, universities. Now his name is associated with higher gas prices for every American family.

Reason No. 2, while consumers are getting tipped upside down at the gasoline pumps, oil companies are benefiting from a $25 billion tax cut this year alone from the GOP tax scam. That is on top of the $7 billion to $8 billion a year they get in permanent tax breaks and also free drilling loopholes. All of that is on top of the $25 billion of tax breaks this year alone. Is Big Oil using those GOP tax giveaways to help drivers across America? Nope. They are using it to buy back tens of billions of dollars' worth of their own stock. Big oil companies are using this tax windfall to pump up their own profits rather than to help consumers at the pump.

Reason No. 3, the United States is exporting historic amounts of American oil, even while we remain dependent on OPEC and the Middle East. Exporting U.S. oil is only a further giveaway to Big Oil. We are now exporting more than 2.5 million barrels a day of U.S. crude overseas, even while we are still forced to import that exact same amount—2.5 million barrels a day—from OPEC and the Middle East, and we are sending our oil overseas to benefit foreign nations like China, which is getting one-quarter of U.S. oil exports.

Why would we send our oil overseas instead of keeping it here to help our consumers and our security? Well, because Big Oil stands to see $500 billion in new revenue over the next 20 years as a result of U.S. oil exports because they can charge more for U.S. oil overseas. They make more money if they sell it to foreigners than if they sell it to U.S. citizens—U.S. consumers. Exporting American crude means our consumers are more vulnerable to supply shops and more closely tied to rising international prices.

Reason No. 4, OPEC and Russia are colluding to manipulate oil markets. In response to the millions of barrels a day of U.S. oil we are exporting, OPEC, Russia, and other nations are working together to simply cut their production by an equal amount. You don't need to be Robert Mueller to know collusion is going on between Russia and OPEC to boost oil prices and hurt American consumers at the pump as they are getting ready for the Memorial Day weekend.

That is why I introduced the OPEC Accountability Act. This legislation would require President Trump to negotiate with OPEC, with Russia, and other nations to put an end to this cartel that is manipulating markets and harming American consumers. This legislation would further direct our Trade Representative to take action against any country in the cartel that refuses to stop conspiring to raise prices.

President Trump is doing nothing to hold OPEC and Russia accountable. It is time for him to immediately begin negotiations with this cartel to put an end to their manipulation of the oil markets of the world but also of the United States of America.

Reason No. 5, the Trump administration is attacking fuel economy standards that help consumers and reduce our reliance on foreign oil.

The historic fuel economy emissions standard of 54.5 miles per gallon by the year 2025 that is currently on the books is projected to save consumers more than $1 trillion at the pump. They will reduce our consumption of oil by 2.5 million barrels of oil a day by 2030. That is how much oil we import from OPEC every single day. Why would the Trump administration seek to eliminate all of the increases in fuel economy standards for the vehicles we drive if they know that it will back out all of that imported oil from the Middle East? You don't have to be a detective to figure this out. They would do it at the behest of the big oil companies, the big auto companies, and the Trump administration so that they can put these

fuel economy standards in their crosshairs.

The Trump administration is in the process of making a U-turn and putting us in reverse on these critical fuel economy emissions standards. That will mean that consumers will pay even more at the pump, and it will mean that we will be even more reliant on oil from OPEC and other foreign nations and unstable regions around the world.

President Trump likes to tout American energy dominance, but thanks to his policies, it is high gasoline prices that are dominating American consumers' pocketbooks. President Trump says his agenda is ''America First,'' but the policies he and the Republicans are pursuing are putting Big Oil, OPEC, Russia, and China first and American consumers last. It is time for this to end. It is time for us, in our country, to have a debate about this oil agenda.

The President always says that he wants to have an agenda that is ''all of the above''—meaning every energy source—but when you examine it very closely, it just comes down to oil above all. We are seeing that, and the consumers are paying the price at the pump. We need to ensure that everyone in our country understands who is responsible, whose name is on this price increase, and that name is Donald J. Trump. They are his oil policies. It is his foreign policy that is creating this problem for every consumer as we head into the Memorial Day weekend and as we continue throughout the summer and into the rest of this year and next year.

It is a very important issue for every American. They are going to feel it in their pocketbooks because the tax break that the President is touting is going to be completely wiped out by the high energy prices that will go right to the Koch brothers, right to Big Oil, and right to OPEC.

If the President wants to do something about this, he should call up his pals, the Saudi Arabians. He should call up his pals in the United Arab Emirates. He should call up his pals in the big oil companies and bring them in and tell them that he wants this to end, that he wants there to be lower oil prices, that he does not want them to be taking advantage of this tight American marketplace as we export 2.5 million barrels a day.

It is time for us to begin to understand what is happening to our economy. Ultimately, it is not just going to be drivers at the pump. It is going to be businesses. It is going to be large and small who are going to be impacted by this, and it is ultimately going to have a supreme, negative impact on our economy—not for the oil companies but for anyone else who purchases this oil, which is everyone.

Thank you for the time.

I yield back.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 848, 851, 852, 853, and 854.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of David B. Cornstein, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary; Francis R. Fannon, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Energy Resources); Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank; Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cornstein, Fannon, Pedrosa, Cohen, and Cohen nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 898 and 899.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Erica H. MacDonald, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years; and Scott Patrick Illing, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the MacDonald and Illing nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 859, 860, 861, 862, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions 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 nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Michael F. McAllister

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Commandant for Operations, a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Daniel B. Abel

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard

and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Scott A. Buschman

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Linda L. Fagan

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

PN1530 COAST GUARD nominations (267) beginning AUGUSTINO ALBANESE, II, and ending NICHOLAS P. ZIESER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 24, 2018.

PN1881 COAST GUARD nominations of Kyle S. Young, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1882 COAST GUARD nomination of Michael S. Daeffler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1883 COAST GUARD nominations (2) beginning REBECCA A. DREW, and ending SARAH J. REED, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions 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 nominations be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (Lower Half)

Capt. Peter G. Vasely

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer 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. Diron J. Cruz

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Daniel T. Lasica

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Bradford J. Shwedo

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Antonio A. Aguto, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Maria B. Barrett
Brig. Gen. Xavier T. Brunson
Brig. Gen. Charles H. Cleveland
Brig. Gen. Douglas C. Crissman
Brig. Gen. Bradley K. Dreyer
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey W. Drushal
Brig. Gen. Raul E. Escribano
Brig. Gen. John R. Evans, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Antonio M. Fletcher
Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey
Brig. Gen. Steven W. Gilland
Brig. Gen. Mark W. Gillette
Brig. Gen. Karl H. Gingrich
Brig. Gen. Charles R. Hamilton
Brig. Gen. David C. Hill
Brig. Gen. David T. Isaacson
Brig. Gen. Kenneth L. Kamper
Brig. Gen. Donna W. Martin
Brig. Gen. Joseph P. McGee
Brig. Gen. Paul H. Pardew
Brig. Gen. Patrick B. Roberson
Brig. Gen. Andrew M. Rohling
Brig. Gen. Richard M. Toy
Brig. Gen. Joel K. Tyler

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Service Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Wendy L. Harter

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Dental Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Shan K. Bagby

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael L. Place

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Craig S. Faller

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Warren D. Berry

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Donald E. Kirkland

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Darsie D. Rogers, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Michael M. Gilday

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Daniel J. O'Donohue

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David B. Burgy

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michele C. Edmondson

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Jeffrey S. Scheidt

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Osterman

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1875 AIR FORCE nomination of Mckisa P. Fryer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1915 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning AARON J. OELRICH, and ending GREGORY P. NORTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1916 AIR FORCE nomination of Ryan C. Boyle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1972 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning CHAD J. KIMBROUGH, and ending TRAVIS K. PUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2018.

IN THE ARMY

PN1739 ARMY nomination of Todd M. Yosick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2018.

PN1815 ARMY nomination of Mitchell P. Kreuze, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2018.

PN1816 ARMY nomination of Sheryl L. Anthos, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 10, 2018.

PN1876 ARMY nominations (4) beginning MARK A. CRIMALDI, and ending JAMES A. WATSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1877 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DERRICK J. CHACON, and ending TODD M. LEEDS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1917 ARMY nomination of James E. Smith, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1918 ARMY nominations (18) beginning ALLEN D. ALDENBERG, and ending TIMOTHY A. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1919 ARMY nominations (2) beginning WILLIAM J. GRIMES, and ending JEREMY P. MOUNT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1920 ARMY nomination of David W. Eastburn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1921 ARMY nomination of Zina L. Roberts, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1922 ARMY nominations (2) beginning BRADFORD M. BURRIS, and ending JOHN H. COCHRAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1973 ARMY nomination of Courtney T. Tripp, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2018.

PN1974 ARMY nomination of Tam Bui, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2018.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1488 MARINE CORPS nominations (100) beginning JUSTIN J. ANDERSON, and ending ROBERT C. ZYLA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1489 MARINE CORPS nominations (40) beginning ARMANDO ACOSTA, JR., and ending ROGER M. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1495 MARINE CORPS nomination of James B. Thompson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1617 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jon C. Peterson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

IN THE NAVY

PN1483 NAVY nomination of Jason A. Parish, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1484 NAVY nomination of Hisham K. Semaan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 18, 2018.

PN1583 NAVY nomination of Thomas A. Esparza, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1588 NAVY nomination of Justin S. Heitman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2018.

PN1702 NAVY nomination of Brian P. Walsh, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1703 NAVY nomination of Justin M. Adcock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1704 NAVY nomination of Daniel A. Ward, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1705 NAVY nomination of Robert M. Hess, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 6, 2018.

PN1878 NAVY nomination of Samantha J. Savage, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1879 NAVY nomination of Neil Partain, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1880 NAVY nomination of Gabriel F. Santiago, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 24, 2018.

PN1923 NAVY nominations (33) beginning GREGORY N. ANDERSON, and ending JACOB H. WEBB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1937 NAVY nomination of David A. Besachio, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1938 NAVY nomination of Evan E. Werner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2018.

PN1990 NAVY nomination of Kevin B. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2018.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 826 and 827.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2022; and Laura Gore Ross, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2022.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Calvert and Ross nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 168, 169, and 404.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Annie Caputo, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2021; David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2020; and Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Caputo, Wright, and Baran nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 865.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gregory J. Slavonic, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Slavonic nomination?

The nomination was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for 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.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month, during Workers' Memorial Day, we honored and remembered those killed or injured on the job. It is a day we reaffirm our commitment to workers and their families to do all we can to prevent these tragedies.

Forty-seven years ago, when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was established, an estimated 14,000 workers were killed on the job. By 2016, the number was reduced to nearly 5,200. We have come a long way in worker safety, but when more than 14 people die on the job every day—and only 2.9 million work-related injuries are reported annually even though the real number could be as much as 7.4 to 11.1 million—more work needs to be done. Clearly, the workplace remains too dangerous. We owe it to America's working men and women to ensure their safety, but too often, we are reminded of our failure to do so.

I want to talk about Pamela Knight, from Dixon, in my home State of Illinois. An employee of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Pamela was asked last September to check on the welfare of a child. When Pamela arrived, sensing a dangerous environment, she decided to remove the 2-year-old boy from the home and place him in protective custody. That is when the child's father knocked her to the floor, kicked her in the head, and continued beating Pamela's fractured skull. After this horrific incident, she was airlifted to a hospital in nearby Rockford, IL, where she underwent two surgeries, but it was too late. Pamela suffered permanent brain damage and passed away about four months after the attack. Pamela Knight was 59 years old.

The job of our investigators and first responders, like Pamela, at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is not easy. They are on the frontlines to those in crisis, but we can all agree, it should never be fatal. My heart goes out to Pamela's family, friends, colleagues, and all our public service workers protecting and serving the most vulnerable in our communities.

The theme of this year's Workers' Memorial Day was ''Safe Jobs. Every Worker's Right.'' While the administration attempts to walk back many vital protections and existing safeguards for our workers, let's recommit ourselves in Congress to live up to those words and provide the right every worker deserves: a safe job. In doing so, we can honor the legacy of courageous Americans, like Pamela Knight, who simply did her job.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in fighting for secure workplaces everywhere and once and for all, live up to the promise of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's mission to assure the dignity of a safe and healthy working condition for all Americans. With the right commitment, we can protect, strengthen, and advance the gains we have made over the last half century and make the safety of all workers a reality.

CONFIRMATION OF ANNIE CAPUTO AND DAVID WRIGHT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Annie Caputo and David Wright on their confirmation as members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Regrettably, it has taken almost a year for the Senate to confirm these excellent nominees. This is yet another example of how broken the Senate's confirmation process is and why we need to change the rules so we can process nominees in a timely manner.

Annie and David will make outstanding commissioners. For over a decade, Annie has served as a top adviser on nuclear energy issues to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. She has worked on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, advising the committees' chairmen, including former Chairman JIM INHOFE and, now, me.

Here on Capitol Hill, Annie is considered the dean of nuclear energy policy. More than any other staff member, she knows the nuclear power sector. As a nuclear engineer, Annie knows the physics behind nuclear power. She also knows the challenges it faces and the bright future it can have if we make the right decisions here in Washington. Likewise, Annie knows our Nation's nuclear regulatory agencies, especially the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She understands how the NRC can be improved, how it can be more responsive to the public and its licensers, and the best way to accomplish that goal.

Prior to becoming chairman, I found Annie to be instrumental in helping me conduct oversight of the nuclear industry and the NRC. She was particularly helpful following Fukushima. Since becoming chairman, I have seen how she is an invaluable part of the Environment and Public Works staff. For example, Annie was largely responsible for drafting S. 512, the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act. This is a bill that will help facilitate the licensing of advanced reactors and reform how the NRC collects fees from its shrinking pool of licensees. It is a bill that we need if this country is going to allow nuclear power to succeed in the future. Last year, the committee passed this bill by a broad bipartisan vote of 18 to 3. It remains a top priority of mine and is legislation Congress should send to the president by the end of the year.

Beyond the area of policy, I want to thank Annie for the role she played at the committee office. I want to thank her for helping my other staff, especially the way in which she served as a mentor to them. They are better staffers for the time they spent learning from and alongside Annie. I know other Members of Congress in the House and Senate feel the same way and share my gratitude to her.

So congratulations, again, Annie. Congress will be a poorer place without you. But our loss will be the NRC's gain.

While I do not know David on a personal level, I also believe he will be an asset to the NRC. For about a decade, David served as a member and chairman of South Carolina's Public Service Commission. He also served as the president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. David is held in high esteem among those who work on nuclear issues.

Like Annie, he is a dedicated public servant. I wish the two of them the very best in their new roles on the Commission.

Thank you.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Monday, we will celebrate Memorial Day. Across our proud Nation this Memorial Day weekend, we remember the men and women of our Armed Forces who made the greatest sacrifice imaginable. Whether it was on the battlefield of Antietam, the beaches of Normandy, or in the mountains of Afghanistan, thousands of Americans have taken up the mission to defend our Nation, ideals, and freedoms at home and

abroad, knowing that they may not survive. This Memorial Day, let us pause to pay honor to their immense courage.

I specifically remember the sacrifices of my fellow citizens from Maryland such as SPC Tocarra Green. She was the first woman from Maryland to die in the Iraq War. I remember SGT Erick M. Houck, a Baltimore native like me, who died in Afghanistan just last year. It is a remarkable notion that our fellow citizens were willing to pay such a high cost for our own freedom. They and those like them deserve every honor we can bestow.

Memorial Day weekend often serves as an opportunity for Americans to spend time with friends and family. As we consider the cost of our freedom, let us also remember the families of our fallen, our Gold Star families. As we remember the sacrifices of our fallen servicemembers, we also recognize the tremendous loss to their families and admire their patriotism and perseverance.

Despite all of these sacrifices, the struggle to preserve our freedom continues. Just as in times past, our enemies seek to threaten the freedom for which our American brothers and sisters have laid down their lives. These enemies don't just fight our troops on the battlefield; they have attacked the integrity of our electoral system and our freedom of speech while seeking to reverse our progress against racial inequity and religious freedom. One of the best ways to honor our fallen comrades is for us to work together to defend our freedom and our American principles. We cannot allow the erosion of the liberties our family members and friends have fought so hard to defend.

As I pray for the fallen and their families this weekend, I will also pray for our men and women currently serving in harm's way and for their families too. I am truly grateful for those who have served our country, past and present, and I will continue to do my very best to serve them in return.

TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you know, Congress passed, and the President signed, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act late last year. While much media attention has been focused on certain aspects of tax reform, one topic that has not received due attention is the positive effect that tax reform is already having on small businesses. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I strongly supported this legislation because I saw the potential it had to spur investment, create economic growth, and provide tax relief to the millions of small business owners whose resilience and work ethic provide ample evidence that the American Dream is alive and well. This piece of legislation has had a positive impact, not just for small business owners and their employees in my home State of Idaho, but also for small business owners and employees all across our country. I plan to introduce and highlight these small businesses on a weekly basis for the near future.

While there are more and more uplifting stories of small businesses that are benefiting from tax reform each day, today I wish to share the story of Renaissance Property Management, LLC located in Dearborn, MI. Renaissance Property Management's owner, Rudaina Hamade, and her son Michael operate this successful small business, which specializes in acquiring rental properties, asset management, and 24 hour property maintenance. Through their business, the Hamades and their 5 to 10 employees, some of whom are seasonal, strive to offer tenants affordable and distinguished homes. During the last recession, when so many small businesses were suffering, her determination was on full display. Though the Detroit housing market experienced a steep decline, the Hamades persevered, and after finding financial backing, they continued to invest in the Detroit market even while many others were reducing their footprint in the city.

Ms. Hamade, a Lebanese immigrant, is a prime example of the American Dream, having exhibited an amazing drive and work ethic throughout her life. She received her finance degree from Davenport University while raising her children and running a small business. In addition to running her company and raising a family, Ms. Hamade is also an active member of the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Council at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Changes in the tax law have offered welcome relief to the Hamades' employees and their families. This new law has enabled the Hamades to provide their employees with bonuses ranging from $1,000 to $2,000. They have also been able to make capital investments in their company. These investments include upgrades to their computer system and the purchasing of new software, machinery, and tools. Stories like these show that tax reform was a more than worthwhile goal that has improved small businesses's outlook, provided employee bonuses, lowered taxes, and increased investment in many sectors of our economy. In the coming weeks and months, I intend to bring more attention to the positive effects that tax reform has had on small businesses across our great country.

HUNGARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate is poised to confirm the nomination of David Cornstein to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. Against that backdrop, as well as reports that Secretary of State Pompeo will meet with the Hungarian Foreign Minister in Washington at the end of this month, it is timely to consider the troubling situation in Hungary.

Budapest is a fabulous city. The Parliament is regarded by many as one of the most beautiful legislative houses in the world. Hungarians are a warm and generous people, and the United States and Hungary have a shared history dating to the times of Lajos Kossuth, whose bust graces the halls of the U.S. Congress. Hungarians have come to this country as both immigrants and refugees, enriching our national fabric.

The beauty of Budapest masks a growing climate of fear, however. For the past 8 years, Hungary's ruling Fidesz party has tried to pass majoritarianism off as democracy. Media pluralism has disappeared. The government plays favorites with religions, preferring some while discriminating against others, like the Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship. Moreover, the checks and balances that are essential for democracy are missing in action. To say that the ruling party now exercises unchecked legal power is not an exercise in hyperbole, but merely a concise analysis of the facts.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban has allowed corruption to flourish, enriching his own friends and family. The government has recentralized, and more of the economy is either under state control or in the hands of Orban's cronies. Once Fidesz won two-thirds of the seats in Parliament in 2010, the party changed the election system to perpetuate that outcome. As Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE, elections observers concluded, separation of state and party is no longer respected. For a country that suffered under a one-party regime, that is a deeply disturbing conclusion.

In 2013, I chaired a Helsinki Commission hearing on the trajectory of democracy in Hungary. Frankly, I did not think things would get this bad, in part because I did not think the ruling Fidesz party would become more extremist than Hungary's strongest opposition party, Jobbik, but after 2010, with Jobbik's anti-Semitic and anti-Roma rhetoric serving as a Greek chorus, Fidesz leaders carved out their own revisionist bona fides, worked to rehabilitate fascist-era figures, and repeatedly awarded, elevated, and amplified one of the country's most extremist polemicists. They determined that they could get away with further escalating hate-mongering against racial and religious minorities with one tweak: call them Muslims and migrants. Hatred, it seems, is fungible.

Not surprisingly, the politics of fear, historical revisionism, and national grievances have found expression in the ruling party's foreign policy too. The most alarming example has been Hungary's opportunistic approach to Ukraine following Russia's 2014 invasion, with Hungary's rhetoric often echoing Moscow's. Overall, the Hungarian Government's approach suggests that it is not interested in a dialogue about the Hungarian minority in

Ukraine, but in finding a new political enemy. The fact that this is music to Vladimir Putin's ears may be just a coincidence.

In any case, Hungary's posture regarding Russia is unusual in the region, to say the least. As suggested in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Report we issued on ''Putin's Asymmetric Assault,'' Russian disinformation isn't just creeping in over the transom; the Hungarian Government has opened the door and put out a welcome mat. Paradoxically, however, while Prime Minister Orban may tilt his country to east, Hungarians themselves remain among the most pro-European Union of Europeans and many still vote with their feet, forming a steady exodus west. In fact, the outward exodus is contributing to an emerging labor shortage.

It is not surprising that Hungary gets compared to Russia: the nongovernmental organization, NGO, Law adopted in Budapest last year was inspired by Russia, proposed by Jobbik, and passed by Fidesz, but there are still big differences between Hungary and Russia. Journalists are not murdered in Hungary, and no one goes to jail for his or her opinions. Instead, Hungary is using a fist in a velvet glove to silence civil society and thwart political dissent without ever leaving a mark. Viktor Orban has mastered nonviolent means of repression. He has used the renationalization of segments of the economy, the recentralization of state authority, and the kleptocratic control of putatively private business to stymie opposition and dissent. I know political analysts are using a lot of different terms to describe the specific system that has emerged in Hungary under Orban—illiberal or mafia state? Oligarchy or kleptocracy? One of the most apt may be ''goulash authoritarianism.''

There are worrying signs that things may get worse before they get better. Viktor Orban now appears set to fulfill his campaign pledge to extract ''moral, political and legal'' retribution from those who opposed him. He welcomed the publication of an ''enemies list'' containing some 200 names—including numerous American citizens—and urged the close-to-Orban media to do more to root them out. This is the kind of smear campaign that often comes just before the gloves come off and the blows begin.

Under these challenging circumstances, the United States needs to speak with a clear and unambiguous voice. As Senator CORKER said at the confirmation hearing last week, ''Mr. Cornstein will have the important task of reminding the Government of Hungary that its future lies not in a return to the dark days of the past but in remaining an active member of the community of liberal democracies.'' Messages delivered behind closed doors are likely to have little effect or may even be completely misrepresented in public by Hungarian officials.

The United States will always have a relationship with Hungary, but the question is: What kind of relationship will that be? One built on deeply shared values or only fleeting transactional interests? Our strongest alliances are with countries where human rights are respected and democracy is strong, and that is the kind of relationship I hope Mr. Cornstein will help build.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS AND BARBARA RAINEY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor Dennis and Barbara Rainey. The Raineys are residents of Little Rock in my home State of Arkansas. They are cofounders of FamilyLife, a Christian ministry committed to helping marriages and families.

Dennis and Barbara have been married since 1972. They have six children and a growing number of grandchildren. Their ministry, which is focused on strengthening marriage and the family, has grown into a nationally recognized brand that includes marriage conferences and cruises, books, devotionals, and public speaking engagements. FamilyLife reaches an estimated 60,000 people each year with its ''Weekend To Remember'' events for couples.

Dennis can be heard daily as host of the nationally syndicated radio program ''FamilyLife Today'' on more than 1,100 radio stations/outlets in nearly all 50 States. Together, they have authored or coauthored more than 35 books, and Barbara recently launched a new home decor line and teaching resource to help families and especially women express their faith in their homes. FamilyLife has grown into a dynamic ministry that has reached more than 109 countries across the world.

Dennis and Barbara truly live out their faith every day in their roles as teachers, speakers, parents, grandparents, mentors, friends, and neighbors. They have been pivotal members of the faith community in Little Rock, as well as throughout our State and the country.

My wife, Cathy, and I have been blessed by and treasured the friendship and mentorship of Dennis and Barbara since the start of their ministry.

We are very proud of the important, affirming work that they have been doing for decades. Taking this opportunity to celebrate Dennis and Barbara and their legacy shows just how much of an impact they have had on their community and beyond over many years.

We are grateful for them and wish them well in the years ahead. May God bless the Raineys and the work they have left to do in service of His Kingdom. Our marriages and families are certainly better for it.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS KOLSTAD

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Chris Kolstad of Liberty County for his years of dedication to Montana agriculture.

Chris is a fourth-generation farmer in Montana's Golden Triangle. For the past 100 years, wheat has paid the bills for his family and put food on people's plates, and that will continue moving forward with his son Cory as a partner on the family farm. Chris and his wife, Vicki, have four children, and Chris's father Allen Kolstad served as Montana's Lieutenant Governor from 1989–1991.

While Chris runs an impressive and successful operation on the farm, it is his involvement in the community that makes him stand out. He has been an active member of the Montana Grain Growers Association, as well as the Montana Farm Bureau. In February of 2016, Chris was elected secretary-treasurer of U.S. Wheat Associates. Most recently, Chris was elected chairman of the U.S. Wheat Associates.

Chris works hard to ensure that U.S. wheat is the best in the world. While pushing for that, he proudly represents Montana's farmers and ranchers. I congratulate and thank Chris for his years of hard work and dedication to Montana's farmers and ranchers.●

TRIBUTE TO VAUGHN GRAHAM

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my good friend Mr. Vaughn Graham as he nears the end of his term as the 113th chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, also known as the Big ''I.'' He was installed as chairman of the Big ''I'' in September 2017 in Chicago, IL, and over the past year, he has done an amazing job of piloting the association as a strong and thoughtful leader for independent insurance agents across the country.

Vaughn graduated from the University of Oklahoma and is currently the president of Rich & Cartmill, Inc., headquartered in Tulsa, OK, and with offices in Oklahoma City; Ozark, MO; Olathe, KS; and Greeley, CO. He is a past chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma, IIAO, and has served as the Oklahoma director to the Big ''I'' national board of directors. He was recognized in 2012 with IIAO's highest honor, the Eagle of Excellence Award.

On the national association level, Graham has chaired the Membership Services, Inc., board and has served on several Big ''I'' committees and boards including the Big ''I'' advantage board, InsurPac board of trustees, and the Large Agents and Brokers Council. In addition, he has been engaged as a member of several insurance companies' agent advisory councils.

I would also like to recognize Candace Graham, Vaughn's esteemed

wife. Vaughn has been married to his wife, Candace, for more than 40 years. Together, they reside in Tulsa, OK, and they have two adult children, Hayden and Vaughn, Jr., and five grandchildren. Graham is also active in his community with charitable and civic organizations. He is a member of Leadership Tulsa, the Rotary Club of Tulsa, and is a volunteer mentor to students of Celia Clinton Elementary School.

The State of Oklahoma is proud of Vaughn Graham and wishes him and Candace well following his successful year as chairman of the Big ''I.''●

RECOGNIZING MAINE EMPLOYERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and recognize the Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company, MEMIC, a workers' compensation company based in Portland, ME. MEMIC was recently recognized as the best workers' compensation company in the country according to a New York nonprofit that analyzes health insurance companies. A cause for celebration in itself, MEMIC also celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

One of the greatest success stories in Maine's history, MEMIC revolutionized workplace safety by focusing directly on case management and results. Prior to its incorporation, the workers compensation system was in peril, negatively affecting Maine's economy and workplace environment. Insurance companies that offered workers' compensation were steadily bailing, as costs of writing policies increased. Liability costs climbed as work-related injuries reached peak in the early 1990s. MEMIC's mission was founded on a need for change; both employees and employers need to feel protected from mishap and accidents.

By prioritizing fair and equal treatment of all stakeholders, MEMIC helped Maine's economy avert a crisis. In 1993, Governor John McKernan, Jr., signed legislation that reformed worker safety and appointed a board of directors to set attainable goals and accountability. By its third year, workplace injuries in Maine had dropped to the lowest level in over 16 years, leading to a significant drop in premiums. By its fifth year, MEMIC was able to partially return investment capital to its policyholders with a promise to return the rest within the next 5 years. In addition to lowering costs, reducing fraud, and boosting the economy, MEMIC reinforced transparency, social accountability, and market stability for business leaders. That trend continues to this day when, in November 2017, MEMIC announced that approximately 18,000 employers who purchased insurance through MEMIC would share in a $21 million dividend, the highest shareholder return in history, and a true reward for improving workplace safety and helping injured workers get well and back to work as soon as possible. That is money going directly back into Maine's economy through private, public, and nonprofit sectors in all 16 counties. Since 1998, MEMIC has returned more than $240 million to Maine policyholders, a truly remarkable track record and testament to its integral role and value in strengthening Maine's workforce and economy.

With a 25-year foundation of success, MEMIC's current management and leadership team continue this strong commitment to a work environment conducive to innovation, as well as workplace safety and fair claims management. I commend MEMIC for its groundbreaking history, stabilizing Maine's economy and revolutionizing the workers' compensation industry.●

CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to the American Legion Department of Michigan, which this year is celebrating its 100th convention.

When the American Legion was chartered by Congress 1919, its members were veterans of what was termed the War to End All Wars: World War I. They served alongside people like John F. Roehl, a former major in the Air Service and chief inspector for the Detroit Department of Health, first commander of American Legion Post 1 in Warren; Captain James Wilson, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and received a citation for bravery in action from General John Pershing, first commander of Post 36 in Kalamazoo; and Lilly Larson of Ishpeming, who served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and today is the namesake of American Legion Post 114 in Greenwood.

Today's American Legion members have served on many fronts and in many capacities. However, they share a few key attributes with the American Legion's very first members. They all have a deep and profound love for this country. They all have served in uniform with honor, and they all are dedicated to continuing to serve their communities, their country, and their fellow veterans.

They do this in as many ways as there are American Legion posts in big cities, small towns, and rural areas across Michigan and across this country.

Post 44 in Marquette sponsors a youth hockey team, which gives area young people a chance to stay active and involved during those months when the snow is a bit too deep in the Upper Peninsula to play American Legion baseball.

Post 459 in Grand Rapids teams up with organizations including the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County to raise funds to support children who are victims of abuse and to build communities where all young people are respected and safe.

Post 202 in Detroit has a strong focus on connecting young people in southeast Michigan with educational and service opportunities, including Boys State, Student Trooper, JROTC, and college scholarships.

Post 68 in Paw Paw hosts an ''All Gave Some . . . Some Gave All'' golf outing to raise money for items like Trackchairs, so that wounded Michigan warriors can continue to enjoy the active, offroad life so many people in our State enjoy.

Whether they are finding housing for homeless veterans, connecting separating servicemembers with employment opportunities, supporting military families, or inspiring the next generation of patriots, every day, American Legion members are doing all they can to build stronger communities and a stronger country.

Their hard work and dedication is a testament to their organization and to the values that have been the foundation of the American Legion from the beginning: love of country, respect for continued service, promotion of a strong national defense, and devotion to their fellow servicemembers and veterans.

For a century, the American Legion has made sure that the voices of our veterans are heard and their service and sacrifice have not been forgotten. On its 100th anniversary, it is my honor to do the same for them.

Thank you.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgeway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:50 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 204. An act to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2155. An act to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, and for other purposes.

S. 2372. An act to establish a permanent community care program for veterans, to establish a commission for the purpose of making recommendations regarding the modernization or realignment of facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, to improve construction of the Department of Veterans

Affairs, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill, S. 204, was subsequently signed by the Vice President.

The enrolled bill, S. 2155, was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. TILLIS).

The enrolled bill, S. 2372, was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The message also announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ARRINGTON) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 292. An act to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1282. An act to redesignate certain clinics of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Montana.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 24, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 204. An act to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 292. An act to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1282. An act to redesignate certain clinics of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Montana.

S. 2155. An act to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, and for other purposes.

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–5312. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pydiflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9976–66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5313. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL)'' (RIN0694–AH54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5314. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on the Voluntary Commitments to Reduce Industrial Energy Intensity''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5315. A communication from the Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress: The Comprehensive Inventory of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Natural Gas Resources—2018 Update''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–5316. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Nonattainment Plans for the Lemont and Pekin SO2 Nonattainment Areas; Correction'' (FRL No. 9978–43–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5317. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Volatile Organic Compounds Definition'' (FRL No. 9978–45–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5318. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; OR; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, 2010 Sulfur Dioxide, and 2012 Fine Particulate Matter Standards'' (FRL No. 9978–47–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5319. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Enhanced Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program'' (FRL No. 9978–30–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5320. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; 2008 8-hour Ozone Maintenance Plan Revision for Baton Rouge'' (FRL No. 9978–44–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5321. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9977–86–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5322. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ocean Disposal; Temporary Modification of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site in Massachusetts Bay'' (FRL No. 9978–57–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5323. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Expiration Date for Endocrine Disorders Body System Listings'' (RIN0960–AI28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5324. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Department of State 2018 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflationary Adjustment'' (RIN1400–AE50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2018; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5325. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5326. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–237. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to mitigate the high, disproportionately adverse impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on Hawaii citizens by increasing federal funding of Hawaii housing initiatives; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 187

Whereas, Hawaii's cost of living is the highest in the nation; and

Whereas, utility costs in Hawaii are 106.5 percent higher than national average; and

Whereas, housing costs in Hawaii are 103.3 percent higher than the national average; and

Whereas, the national median price of a single-family home is currently $241,700, while the median price in Hawaii is currently $772,000; and

Whereas, experts estimate that Hawaii faces a shortage of five thousand housing units, illustrating the depth of the State's housing crisis; and

Whereas, the median age of a single-family home in Hawaii is between thirty to thirty-nine years old, which is disproportionately older than the median age in other states; and

Whereas, the older age of Hawaii homes means homeowners often invest considerable amounts for repairs and upgrades; and

Whereas, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 reduces the debt amount eligible for the mortgage interest deduction from $1,000,000 to only $750,000, and eliminates the tax deduction interest on home equity loans if the loan proceeds are used for purposes unrelated to the taxpayer's home; and

Whereas, many tax credits that benefit persons with lower incomes will sunset in 2027, creating a more regressive tax system with higher tax liabilities for those who can afford it least; and

Whereas, the changes created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 will affect a disproportionately high percentage of Hawaii residents compared to other states because of Hawaii's unique physical and economic environment; and

Whereas, Hawaii currently ranks as one of the states that is least dependent on federal aid, with federal assistance comprising only 22.8 percent of general revenues: Now, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Twenty ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the President of the United States and the United States Congress are urged to mitigate the high, disproportionately adverse impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on Hawaii citizens by increasing federal funding of Hawaii housing initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the United States and the United States Congress are urged to request the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to increase funding levels to Hawaii programs, regardless of potential budget cuts to that department in pending federal appropriations bills; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Governor, Director of Human Services, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 1397. A bill to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–257).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2975. An original bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–258).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2976. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–259).

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled ''Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2019'' (Rept. No. 115–260).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 386. A resolution urging the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fulfill its agreement to hold credible elections, comply with constitutional limits on presidential terms, and fulfill its constitutional mandate for a democratic transition of power by taking concrete and measurable steps towards holding elections not later than December 2018 as outlined in the existing election calendar, and allowing for freedom of expression and association.

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2602. A bill to support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, to facilitate the permitting and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects and carbon dioxide pipelines, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on Finance.

John J. Bartrum, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Andrew S. Oldham, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Alan D. Albright, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Thomas S. Kleeh, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia.

Peter J. Phipps, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Wendy Vitter, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Erica H. MacDonald, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

Scott Patrick Illing, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

(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 Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2945. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving the voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2946. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of the terms ''act of war'' and ''blocked asset'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2947. A bill to establish the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2948. A bill to improve efforts to identify and reduce Governmentwide improper payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PERDUE:

S. 2949. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out certain activities to ensure the readiness of the Department of Defense with respect to joint electromagnetic spectrum operations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2950. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow credits for the establishment of franchises by veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2951. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for projects to strengthen and protect vulnerable infrastructure used during mass evacuations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HELLER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NELSON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2952. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to establish protections against congressional sexual harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2953. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to expand access for rural-area small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2954. A bill to provide for the award of medals or other commendations to handlers of military working dogs and military working dogs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2955. A bill to reform the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process conducted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2956. A bill to intensify stem cell research showing evidence of substantial clinical benefit to patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2957. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2958. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible

for E-rate support; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2959. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish the Office of Rural Broadband, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2960. A bill to require health insurance for the treatment of infertility; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2961. A bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2962. A bill to advocate for Taiwan's inclusion in certain international organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2963. A bill to repeal the prohibition on the transfer of articles on the United States Munitions List to the Republic of Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2964. A bill to amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act and the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to further plant cultivar research, development, and commercialization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2965. A bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to give Americans the option to delete personal information collected by internet operators as a result of the person's internet activity prior to age 13; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2966. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require donor disclosure for certain organizations accepting donations from foreign nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2967. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for assault against journalists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2968. A bill to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to clarify whistleblower rights and protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2969. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve water or waste disposal grants or direct or guaranteed loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2970. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to provide requirements on the use of assistance for broadband deployment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2971. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit animal fighting in the United States territories; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2972. A bill to prioritize the allocation of H–2B visas for States with low unemployment rates; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2973. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require providers of a covered service to provide location information concerning the telecommunications device of a user of such service to an investigative or law enforcement officer or an employee or other agent of a public safety answering point in an emergency situation involving risk of death or serious physical harm or in order to respond to the user's call for emergency services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2974. A bill to amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic, searchable database of the importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 2975. An original bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. 2976. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2977. A bill to secure the technological edge of the United States in civil and military aviation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2978. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the conservation reserve enhancement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. SASSE):

S. 2979. A bill to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2018, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act 1974; to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget, concurrently, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, with instructions that the Budget Committee be authorized to report its views to the Appropriations Committee, and that the latter alone be authorized to report the bill.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 2980. A bill to improve the missile defense capabilities of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2981. A bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2982. A bill to make trade adjustment assistance available to workers whose jobs are eliminated through automation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2983. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the essential air service program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2984. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide greater access to higher education for America's students, to eliminate educational barriers for participation in a public service career, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. HYDE–SMITH:

S. Res. 522. A resolution designating the week of September 23 through September 29, 2018 as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 523. A resolution encouraging companies to apply privacy protections included in the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union to citizens of the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 524. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 1 through June 3, 2018 as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend'' and June 2018 as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 525. A resolution designating September 2018 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 526. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that politicians should not interfere with a woman's personal health care decisions or attempt to prevent providers from offering their full medical recommendations to their patients; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 527. A resolution congratulating the people of Georgia on the 100th anniversary of its declaration of independence as a democratic republic and reaffirming the strength of the relationship between the United States and Georgia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs.

CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 528. A resolution designating the week of May 20 through May 26, 2018, as ''National Public Works Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 529. A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2018, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 530. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 531. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2018 as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 207

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 486

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 486, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 538

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to clarify research and development for wood products, and for other purposes.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 974, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 1730

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1730, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1835, a bill to provide support to States to establish invisible high-risk pool or reinsurance programs.

S. 1989

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1989, a bill to enhance transparency and accountability for online political advertisements by requiring those who purchase and publish such ads to disclose information about the advertisements to the public, and for other purposes.

S. 2001

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2001, a bill to establish a State public option through Medicaid to provide Americans with the choice of a high-quality, low-cost health insurance plan.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2221, a bill to repeal the multi-State plan program.

S. 2237

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2237, a bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2314

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry.

S. 2353

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2353, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on the estimated total assets under direct or indirect control by certain senior Iranian leaders and other figures, and for other purposes.

S. 2374

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay Initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2645

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2645, a bill to establish a demonstration program under which the Drug Enforcement Administration provides grants to certain States to enable

those States to increase participation in drug take-back programs.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for State and Tribal regulation of hemp production, and for other purposes.

S. 2708

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2708, a bill to provide for the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

S. 2756

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2756, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the regulations of the Commission regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors.

S. 2762

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2762, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

S. 2789

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2789, a bill to prevent substance abuse and reduce demand for illicit narcotics.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2823, a bill to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill to require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2836

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2836, a bill to assist the Department of Homeland Security in preventing emerging threats from unmanned aircraft and vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2863

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2863, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 2886

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2886, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to reinstate the ban on the export of crude oil and natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2930

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2930, a bill to provide that Congress may not recess, adjourn, or consider other matters after August 1 of any year if Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills with respect to the next fiscal year.

S. 2938

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2938, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify provisions relating to hours of service requirements with respect to transportation of livestock and insects, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 5, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 435, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine.

S. RES. 460

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 460, a resolution condemning Boko Haram and calling on the Governments of the United States of America and Nigeria to swiftly implement measures to defeat the terrorist organization.

S. RES. 508

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 508, a resolution supporting the goals of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome International Awareness Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2946. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of the terms ''act of war'' and ''blocked asset'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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. 2946

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 ''Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF THE TERM "ACT OF WAR".

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2331 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) the term 'military force' does not include any person that—

''(A) has been designated as a—

''(i) foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189); or

''(ii) Specially Designated Global Terrorist (as such term is defined in section 594.310 of the Code of Federal Regulations) by the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Treasury; or

''(B) has been determined by the court to not be a 'military force'.''.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any civil action pending on or commenced after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. SATISFACTION OF JUDGMENTS AGAINST TERRORISTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2333 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end following:

''(e) USE OF BLOCKED ASSETS TO SATISFY JUDGMENTS OF U.S. NATIONALS.—For purposes of section 201 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (28 U.S.C. 1610 note), in any action in which a national of the United States has obtained a judgment against a

terrorist party pursuant to this section, the term 'blocked asset' shall include any asset of that terrorist party (including the blocked assets of any agency or instrumentality of that party) seized or frozen by the United States under section 805(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1904(b)).''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any judgment entered before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. CONSENT OF CERTAIN PARTIES TO PERSONAL JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2334 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CONSENT OF CERTAIN PARTIES TO PERSONAL JURISDICTION.—For purposes of any civil action under section 2333 of this title, a defendant shall be deemed to have consented to personal jurisdiction in such civil action if, regardless of the date of the occurrence of the act of international terrorism upon which such civil action was filed, the defendant—

''(1) after the date of enactment of this subsection, accepts—

''(A) assistance under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.); or

''(B) assistance under section 481 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291) for international narcotics control and law enforcement; or

''(2) in the case of a defendant benefiting from a waiver or suspension of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5202)—

''(A) after the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, continues to maintain any office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities or establishments within the jurisdiction of the United States; or

''(B) after the date of enactment of this subsection, establishes or procures any office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities or establishments within the jurisdiction of the United States.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any civil action filed after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HELLER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NELSON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2952. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to establish protections against congressional sexual harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

S. 2952

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act''.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, wherever an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references in Act; table of contents.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation and Resolution of Claims

Sec. 101. Description of procedures available for consideration of alleged violations.
Sec. 102. Reform of process for initiation of procedures.
Sec. 103. Availability of mediation during process.
Sec. 104. Hearings.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

Sec. 111. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse treasury for damages paid as settlements and awards for certain violations.
Sec. 112. Automatic referral to congressional ethics committees of disposition of certain claims alleging violations of Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 involving Members of Congress and senior staff.
Sec. 113. Availability of option to request remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.
Sec. 114. Modification of rules on confidentiality of proceedings.
Sec. 115. Reimbursement by other employing offices of legislative branch of payments of certain awards and settlements.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Sec. 201. Reports on awards and settlements.
Sec. 202. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.
Sec. 203. Record retention.
Sec. 204. Confidential Advisor.
Sec. 205. GAO study of management practices.
Sec. 206. GAO audit of cybersecurity.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

Sec. 301. Application of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.
Sec. 302. Extension to unpaid staff of rights and protections against employment discrimination.
Sec. 303. Provisions relating to instrumentalities.
Sec. 304. Notices.
Sec. 305. Clarification of coverage of employees of Stennis Center and Helsinki and China Commissions.
Sec. 306. Training and education programs of other employing offices.
Sec. 307. Support for out-of-area covered employees.
Sec. 308. Renaming Office of Compliance as Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 401. Effective date.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation and Resolution of Claims

SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

(a) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—Section 401 (2 U.S.C. 1401) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 401. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

''(a) FILING OF CLAIMS.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the procedure for consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II consists of—

''(1) notification of intent to file, and filing of, a claim by the covered employee alleging the violation, as provided in section 402, which may be followed, as described in section 403(a), with mediation under section 403; and

''(2) an election of proceeding, as provided in this section, of—

''(A) a formal hearing as provided in section 405, subject to Board review as provided in section 406, and judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as provided in section 407;

''(B) a civil action in a district court of the United States as provided in section 408; or

''(C) in the case of a Library claimant (as defined in subsection (d)(1)), a proceeding described in subsection (d)(2) that relates to the violation at issue.

''(b) ELECTION OF FORMAL HEARING OR CIVIL ACTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered employee who seeks to make—

''(A) the election described in subsection (a)(2)(A) shall file the request for the formal hearing as provided in section 405(a)(1), by the deadline described in paragraph (2); or

''(B) the election described in subsection (a)(2)(B) shall file the civil action as provided in section 408, by the deadline described in paragraph (2).

''(2) DEADLINE FOR ELECTION.—The deadline described in this paragraph shall be 90 days after the later of—

''(A) the date on which either party opts out of mediation under section 402(c); or

''(B) the end of the period of mediation under section 403(c).

''(3) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—If the covered employee—

''(A) elects to file a request for a formal hearing as provided in section 405(a), the procedure for consideration of the claim shall not include a civil action or other proceeding described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2); or

''(B) elects to file a civil action as provided in section 408(a), the procedure for consideration of the claim shall not include any formal hearing, review, or other proceeding described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of subsection (a)(2).

''(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL AND CAPITOL POLICE.—In the case of an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police, the Office, after receiving a claim filed under section 402, may recommend that the employee use, for a specific period of time, the grievance procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police for resolution of the employee's grievance. If the grievance procedures do not resolve the grievance, the employee may resume the procedure described in subsection (a), starting with section 403, except that the deadline for opting out of mediation under that section shall be 10 business days after the last day of the grievance procedures.

''(d) ELECTION OF REMEDIES FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) DIRECT ACT.—The term 'direct Act' means an Act (other than this Act), or provision of the Revised Statutes, that is specified in section 201, 202, or 203.

''(B) DIRECT PROVISION.—The term 'direct provision' means a provision (including a definitional provision) of a direct Act that applies the rights or protections of a direct Act (including rights and protections relating to nonretaliation or noncoercion) to a Library claimant.

''(C) LIBRARY CLAIMANT.—The term 'Library claimant' means, with respect to a direct provision, an employee of the Library of Congress who is covered by that direct provision.

''(2) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER THIS ACT.—A Library claimant who initially files a claim for an alleged violation as provided in section 402 may, instead of proceeding with the claim in accordance with sections 403 (if applicable) and 405 or filing a civil action in accordance with section 408, during the period described in subsection (b)(2) but before the Office commences a formal hearing under section 405, elect to bring the claim for a proceeding before the corresponding Federal agency, under the corresponding direct provision.

''(3) ELECTION AFTER PROCEEDINGS INITIALLY BROUGHT UNDER OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS OR LABOR LAW.—A Library claimant who initially brings a claim, complaint, or charge under a direct provision for a proceeding before a Federal agency may, prior to requesting a hearing under the agency's procedures, elect to—

''(A) continue with the agency's procedures and preserve the option (if any) to bring any civil action relating to the claim, complaint, or charge, that is available to the Library claimant; or

''(B) file a claim with the Office under section 402, make an election under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 401(a)(2), and continue with the corresponding procedures of this subtitle.

''(4) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall take effect and shall apply as described in section 153(c) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) (except to the extent such section applies to any violation of section 210 or a provision of an Act specified in section 210).

''(e) RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO RETAIN PRIVATE COUNSEL.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the authority of any particular individual, including a covered employee, the head of an employing office, or an individual who has a right to intervene under section 415(d)(6), to retain private counsel to protect the interests of the particular individual at any point during any of the procedures provided under this Act for the consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II, including procedures described in section 415(d)(6).

''(f) STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES OR UNREPRESENTED PARTIES.—

''(1) STANDARDS.—Each designated representative of a party, and unrepresented party, participating in any of the procedures (including proceedings) provided under this Act shall have an obligation to ensure that, to the best of that designated representative or unrepresented party's knowledge, information, and belief, as formed after an inquiry which is reasonable under the circumstances, each of the following is correct:

''(A) No pleading, written motion, or other paper is presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of resolution of the matter.

''(B) The claims, defenses, and other legal contentions the designated representative or unrepresented party advocates are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law.

''(C) The factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

''(D) The denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identified, are reasonably based on belief or a lack of information.

''(2) SANCTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a decisionmaker described in subparagraph (B) determines that a designated representative of a party, or unrepresented party, has failed to comply with the standards specified in paragraph (1), then that decisionmaker may impose appropriate sanctions.

''(B) DECISIONMAKER.—A decisionmaker described in subparagraph (A) is—

''(i) a hearing officer or mediator chosen from the list specified in section 405(c)(2), who is not serving as a hearing officer or mediator to resolve any claim filed under section 402 that is associated with—

''(I) the designated representative or unrepresented party; or

''(II) an individual identified in claim.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO CIVIL ACTION.—Section 408(a) (2 U.S.C. 1408(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 404'' and inserting ''section 401'';

(2) by striking ''who has completed counseling under section 402 and mediation under section 403'' and inserting ''who filed a timely claim under section 402, elected to file a civil action under section 401(a)(2)(B), and made a timely filing under this section as described in section 401(b)''; and

(3) by striking the second sentence.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title IV is amended by striking section 404 (2 U.S.C. 1404).

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended by striking the item relating to section 404.

SEC. 102. REFORM OF PROCESS FOR INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

(a) INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.—Section 402 (2 U.S.C. 1402) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 402. INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) INTAKE OF CLAIM BY OFFICE.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO FILE.—To commence a proceeding under this title, a covered employee alleging a violation of law made applicable under part A of title II shall notify the Office of intent to file a claim with the Office.

''(2) INFORMATION.—On receiving a notification under paragraph (1), the Office shall provide to the covered employee all relevant information with respect to the employee's and the employing office's rights under this Act, the process for filing the claim, and the option for the employee to elect, if the employee so chooses, to file a civil action regarding the alleged violation. The Office shall discuss the information and covered employee's claim with the covered employee. The Office shall initiate the procedures described in this paragraph on the date of the notification.

''(3) FILING.—Upon providing the notification described in paragraph (1), and not later than the expiration of the 180-day period in subsection (e), the covered employee may file the claim. The claim shall be made in writing under oath or affirmation, shall describe the facts that form the basis of the claim and the violation that is being alleged, shall identify the employing office alleged to have committed the violation or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, and shall be in such form as the Office requires.

''(b) INITIAL PROCESSING OF CLAIM.—Upon the filing of a claim by a covered employee under subsection (a), the Office shall take such steps as may be necessary for the initial intake and recording of the claim and shall transmit a copy of the claim to the head of the employing office not later than 3 business days after the date on which the claim is filed.

''(c) MEDIATION.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHT TO OPT OUT OF MEDIATION.—

''(A) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—Upon receipt of a claim, the Office shall notify the covered employee about the process for mediation under section 403, the right to opt out of the mediation, and the deadline for opting out of the mediation.

''(B) EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Upon transmission to the employing office of the claim pursuant to subsection (b), the Office shall notify the employing office about the process for mediation under section 403, the right to opt out of the mediation, and the deadline for opting out of the mediation.

''(2) DEADLINE TO OPT OUT OF MEDIATION.—Either party may opt out of the mediation. The deadline for opting out shall be 10 business days after the date on which the claim that would be the subject of the mediation is filed.

''(d) USE OF ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND TRACKING SYSTEM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—The Office shall establish and operate an electronic reporting and tracking system through which a covered employee may initiate a proceeding under this title, and which will keep an electronic record of the date and time at which the proceeding is initiated and will track all subsequent actions or proceedings occurring with respect to the proceeding under this title.

''(2) ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL PARTIES.—The system shall be accessible to all parties to such actions or proceedings, but only until the completion of such actions or proceedings.

''(3) ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PROCEDURES.—The Office shall use the information contained in the system to make regular assessments of the effectiveness of the procedures under this title in providing for the timely resolution of claims, and shall submit semiannual reports on such assessments each year to the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

''(e) DEADLINE.—A covered employee may not file a claim under this section with respect to an allegation of a violation of law after the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the alleged violation. The Office shall not accept a claim that does not meet the requirements of this subsection.

''(f) NO EFFECT ON ABILITY OF COVERED EMPLOYEE TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM OFFICE OR PURSUE RELIEF.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the ability of a covered employee—

''(1) to contact the Office or any other appropriate office prior to filing a claim under this title to seek information regarding the employee's rights under this Act and the procedures available under this Act; or

''(2) in the case of a covered employee of an employing office described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 101(9), to refer information regarding an alleged violation of part A of title II to the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate (as the case may be).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by amending the item relating to section 402 to read as follows:

''Sec. 402. Initiation of procedures.''.

SEC. 103. AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION DURING PROCESS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—Section 403(a) (2 U.S.C. 1403(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Unless the covered employee who filed a claim under section 402 or the employing office named in the claim opts out of mediation by the deadline described in section 402(c)(2), the Office shall promptly assign a mediator to the claim, and conduct such mediation under this section.

''(2) IMPACT OF DECISION.—A decision by a party to engage in or opt out of mediation as provided in this Act shall not be used for or against the party in any proceeding under this Act.''.

(b) REQUIRING PARTIES TO BE SEPARATED DURING MEDIATION AT REQUEST OF EMPLOYEE.—Section 403(b)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1403(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''meetings with the parties separately or jointly'' and inserting ''meetings with the parties during which, at the request of the covered employee, the parties shall be separated,''.

(c) PERIOD OF MEDIATION.—Section 403(c) (2 U.S.C. 1403(c)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''beginning on the date the request for mediation is received'' and inserting ''beginning on the first day after the deadline described in section 402(c)(2)''; and

(2) by striking the second sentence and inserting ''The mediation period may be extended for one additional period of 30 days at the joint request of the covered employee and employing office.''.

SEC. 104. HEARINGS.

(a) HEARINGS COMMENCED BY OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—Section 405 (2 U.S.C. 1405) is amended as follows:

(1) In the heading, by striking ''**COMPLAINT AND**''.

(2) By amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) REQUIREMENT FOR HEARINGS TO COMMENCE IN OFFICE.—

''(1) HEARING REQUIRED UPON REQUEST.—If a covered employee elects to file a request for a hearing under this section by the deadline described in paragraph (2), the Executive Director shall appoint an independent hearing officer pursuant to subsection (c) to consider the claim and render a decision, and a hearing shall be commenced in the Office.

''(2) DEADLINE FOR REQUESTING HEARING.—The deadline described in this paragraph shall be 90 days after the later of—

''(A) the date on which either party opts out of mediation under section 402(c); or

''(B) the end of the period of mediation under section 403(c).

''(3) EFFECT OF FILING CIVIL ACTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the covered employee files a civil action as provided in section 408 with respect to a complaint, the provisions of section 401(b)(3)(B) shall apply with regard to a hearing under this section.''.

(3) In subsection (b), by striking ''dismiss any claim'' and inserting ''dismiss any cause of action within a claim''.

(4) In subsection (c)(1), by striking ''Upon the filing of a complaint'' and inserting ''Upon receipt of a request for a hearing in accordance with subsection (a)''.

(5) In subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(6) In subsection (g), by striking ''complaint'' and inserting ''claim''.

(b) ADDITIONAL TIME TO COMMENCE A HEARING BEFORE A HEARING OFFICER.—Section 405(d) (2 U.S.C. 1405(d)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) commenced no later than 90 days after the Executive Director receives a request filed under subsection (a), except that, upon mutual agreement of the parties or for good cause, the Office shall extend the time for commencing a hearing for not more than an additional 30 days; and''.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 414 (2 U.S.C. 1414) is amended by striking ''**OF COMPLAINTS**''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents, as amended by section 101(d), is further amended as follows:

(1) By amending the item relating to section 405 to read as follows:

''Sec. 405. Hearing.''.

(2) By amending the item relating to section 414 to read as follows:

''Sec. 414. Settlement.''.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

SEC. 111. REQUIRING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REIMBURSE TREASURY FOR DAMAGES PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.

(a) MANDATING REIMBURSEMENT OF AMOUNTS PAID.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) REIMBURSEMENT BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR DAMAGES PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS.—

''(1) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) for an award or settlement in connection with a claim alleging a violation described in subparagraph (D) perpetrated directly against a covered employee by an individual who, at the time of committing the violation, was a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, that individual who committed the violation shall reimburse the account for the amount of compensatory damages included in the award or settlement attributable to that violation.

''(B) SEPARATE FINDING REQUIRED IN CASE OF AWARD OR SETTLEMENT.—Personal liability or a reimbursement requirement may not be imposed on an individual under this subsection unless the hearing officer, the court, or the corresponding committee described in section 416(e)(1) (as the case may be) makes a finding, separate from the finding on the underlying claim, that the individual perpetrated a violation requiring reimbursement under this subsection.

''(C) MULTIPLE CLAIMS.—If an award or settlement is made for multiple claims, some of which do not require reimbursement under this subsection, the Member or Senator shall only be required to reimburse for the amount of compensatory damages included in the portion of the award or settlement attributable to a claim requiring reimbursement.

''(D) VIOLATION DESCRIBED.—A violation described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) unwelcome harassment by an individual described in subparagraph (A) on any basis protected by section 201(a) or 206(a) that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering, and is sufficiently severe or pervasive to unreasonably interfere, with a covered employee's work performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment; or

''(ii) in the case of a violation of section 201(a) on the basis of sex, conduct by an individual described in subparagraph (A) that is an unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favors, when—

''(I) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the covered employee's employment; or

''(II) submission to or rejection of such conduct by the employee is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting such employee.

''(2) WITHHOLDING AMOUNTS FROM COMPENSATION.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES BY COMMITTEES.—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (B), the applicable Committee shall establish a timetable and procedures for the withholding of amounts from the compensation of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator.

''(B) DEADLINE.—The payroll administrator shall withhold from an individual's compensation and transfer to the account described in subsection (a) (after transferring to the account of the individual in the Thrift Savings Fund any amount that the individual had requested to be so transferred) such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account described in subsection (a) for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1) if the individual has not reimbursed the account as required under paragraph (1) prior to the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date a payment is made from the account for such an award or settlement.

''(C) APPLICABLE COMMITTEE DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the 'applicable Committee' means—

''(i) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Member of the House; or

''(ii) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, in the case of an individual who, at the time of the withholding, is a Senator.

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE WAGE GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES FROM A SUBSEQUENT POSITION.—

''(A) INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION.—Subparagraph (B) shall apply to an individual who is subject to the reimbursement requirement of this subsection if, by the expiration of the 180-day period that begins on the date a payment is made from the account described in subsection (a) relating to an award or settlement described in paragraph (1), the individual—

''(i) has not reimbursed the account for the entire reimbursable portion as required under paragraph (1); and

''(ii) is not employed as a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator but is employed in a subsequent non-Federal position.

''(B) GARNISHMENT OR OTHER COLLECTION OF WAGES.—On the expiration of that 180-day period, the amount of the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) (reduced by any amount the individual has reimbursed, taking into account any amounts withheld under paragraph (2)) shall be treated as a delinquent nontax debt and transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for collection. Upon that transfer, the Secretary of the Treasury shall collect the debt, in accordance with section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, including by administrative wage garnishment of the wages of the individual described in subparagraph (A) from the position described in subparagraph (A)(ii). The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer the collected amount to the account described in subsection (a).

''(4) NOTIFICATION TO OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—If the individual does not obtain employment in a subsequent position referred

to in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), not later than 90 days after the individual is first no longer receiving compensation as a Member or a Senator, the amounts withheld or collected under this subsection have not been sufficient to reimburse the account described in subsection (a) for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement described in paragraph (1), the payroll administrator—

''(A) shall notify the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who shall take such actions as the Director considers appropriate to withhold from any annuity payable to the individual under chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1); and

''(B) shall notify the Secretary of the Treasury, who (if necessary), notwithstanding section 207 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 407), shall take such actions as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate to withhold from any payment to the individual under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) and transfer to the account described in subsection (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of an award or settlement described in paragraph (1).

''(5) COORDINATION BETWEEN OPM AND TREASURY.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out paragraph (4) in a manner that ensures the coordination of the withholding and transferring of amounts under such paragraph, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Director and the Secretary.

''(6) RIGHT TO INTERVENE.—An individual who is subject to the reimbursement requirement of this subsection shall have the unconditional right to intervene in any mediation, hearing, or civil action under this title to protect the interests of the individual in the determination of whether an award or settlement described in paragraph (1) should be made, and the amount of any such award or settlement, except that nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require the covered employee who filed the claim to be deposed by counsel for the individual in a deposition that is separate from any other deposition taken from the employee in connection with the hearing or civil action.

''(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term 'payroll administrator' means—

''(A) in the case of an individual who is a Member of the House of Representatives, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or an employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who is designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to carry out this subsection; or

''(B) in the case of an individual who is a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out this subsection.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to claims made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 112. AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.

Section 416(e) (2 U.S.C. 1416(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) AUTOMATIC REFERRALS TO CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITIONS OF CLAIMS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENIOR STAFF.—

''(1) REFERRAL.—Upon the final disposition under this title (as described in paragraph (6)) of a claim alleging a violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) that is perpetrated directly against a covered employee by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, or by a senior staffer of an employing office described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 101(9), the Executive Director shall refer the claim to—

''(A) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of a Member or senior staffer of the House (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress); or

''(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of a Senator or senior staffer of the Senate.

''(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—If the Executive Director refers a claim to a Committee under paragraph (1), the Executive Director shall provide the Committee with access to the settlement documents in the case of a settlement and findings by the hearing officer involved in the case of an award under this title.

''(3) REVIEW BY CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES OF SETTLEMENTS OF CERTAIN CLAIMS.—After the receipt of a settlement agreement for a claim that includes an allegation of a violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) that is perpetrated directly against a covered employee as described in section 415(d)(1)(D) by a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or a Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, the corresponding committee described in paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) not later than 90 days after that receipt, review the settlement agreement;

''(B) determine whether an investigation of the claim is warranted; and

''(C) if the committee determines, after the investigation, that the claim that resulted in the settlement involved an actual violation of section 201(a) or 206(a) perpetrated directly against a covered employee as described in section 415(d)(1)(D) by the Member or Senator, then the committee shall notify the Executive Director to request the reimbursement described in section 415(d) and include the settlement in the report required by section 301(l).

''(4) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—If a Committee to which a claim is referred under paragraph (1) issues a report with respect to the claim, the Committee shall ensure that the report does not directly disclose the identity or position of the individual who filed the claim.

''(5) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) REDACTIONS.—If a Committee issues a report as described in paragraph (4), the Committee may, in accordance with subparagraph (B), make an appropriate redaction to the information or data included in the report if the Committee and the appropriate decisionmakers described in subparagraph (B) determine that including the information or data considered for redaction may lead to the unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant. The report including any such redaction shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(B) AGREEMENT ON REDACTIONS.—The Committee shall make a redaction under subparagraph (A) only if agreement is reached on the precise information or data to be redacted by—

''(i) the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of a report concerning a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or a senior staffer who is an employee of the House of Representatives; or

''(ii) the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of a report concerning a Senator or senior staffer who is an employee of the Senate.

''(C) RETENTION OF UNREDACTED REPORTS.—Each committee described in subparagraph (B) shall retain a copy of the report, without redactions.

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) FINAL DISPOSITION.—The 'final disposition' of a claim means the following:

''(i) An agreement to pay a settlement, including an agreement reached pursuant to mediation under section 403.

''(ii) An order to pay an award that is final and not subject to appeal.

''(B) SENIOR STAFFER.—The term 'senior staffer' means any individual who, at the time a violation occurred, was required to file a report under title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).''.

SEC. 113. AVAILABILITY OF OPTION TO REQUEST REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 417. OPTION TO REQUEST REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PENDENCY OF PROCEDURES.

''(a) OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT.—At the request of a covered employee who files a claim alleging a violation of part A of title II by the covered employee's employing office, during the pendency of any of the procedures available under this title for consideration of the claim, the employing office may permit the covered employee to carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location (referred to in this section as 'permitting a remote work assignment') where such relocation would have the effect of materially reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation, instead of from a location of the employing office.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRED TO BE CARRIED OUT ONSITE.—If, in the determination of the covered employee's employing office, a covered employee who makes a request under this subsection cannot carry out the employee's responsibilities from a remote location or such relocation would not have the effect described in paragraph (1), the employing office may during the pendency of the procedures described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee;

''(B) permit a remote work assignment and grant a paid leave of absence to the covered employee; or

''(C) make another workplace adjustment, or permit a remote work assignment, that would have the effect of reducing interactions between the covered employee and any person alleged to have committed the violation described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ENSURING NO RETALIATION.—An employing office may not grant a covered employee's request under this subsection in a manner which would constitute a violation of section 207.

''(4) NO IMPACT ON VACATION OR PERSONAL LEAVE.—In granting leave for a paid leave of

absence under this section, an employing office shall not require the covered employee to substitute, for that leave, any of the accrued paid vacation or personal leave of the covered employee.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR ARRANGEMENTS SUBJECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that it is inconsistent with the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining agreement which is in effect with respect to an employing office.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to tile IV the following new item:

''Sec. 417. Option to request remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.''.

SEC. 114. MODIFICATION OF RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS.

(a) MEDIATION.—Section 416(b) (2 U.S.C. 1416(b)) is amended by striking ''All mediation'' and inserting ''All information discussed or disclosed in the course of any mediation''.

(b) CLAIMS.—Section 416 (2 U.S.C. 1416), as amended by section 112, is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking ''subsections (d), (e), and (f)'' and inserting ''subsections (c), (d), and (e)''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CLAIMS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a covered employee from disclosing the factual allegations supporting the covered employee's claim, or to prohibit an employing office from disclosing the factual allegations supporting the employing office's defense to the claim, in the course of any proceeding under this title.''.

SEC. 115. REIMBURSEMENT BY OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF PAYMENTS OF CERTAIN AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415), as amended by section 111, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REIMBURSEMENT BY EMPLOYING OFFICES.—

''(1) NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE FROM ACCOUNT.—As soon as practicable after the Executive Director is made aware that a payment of an award or settlement under this Act has been made from the account described in subsection (a) in connection with a claim alleging a violation described in section 201(a) or 206(a) by an employing office (other than an employing office described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 101(9)), the Executive Director shall notify the head of the employing office associated with the claim that the payment has been made, and shall include in the notification a statement of the amount of the payment.

''(2) REIMBURSEMENT BY OFFICE.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a notification from the Executive Director under paragraph (1), the head of the employing office involved shall transfer to the account described in subsection (a), out of any funds available for operating expenses of the office, a payment equal to the amount specified in the notification.

''(3) TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—The head of an employing office shall transfer a payment under paragraph (2) in accordance with such timetable and procedures as may be established under regulations promulgated by the Office.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made under section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415) for an award or settlement for a claim that is filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

SEC. 201. REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

(1) REQUIRING SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(A) in subsection (h)(3), by striking ''complaint'' each place it appears and inserting ''claim''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) ANNUAL REPORTS ON AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the beginning of each calendar year, the Office shall submit to Congress and publish on the Office's public website a report listing each award that is the result of a violation of part A of title II or settlement that is attributable to a finding described in section 415(d)(1)(B) and that was paid during the previous calendar year from the account described in section 415(a). The report shall include information on the employing office involved, the amount of the award or settlement, the provision that was the subject of the claim, and (in the case of an award or settlement resulting from a finding described in section 415(d)(1)(B)), whether the Member or former Member is in compliance with the requirement of section 415(d) to reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of the award or settlement.

''(2) PROTECTION OF IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—In preparing and submitting the reports required under paragraph (1), the Office shall ensure that the identity or position of any claimant is not disclosed.

''(3) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF A CLAIMANT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Executive Director may make an appropriate redaction to the data included in the report described in paragraph (1) if the Executive Director determines that including the data considered for redaction may lead to the identity or position of a claimant unintentionally being disclosed. The report shall note each redaction and include a statement that the redaction was made solely for the purpose of avoiding such an unintentional disclosure of the identity or position of a claimant.

''(B) RECORDKEEPING.—The Executive Director shall retain a copy of the report described in subparagraph (A), without redactions.

''(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'claimant' means an individual who received an award or settlement, or who made an allegation of a violation against an employing office.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to 2018 and each succeeding year.

(b) REPORT ON AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY PAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on the Office's public website a report on all payments made with public funds prior to the date of the enactment of this Act for awards and settlements in connection with violations of section 201(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1311(a)), or section 207 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1317) and shall include in the report the following information:

(A) The amount paid for each such award or settlement.

(B) The source of the public funds used for the award or settlement, without regard to whether the funds were paid from the account described in section 415(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1415(a)), an account of the House of Representatives or Senate, or any other account of the Federal Government.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF HOUSE AND SENATE ACCOUNTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1)(B) may be construed to require or permit the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights to report the account of any specific office of the House of Representatives or Senate as the source of funds used for an award or settlement.

SEC. 202. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING SURVEYS.—Title III (2 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 307. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT SURVEYS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Office shall conduct a survey of employees of employing offices described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of section 101(9), regarding the workplace environment of such office. The Office shall make the survey available (which may include making the survey available electronically) to all such employees. Employee responses to the survey shall be voluntary.

''(b) SPECIAL INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION.—In each survey conducted under this section, the Office shall survey respondents on attitudes regarding sexual harassment and discrimination.

''(c) METHODOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall conduct each survey under this section in accordance with methodologies established by the Office.

''(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Under the methodologies established under paragraph (1), all responses to all portions of the survey shall be anonymous and confidential, and each respondent shall be told throughout the survey that all responses shall be anonymous and confidential.

''(3) SURVEY FORM.—The Office shall not include any code or information on the survey form that makes a respondent to the survey, or the respondent's employing office, individually identifiable.

''(d) USE OF RESULTS OF SURVEYS.—The Office shall furnish the information obtained from the surveys conducted under this section to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Rules and Administration, of the Senate.

''(e) CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEES.—The Office shall carry out this section, including establishment of methodologies and procedures under subsection (c), in consultation with the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Rules and Administration, of the Senate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title III the following new item:

''Sec. 307. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.''.

SEC. 203. RECORD RETENTION.

Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381), as amended by section 201(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) RECORD RETENTION.—Not later than 180 days following the date of enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, the Office, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, shall create a program to be enforced by the Office for the proper and timely disposition of confidential documents and data created or obtained by mediators or hearing officers in connection with their service in confidential proceedings under this Act.''.

SEC. 204. CONFIDENTIAL ADVISOR.

Section 302 (2 U.S.C. 1382) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) CONFIDENTIAL ADVISOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Executive Director shall—

''(A) appoint, and fix the compensation of, and may remove, a Confidential Advisor; or

''(B) designate an employee of the Office to serve as a Confidential Advisor.

''(2) DUTIES.—

''(A) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—The Confidential Advisor shall offer to provide to covered employees described in paragraph (4) the services described in subparagraph (B), which a covered employee may accept or decline.

''(B) SERVICES.—The services referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

''(i) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has experienced a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the employee's rights under this Act;

''(ii) consulting, on a privileged and confidential basis, with a covered employee who has experienced a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II regarding—

''(I) the roles, responsibilities, and authority of the Office; and

''(II) the relative merits of securing private counsel, designating a non-attorney representative, or proceeding without representation during proceedings before the Office;

''(iii) assisting, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who seeks consideration under title IV of an allegation of a violation of part A of title II in understanding the procedures, and the significance of the procedures, described in that title IV; and

''(iv) informing, on a privileged and confidential basis, a covered employee who has experienced a practice that may be a violation of part A of title II about the option of pursuing, in appropriate circumstances, a complaint with the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

''(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Confidential Advisor shall be a lawyer who—

''(A) is admitted to practice before, and is in good standing with, the bar of a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States; and

''(B) has experience representing clients in cases involving the workplace laws incorporated by part A of title II.

''(4) INDIVIDUALS COVERED.—The services described in paragraph (2) are available to any covered employee (which, for purposes of this subsection, shall include any staff member described in section 201(d) and any former covered employee (including any former staff member described in that section)), except that—

''(A) a former covered employee may only request such services if the practice that may be a violation of part A of title II occurred during the employment or service of the employee; and

''(B) a covered employee described in this paragraph may only request such services before the expiration of the 180-day period described in section 402(e).

''(5) RESTRICTIONS.—The Confidential Advisor—

''(A) shall not provide legal advice to, or act as the designated representative for, any covered employee in connection with the covered employee's participation in any proceeding, including any proceeding under this Act, any judicial proceeding, or any proceeding before any committee of Congress; and

''(B) shall not serve as a mediator in any mediation conducted pursuant to section 403.''.

SEC. 205. GAO STUDY OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the management practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

SEC. 206. GAO AUDIT OF CYBERSECURITY.

(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the audit conducted under subsection (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the cybersecurity systems and practices of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

SEC. 301. APPLICATION OF GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.

Section 102 (2 U.S.C. 1302) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008.—The provisions of this Act that apply to a violation of section 201(a)(1) shall be considered to apply to a violation of title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), consistent with section 207(c) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000ff–6(c)).''.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION TO UNPAID STAFF OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 201(d) (2 U.S.C. 1311(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) APPLICATION TO UNPAID STAFF.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) and section 207 shall apply with respect to any staff member of an employing office who carries out official duties of the employing office but who is not paid by the employing office for carrying out such duties, including an intern, an individual detailed to an employing office, and an individual participating in a fellowship program, in the same manner and to the same extent as such subsections and section apply with respect to a covered employee.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to extend liability for a violation of subsection (a) or section 207 to an employing office on the basis of an action taken by any person who is not under the supervision or control of the employing office.

''(3) INTERN DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'intern' means an individual who performs service for an employing office which is uncompensated by the United States, who obtains an educational benefit, such as by earning credit awarded by an educational institution or learning a trade or occupation, and who is appointed on a temporary basis.''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATING TO OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF PAY TO HOUSE EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(7) (2 U.S.C. 1301(7)) is amended by striking ''disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives''.

SEC. 303. PROVISIONS RELATING TO INSTRUMENTALITIES.

(a) REFERENCES TO FORMER OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT.—

(1) PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS PROVISIONS.—Section 210(a) (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (9), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (10); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (10).

(2) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROVISIONS.—Section 215(e)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''the Office of Technology Assessment,''.

(3) LABOR-MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS.—Section 220(e)(2)(G) (2 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)(G)) is amended by striking '', the Office of Technology Assessment,''.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO LOC COVERAGE OF LIBRARY VISITORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 210 (2 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) ELECTION OF REMEDIES RELATING TO RIGHTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR LIBRARY VISITORS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF LIBRARY VISITOR.—In this subsection, the term 'Library visitor' means an individual who is eligible to bring a claim for a violation under title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (other than a violation for which the exclusive remedy is under section 201) against the Library of Congress.

''(2) ELECTION OF REMEDIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Library visitor who alleges a violation of subsection (b) by the Library of Congress may, subject to subparagraph (B)—

''(i) file a charge against the Library of Congress under subsection (d); or

''(ii) use the remedies and procedures set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16), as provided under section 510 (other than paragraph (5)) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12209).

''(B) TIMING.—A Library visitor that has initiated proceedings under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) may elect to change and initiate a proceeding under the other clause—

''(i) in the case of a Library visitor who first filed a charge pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), before the General Counsel files a complaint under subsection (d)(3); or

''(ii) in the case of a Library visitor who first initiated a proceeding under subparagraph (A)(ii), before the Library visitor requests a hearing under the procedures of the Library of Congress described in such subparagraph.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect as if such amendments were included in section 153 of the Legislative

Branch Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), and shall apply as specified in section 153(c) of such Act.

SEC. 304. NOTICES.

Part E of title II (2 U.S.C. 1361) is amended—

(1) in section 225 (2 U.S.C. 1361)—

(A) by striking subsection (e); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 226. NOTICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Every employing office shall post and keep posted (in conspicuous places upon its premises where notices to covered employees are customarily posted) a notice provided by the Office that—

''(1) describes the rights, protections, and procedures applicable to covered employees of the employing office under this Act, concerning violations described in subsection (b); and

''(2) includes contact information for the Office.

''(b) VIOLATIONS.—A violation described in this subsection is—

''(1) discrimination prohibited by section 201(a) (including, in accordance with section 102(c), discrimination prohibited by title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.)) or 206(a); and

''(2) a violation of section 207, or a violation of section 4311(b) of title 38, United States Code, that is related to discrimination described in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 305. CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF STENNIS CENTER AND HELSINKI AND CHINA COMMISSIONS.

(a) COVERAGE OF STENNIS CENTER, CHINA REVIEW COMMISSION, CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE CHINA COMMISSION, AND HELSINKI COMMISSION.—

(1) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS COVERED EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(3) (2 U.S.C. 1301(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (I);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting a semicolon;

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (I); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development;

''(K) the China Review Commission;

''(L) the Congressional-Executive China Commission; or

''(M) the Helsinki Commission.''.

(2) TREATMENT OF CENTER AND COMMISSIONS AS EMPLOYING OFFICE.—Section 101(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(9)(D)) is amended by striking ''and the Office of Technology Assessment'' and inserting the following: ''the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development, the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission''.

(3) DEFINITIONS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 101 (2 U.S.C. 1301) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(13) CHINA REVIEW COMMISSION.—The term 'China Review Commission' means the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission established under section 1238 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as enacted into law by section 1 of Public Law 106–398.

''(14) CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE CHINA COMMISSION.—The term 'Congressional-Executive China Commission' means the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China established under title III of the U.S.–China Relations Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–286; 22 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.).

''(15) HELSINKI COMMISSION.—The term 'Helsinki Commission' means the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe established under the Act entitled 'An Act to establish a Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe', approved June 3, 1976 (Public Law 94–304; 22 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).''.

(b) LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 509 as section 512; and

(B) by inserting after section 508 the following:

''SEC. 509. LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION.

''Legal assistance and representation under this Act, including assistance and representation with respect to the proposal or acceptance of the disposition of a claim under this Act, shall be provided to the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

''(1) by the Office of the House Employment Counsel of the House of Representatives, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Member of the House, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties; or

''(2) by the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment of the Senate, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under title IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such title in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Senator, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(A) by redesignating the item relating to section 509 as relating to section 512; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 508 the following new item:

''Sec. 509. Legal assistance and representation.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 101 (2 U.S.C. 1301) is amended, in paragraphs (7) and (8), by striking ''through (I)'' and inserting ''through (M)''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) through (c) shall apply with respect to claims alleging violations of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) which are first made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 306. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES.

(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as amended by section 305(b), is further amended by inserting after section 509 the following:

''SEC. 510. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF EMPLOYING OFFICES.

''(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.—Each employing office shall develop and implement a program to train and educate covered employees of the office in the rights and protections provided under this Act, including the procedures available under this Act to consider alleged violations of this Act.

''(b) REPORT TO COMMITTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the beginning of each Congress (beginning with the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress), each employing office shall submit a report to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate on the implementation of the program required under subsection (a).

''(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR FIRST REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, each employing office shall submit the report described in paragraph (1) to the Committees described in such paragraph.

''(c) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICES OF CONGRESS.—This section does not apply to an employing office described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 101(9).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 509, as inserted by section 305(b), the following new item:

''Sec. 510. Training and education programs of employing offices.''.

SEC. 307. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), as amended by section 306(a), is further amended by inserting after section 510 the following:

''SEC. 511. SUPPORT FOR OUT-OF-AREA COVERED EMPLOYEES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—All covered employees whose location of employment is outside of the Washington, DC area (referred to in this section as 'out-of-area covered employees', shall have equitable access to the resources and services provided by the Office and under this Act as is provided to covered employees who work in the Washington, DC area.

''(b) OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.—The Office shall—

''(1) establish a method by which out-of-area covered employees may communicate securely with the Office, which shall include an option for real-time audiovisual communication; and

''(2) provide guidance to employing offices regarding how each office can facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for its out-of-area covered employees, including information regarding the communication methods described in paragraph (1).

''(c) EMPLOYING OFFICES.—It is the sense of Congress that each employing office with out-of-area covered employees should use its best efforts to facilitate equitable access to the resources and services provided under this Act for those employees.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 510, as inserted by section 306(b), the following new item:

''Sec. 511. Support for out-of-area employees.''.

SEC. 308. RENAMING OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AS OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.

(a) RENAMING.—Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 101(1) (2 U.S.C. 1301(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(2) In section 101(2) (2 U.S.C. 1301(2)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(3) In section 101(3)(H) (2 U.S.C. 1301(3)(H)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(4) In section 101(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(9)(D)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(5) In section 101(10) (2 U.S.C. 1301(10)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(6) In section 101(11) (2 U.S.C. 1301(11)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(7) In section 101(12) (2 U.S.C. 1301(12)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(8) In section 210(a)(9) (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)(9)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(9) In section 215(e)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(10) In section 220(e)(2)(G) (2 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)(G)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(11) In the heading of title III, by striking ''**OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**'' and inserting ''**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**''.

(12) In section 304(c)(4) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(4)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(13) In section 304(c)(5) (2 U.S.C. 1384(c)(5)), by striking ''Office of Compliance'' and inserting ''Office of Congressional Workplace Rights''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents is amended—

(1) by amending the item relating to the title heading of title III to read as follows:

''TITLE III—OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS'';

and

(2) by amending the item relating to section 301 to read as follows:

''Sec. 301. Establishment of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.''.

(d) REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.—Any reference to the Office of Compliance in any law, rule, regulation, or other official paper in effect as of the effective date specified in section 401(a) shall be considered to refer and apply to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 401. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) NO EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to affect any proceeding or payment of an award or settlement relating to a claim under title IV of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) which is pending as of the date of the enactment of this Act. If, as of that date, an employee has begun any of the proceedings under that title that were available to the employee prior to that date, the employee may complete, or initiate and complete, all such proceedings, and such proceedings shall remain in effect with respect to, and provide the exclusive proceedings for, the claim involved until the completion of all such proceedings.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2955. A bill to reform the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process conducted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this morning to encourage my colleagues to support and cosponsor the Mobile Accuracy and Precision Broadband Act, also known as the MAP Broadband Act.

If we want to get broadband deployment right in this country, if we want to close the digital divide, particularly in rural America—in that great heartland of America—we need for the FCC to be working with an accurate map, and right now they are not working with an accurate map. The agency needs to know which areas are in the most desperate need for consistent wireless service, and the FCC's current map does not even come close to doing this.

I certainly was not alone in my surprise when I saw the coverage shown on the map released by the FCC in late February. It portrayed my home State of Mississippi as basically a wireless hot spot, with only 2 percent of my State not covered with a reliable 4G LTE connection.

This was an absurd conclusion based on what is actually taking place on the ground. That would mean that 98 percent of my State should have one of the fastest mobile broadband connections on the market. That is ridiculous.

I doubted that the map was accurate based on my own experiences, but I wanted to know what others had to say. So I did a survey in April. I sent out a survey asking Mississippians to tell me about their issues with connectivity. Their responses, which totaled more than 1,800, supported my conclusion that the FCC map is just wrong, and something needs to be done about it. The responses also reaffirmed what is at stake if the FCC does not correct the situation and get these maps right.

Mississippians and Americans across this great country need better service so their children can do their homework. They need it so they can FaceTime with loved ones who are away from home in military service. They need it for jobs. They need it for healthcare. A bad connection is inconvenient, to be sure, but it means so much more to public safety and jobs.

Americans in rural areas should not be at a disadvantage because of where we live. Strong, dependable broadband paves the way for economic growth for us all, and it allows for life-giving telehealth and cutting-edge agricultural technologies.

No one thinks my State is an exception to the FCC map. I have yet to hear from any colleague in the Senate who thinks this national map accurately reflects the coverage back in our State. So I propose that we continue to work together with legislation to direct the FCC to get this right. Let's harness the best data for closing the digital divide. Let's make sure decisions are informed by the most accurate maps possible.

Now, what is at stake here? There is $4.53 billion that is at stake here. The way we are headed now with this program and with this inaccurate map, the Mobility Fund Phase II program is about to go forward with funds being distributed based on a map that is absolutely wrong.

So my bill would do four things that I think would help. My bill would give challengers more time to voice their concerns and submit better data.

It would require the FCC to extend the challenge process by 90 days.

My bill would also require the FCC to disclose which phones should be getting 4G LTE service so consumers can know whether their service meets these expectations. In addition, it would require the FCC to provide monthly updates on the percentage of areas on the map that are being challenged and the number of challengers.

Fourth, we would monitor the effectiveness of the Mobility Fund Phase II program by the agency offering annual updates on how mobile wireless service is being expanded.

If anyone in the Senate, if anyone in the House, if anyone who can hear me today has a better idea, I am open to adding that to the bill. But at the end of the day, rushing through this challenge process is not in the best interests of Americans who are waiting for fast wireless coverage. It is not in the best interests, frankly, of the Commission, which needs to take the time to get it right, and we are out to help them to do that.

There will be original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle today when I drop the bill. Those who want to be a part of the challenge process need time and resources to put forward sound information—information to help the FCC develop a map that truly portrays broadband limitations in this country. An accurate map would also help ensure the proper use of billions of taxpayer dollars—public dollars—to lead to real results to get us where we need to go.

We cannot go forward and we should not go forward with the data we have. My legislation today would take a big step in ensuring that before we distribute these billions of dollars, we need to make sure that we know what we are talking about, that we have the right information, and that we get it right.

Thank you.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2958. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school

buses eligible for E-rate support; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, the Federal Communications Commission Schools and Libraries program, commonly known as E-Rate, has helped connect our schools and libraries to highspeed broadband. Recent changes allowed for schools to pay for Wi-Fi on campuses, recognizing that students are using laptops and other devices for learning. This bill, cosponsored by my friend Senator GARDNER, would allow schools to receive reimbursement for Wi-Fi on school buses—an idea inspired by a New Mexico high school student. A few years ago, a football player from Hatch Valley High School in Hatch, New Mexico told me how, after being on a bus for hours after a game, he would sit in the dark parking lot of his school doing his homework—because he didn't have high-speed broadband at home. Making Wi-Fi available on school buses is one piece to solving the homework gap—especially in rural areas. Adequate internet is an absolute necessity in this day and age. And I will continue to work with my colleagues to make sure every home in the Nation has adequate internet access.

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. 2958

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. E-RATE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL BUS WI-FI.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''school bus'' means a passenger motor vehicle that is—

(1) designed to carry a driver and not less than 5 passengers; and

(2) used significantly to transport early child education, elementary school, or secondary school students to or from school or an event related to school.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall conduct a rulemaking to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for support under the E-rate program of the Commission set forth under subpart F of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2965. A bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to give Americans the option to delete personal information collected by internet operators as a result of the person's internet activity prior to age 13; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 2965

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 ''Clean Slate for Kids Online Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. ENHANCING THE CHILDREN'S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT OF 1998.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(13) DELETE.—The term 'delete' means to remove personal information such that the information is not maintained in retrievable form and cannot be retrieved in the normal course of business.''.

(b) REGULATION OF UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE COLLECTION AND USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM AND ABOUT CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET.—Section 1303 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) FAILURE TO DELETE.—It is unlawful for an operator of a website or online service directed to children, or any operator that has actual knowledge that it is collecting personal information from a child, to fail to delete personal information collected from or about a child if a request for deletion is made pursuant to regulations prescribed under subsection (e).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL TO DELETE PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTED WHEN THE PERSON WAS A CHILD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall promulgate under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, regulations that require the operator of any website or online service directed to children, or any operator that has actual knowledge that it has collected personal information from a child or maintains such personal information—

''(A) to provide notice on the website of how an individual over the age of 13, or a legal guardian of an individual over the age of 13 acting with the knowledge and consent of the individual, can request that the operator delete all personal information in the possession of the operator that was collected from or about the individual when the individual was a child notwithstanding any parental consent that may have been provided when the individual was a child;

''(B) to promptly delete all personal information in the possession of the operator that was collected from or about an individual when the individual was a child when such deletion is requested by an individual over the age of 13 or by the legal guardian of such individual acting with the knowledge and consent of the individual, notwithstanding any parental consent that may have been provided when the individual was a child;

''(C) to provide written confirmation of deletion, after the deletion has occurred, to an individual or legal guardian of such individual who has requested such deletion pursuant to this subsection; and

''(D) to except from deletion personal information collected from or about a child—

''(i) only to the extent that the personal information is necessary—

''(I) to respond to judicial process; or

''(II) to the extent permitted under any other provision of law, to provide information to law enforcement agencies or for an investigation on a matter related to public safety; and

''(ii) if the operator retain such excepted personal information for only as long as reasonably necessary to fulfill the purpose for which the information has been excepted and that the excepted information not be used, disseminated or maintained in a form retrievable to anyone except for the purposes specified in this subparagraph.''.

(c) SAFE HARBORS.—Section 1304 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''section 1303(b)'' and inserting ''subsections (b) and (e) of section 1303''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''subsection (b)'' and inserting ''subsections (b) and (e)''.

(d) ACTIONS BY STATES.—Section 1305(a)(1) of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6504(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''1303(b)'' and inserting ''subsection (b) or (e) of section 1303''.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2974. A bill to amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic, searchable database of the importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, right now, in a small town in West Virginia 90 miles outside of our Nation's capital, dedicated employees of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) are diligently searching through millions of firearms sales records at the National Tracing Center. They are busily responding to urgent requests from detectives and agents to trace firearms found at crime scenes throughout the country. By the end of the day, they will likely have completed more than 1,000 requests, providing law enforcement with information that can lead to arrests, prosecutions, and ultimately justice for victims of violent crime.

The tracing center plays a critical and unique role in keeping our communities safe. It is the only crime gun tracing facility in the country. Its sole purpose is to help track down and hold criminals accountable.

One would expect Congress to fully and unequivocally support this mission. Yet, inexplicably, Congress has done the opposite. Relenting to pressure from the gun lobby, Congress placed archaic hurdles on crime gun traces, prohibiting the ATF from digitizing or electronically searching through firearms records.

These restrictions were born out of an unfounded fear that can only be described as a conspiracy theory: that allowing records to be electronically searched would lead to firearms—presumably to include my own—being seized by the government en masse, in clear violation of both the Second and Fourth Amendments.

This unworldly fear is having a very real-world impact. In an era when an electronic trace could be completed in an instant, the ATF is instead forced to locate individual records by visiting Federal firearms licensees or searching by hand through the records housed at the National Tracing Center; these National Tracing Center records currently number 800 million, and are

growing by an additional 2 million each month.

Some of these records have been damaged by flooding and mold. Countless more have been relegated to rented shipping containers in the parking lot, as the floor of the tracing center is structurally unable to support the weight of so many thousands of boxes. Other records are stored as images on microfilm, forcing ATF employees to reel through up to 10,000 records on a single roll to find the one desired firearm.

Tracing requests are processed every single day, 24 hours a day, so that when a homicide detective finds a firearm believed to have been used in a murder, the detective can determine the chain of custody for that firearm, which may lead to a suspect.

I asked the ATF about the impact of these restrictions on crime gun traces at a recent hearing of the Judiciary Committee Acting Director Thomas Brandon stated that in these criminal investigations, ''time matters, [and] getting accurate information can develop the critical lead.'' He testified that if the ATF were able to electroncially search through records it would be ''beneficial for public safety.''

I agree. That is why today I am introducing the Crime Gun Tracing Modernization Act, which will bring our nation's tracing capabilities into the 21st century. This legislation would empower the ATF to digitize and electronically search through its firearms records, so that it can quickly and accurately connect crime guns with purchasers. Yet this legislation is also narrowly tailored; it only permits the ATF to search through firearms sale and disposition records that it already has access to, and only for the purposes of criminal and national security investigations, and it strictly prohibits searches using an individual's name or other personally identifiable information.

This legislation represents only a modest step, but an important step. There are few signs more revealing of Congress's inability to responsibly legislate gun policy than its insistence that law enforcement not be allowed to effectively search through records already in its possession. The gun lobby cannot be permitted to tie the hands of agents and detectives investigating violent gun crime. We cannot let a baseless conspiracy theory drive our public safety policies.

It is time for Congress to fix our mistakes. It is time to bring one of our Nation's premier law enforcement agencies, which in turn serves every Federal, State, and local agency in the country, out of the Stone Age. It is no surprise that this legisation is supported by important voices within the law enforcement community, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

I am also proud that March For Our Lives, led by the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, strongly supports this legislation. We in Congress owe it to those who have been victimized by gun violence to do something. There are many commonsense steps we can and should take right now. That includes removing indefensible restrictions on law enforcement that waste public safety resources and delay critical investigations of violent gun crime. I urge my fellow senators to join me and Senator NELSON in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2984. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide greater access to higher education for America's students, to eliminate educational barriers for participation in a public service career, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Strengthening American Communities (SAC) Act of 2018. My bill seeks to expand access to debt-free public service career pathways for Americans who want to serve their communities, States, or Nation. No one should be denied the opportunity to serve their community as a law enforcement officer, public health practitioner, social worker, or educator based on his or her ability to afford the rising cost of an undergraduate education. My bill is a first step toward correcting public sector workforce disparities by enabling people to serve their communities without being hobbled by massive student loan debt, and by providing current public servants with the financial freedom to continue to heed their calling to service.

Every city, town, and rural community in the United States relies on individuals who choose to utilize their talents for the betterment of others while accepting the lower pay of public service careers. The very foundation of our civil society is based on these public servants making such sacrifices. Far too many individuals who feel drawn to public service do not pursue such careers—or they are forced to abandon such careers prematurely—due to the high cost of obtaining their college educations. When I had the opportunity to hear directly from a student at an Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in my home State of Maryland, I was saddened to hear from an academically successful sophomore who was planning to drop out of school because she feared further indebting herself and her family. She said that while she appreciated the financial assistance she did receive, it simply wasn't sufficient to cover her cost of attendance. While this student had aspirations to serve in her own community, she could not bear to burden her family with the cost of her education. As a result, my home City of Baltimore lost out on a young, engaged aspiring public servant.

Our current system of indebting individuals at the onset of their careers has led to minority underrepresentation in the public sector workforce. First generation college students and students from low-income families cannot afford to take on student loan debt and enter into lower-paying public service careers. As a result, our Nation is deprived of the talents and perspectives of individuals who want to serve their communities but simply cannot afford to do so. As a result, our workforce is less representative of the people it serves. We must find new ways for people to earn the degrees they need to serve our communities. I believe that students who make a commitment to public service should be afforded a debt-free pathway to the baccalaureate degree they need to start their public service career. And those individuals who have already made the decision to choose service over salary should not have to wait for ten years in a lower-paying public career before seeing any reward in the form of Federal student loan forgiveness.

The Strengthen American Communities Act I am introducing today offers a new path for future public servants to earn their baccalaureate degree. Through a new partnership between the Federal Government, States, and public and private, non-profit institutions of higher education, students will have the ability to receive the first two years of their education at a community college, Minority Serving Institution, or Historically Black College or University tuition- and fee-free. Colleges would be required to commit to ensuring student success, and students would have to meet certain academic standards and complete their education within two years. Once students transfer into a four-year institution for their junior and senior years, those who commit themselves to at least three years of public service and meet academic standards will receive a National Public Service Education Grant to pay a significant portion of their college's tuition, fees, and room and board costs. Universities must provide students with opportunities to engage in public service commitments, academic counseling and student support services, and the opportunity to earn to finish their degree in fewer than two years. Depending on a student's financial need, under the Strengthening American Communities Act, she or he may be able to graduate with a baccalaureate degree debt-free before embarking on the path to becoming a public servant.

For those individuals who have already answered their calling to public service, my legislation would assist more public servants continue serving their communities by accelerating the existing Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Under current law, these dedicated workers must work for 10 years in a public service career and make 120 payments on their Federal student loans before they see a dime of

Federal student loan forgiveness. Economic, family, and other reasons can cause individuals to leave the public sector workforce and despite their years of service, the service these workers provided are not taken into consideration. I propose to accelerate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to provide more immediate student loan relief. For every two years of employment and corresponding monthly Federal student loan payments, hard-working public sector employees will receive a percentage of their student loans forgiven, with 100 percent of the Federal student loan balance being forgiven at the end of 10 years of service. By accelerating Public Service Loan Forgiveness, we can encourage additional individuals to stay in the public sector workforce despite the lower-paying salaries, reduce their cost of borrowing for home and auto loans, and set aside additional money for their own retirement.

As Congress moves forward with an overdue reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, I urge my colleagues to join in this effort to help individuals who are wholly committed to public service by supporting the Strengthening American Communities Act. No individual willing to serve his or her community in a public service career should be held back from that calling due to the high cost of obtaining a college education. No individual willing to serve his or her community should be forced to leave public service because of financial hardship.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 AS ''GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK''

Mrs. HYDE–SMITH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 522

Whereas the last Sunday in September—

(1) is designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under the Joint Resolution entitled ''Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as 'Gold Star Mother's Day', and for other purposes'', approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 23 through September 29, 2018 as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week'';

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by the families of members of the Armed Forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States and by the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—ENCOURAGING COMPANIES TO APPLY PRIVACY PROTECTIONS INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 523

Whereas the European Union has enacted the General Data Protection Regulation (referred to in this preamble as the ''GDPR''), which provides the 508,000,000 residents of the European Union with significant new privacy protections;

Whereas the GDPR takes effect on May 25, 2018;

Whereas the rules of the GDPR will apply to many entities in the United States that serve users and customers in both Europe and the United States;

Whereas the GDPR requires that—

(1) data processors have a legal basis for processing the data of users; and

(2) opt-in, freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous consent from users is a primary legal basis;

Whereas polling shows that people in the United States are increasingly concerned about their privacy and the security of their personal information;

Whereas recent data breaches and privacy invasions affecting millions of people in the United States underscore the need for enhanced privacy protection in the United States; and

Whereas people in the United States have a right to privacy, and entities that control and process the data of people in the United States have an obligation to protect that data: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate encourages entities covered by the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union (referred to in this resolving clause as the ''GDPR''), including edge providers, broadband providers, and data brokers—

(1) to provide the people of the United States with the privacy protections included in the GDPR in a manner consistent with existing laws and rights in the United States, including the First Amendment; and

(2) to include in the protections described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the requirement that—

(i) data processors (as described in the GDPR) have a legal basis for processing the data of users;

(ii) opt-in, freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous consent from users be a primary legal basis for purposes of clause (i);

(iii) data processors design their systems in a way that—

(I) minimizes the processing of data to only what is necessary for the specific purpose stated to the individual; and

(II) by default, protects personal information from being used for other purposes;

(iv) entities processing the data of children institute special protections, particularly with reference to the use of the data of children for marketing purposes;

(v) data processors and controllers (as described in the GDPR) ensure compliance with relevant privacy rules; and

(vi) data processors implement appropriate oversight over third party data processors; and

(B) the right of an individual—

(i) to revoke consent for data processing at any time;

(ii) to not be subject to automated decisionmaking, including profiling, without human intervention if the decisionmaking has legal or otherwise significant effects on the individual;

(iii) to know which entities have access to the data of the individual and how that data is being used;

(iv) to correct the data of the individual if it is inaccurate or incomplete; and

(v) to obtain and reuse the data of the individual for the purposes of the individual across other services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 524—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 1 THROUGH JUNE 3, 2018 AS ''NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEKEND'' AND JUNE 2018 AS ''NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 524

Whereas, in the United States each year, more than—

(1) 35,000 individuals are killed and 80,000 individuals are injured by gunfire;

(2) 12,000 individuals are killed in homicides involving firearms;

(3) 21,000 individuals commit suicide by using firearms; and

(4) 500 individuals are killed in unintentional shootings;

Whereas, since 1968, more individuals have died from guns in the United States than have died on the battlefields of all the wars in the history of the United States;

Whereas, by one count, in 2017 in the United States, there were—

(1) 346 mass shooting incidents in which not fewer than 4 people were killed or wounded by gunfire; and

(2) 64 incidents in which a gun was fired in a school or college;

Whereas gun violence typically escalates during the summer months;

Whereas nearly 2,700 children and teens are killed by gun violence every year, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age while standing in a Chicago park; and

Whereas, during the weekend of June 1 through June 3, 2018, the weekend in which Hadiya Pendleton would have had her 21st birthday, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya and other victims of gun violence and the loved ones of those victims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of June 2018 as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Month'' and the goals and ideals of that month; and

(B) the designation of June 1 through June 3, 2018 as ''National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend'' in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety;

(B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, during the weekend of June 1 through June 3, 2018;

(C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and

(D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS NATIONAL DEMOCRACY MONTH AS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE FREE AND STABLE WORLD

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 525

Whereas, 2,000 years after the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for democracy, the founders of the United States built an even greater system of government, a democratic republic, propelling the United States to become the most advanced nation in human history;

Whereas the model of government of the United States has been reproduced around the world;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, despite the expansion of democracy worldwide, today more than 1 in 3 people in the world do not live in states considered free;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, with the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, including the 14th and 15th Amendments, and the 19th Amendment, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;

Whereas the perpetuation of the ideals of democracy does not happen on its own, and can be stalled or reversed;

Whereas surveys show that citizens of the United States are losing faith in the democratic system;

Whereas, according to a study published in the Journal of Democracy—

(1) 91 percent of young people in the United States in the 1930s thought it ''essential'' to live in a democracy;

(2) only 30 percent of young people in the United States in 2018 think that it is ''essential'' to live in a democracy; and

(3) 24 percent of young people in the United States in 2018 think that democracy is a ''bad'' or ''very bad'' way of running the country;

Whereas Freedom House concluded that ''Democracy as the world's dominant form of government is under greater threat than at any point in the last 25 years'';

Whereas former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said ''The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens'';

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said ''Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to effort, to sacrifice, and a willingness to live and to die in its defense'';

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said ''Democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man'';

Whereas World War II demonstrated the fragility of democracy and its accompanying civilized life;

Whereas British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed that ''Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have ever been tried'';

Whereas President George Washington said the United States must recognize the immense value of the national Union and work towards its preservation with ''jealous anxiety'' and wrote that the security of a free Constitution may be accomplished by ''teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights'';

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson wrote ''Educate and inform the whole mass of the people . . . . They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty''; and

Whereas evidence of the diminution of strong support for democratic principles in recent years among citizens of the United States suggests the government of the United States must once more teach and educate the people by taking appropriate actions to highlight and emphasize the importance of democratic principles and their essential role in our freedoms and way of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2018 as ''National Democracy Month'';

(2) encourages States and local governments to designate September 2018 as ''National Democracy Month'';

(3) recognizes the celebration of ''National Democracy Month'' as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe ''National Democracy Month'' with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide appreciation for the system of government of the United States; and

(B) demonstrate that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices made by past generations of people of the United States to preserve the freedoms and principles of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 526—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH A WOMAN'S PERSONAL HEALTH CARE DECISIONS OR ATTEMPT TO PREVENT PROVIDERS FROM OFFERING THEIR FULL MEDICAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEIR PATIENTS

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 526

Whereas, since the enactment of title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the ''title X family planning program'') nearly half a century ago, the title X family planning program has provided family planning and related preventive health care services to those most in need and has enjoyed broad bipartisan support;

Whereas the title X family planning program was created to assist in making comprehensive voluntary family planning services readily available to all individuals desiring those services and to enable public and nonprofit private entities to plan and develop comprehensive programs that provide those family planning services;

Whereas the title X family planning program serves 4,000,000 individuals each year, many of whom would otherwise be unable to access the types of health care services supported under the title X family planning program;

Whereas the title X family planning program helps ensure that every individual, regardless of where the individual lives, how much money the individual earns, the background of the individual, or whether or not the individual has health insurance, has access to basic, preventive reproductive health care, such as birth control, cancer screenings, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, and well-woman exams;

Whereas the title X family planning program serves a racially and ethnically diverse patient base, not less than ⅓ of patients served under the title X family planning program are people of color, and 13 percent of patients served under the title X family planning program have limited proficiency in English;

Whereas, for decades, individuals receiving services supported under the title X family planning program have been given the full range of information needed to make fully informed decisions about their own pregnancy options, including access to safe and legal abortion;

Whereas efforts to stigmatize abortion care and providers of abortion care undermine the ability of patients to make fully informed health care decisions;

Whereas the Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association states that health care providers should ''[p]resent relevant information accurately and sensitively, in keeping with the patient's preferences'' and that ''withholding information without the patient's knowledge or consent is ethically unacceptable'';

Whereas the 1982 report of the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and in Biomedical and Behavioral Research stated that, ''a physician is obliged to mention all alternative treatments, including those he or she does not provide or favor, so long as they are supported by respectable medical opinion'';

Whereas any policy that denies a patient seeking care from a health care provider receiving support under the title X family planning program full and accurate information on and referral for health care services, including abortion care, violates basic medical ethics by forcing the health care provider to withhold health care information from the patient and by denying the basic right of the patient to informed consent;

Whereas health care providers receiving support under the title X family planning program must not be subject to any limitation on providing full and accurate information so that those health care providers may communicate freely with patients and exercise their medical judgment in order to provide the safest and most beneficial medical treatment for each patient; and

Whereas any policy that seeks to prevent health care providers receiving support under the title X family planning program from providing full and accurate information and referral for health care services threatens patient health, discourages honest conversation, and undermines the vital relationship between health care providers and patients, who rely on their health care providers for complete and accurate information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to recognize that the health of a patient should always come first and patients must be able to rely on their health care providers for medically accurate and evidence-based information about the full range of health care options, including information about access to safe and legal abortion;

(2) to urge the development and maintenance of trust between patients and health care providers by protecting the ability of health care providers to give complete medical advice and information in order to ensure no harm to patient health;

(3) to encourage efforts to enhance patient quality of care and access to confidential and safe care for all patients;

(4) to support efforts to promote the health care safety net;

(5) to recognize that any nationwide gag rule prohibiting information flow between patients and health care providers represents a radical departure from how health care has operated in the United States and fundamentally erodes the right of patients to informed consent and the ability of health care providers to provide appropriate and adequate health care and information; and

(6) to oppose efforts seeking to limit access to, and full information on, reproductive health care options in contradiction with the congressional intent underlying title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 527—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AS A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND REAFFIRMING THE STRENGTH OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GEORGIA

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 527

Whereas, in 1918, the people of Georgia established the Democratic Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Georgia was illegally invaded and annexed by the Soviet Red Army in 1921, leading to 70 years of Soviet occupation until 1991, when Georgia regained its independence;

Whereas the territorial integrity of Georgia has been continually reaffirmed by the international community, international law, and over 30 United Nations Security Council resolutions since 1993;

Whereas the Russian Federation's invasion of Georgia in August 2008 resulted in civilian and military causalities, the occupation of two Georgian regions, Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, and the violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of internally displaced civilians were forcefully expelled from the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia of Georgia in the 1990s, and again in 2008, and continue to be deprived of the right to return in a safe and dignified manner;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to violate the European Union-mediated, August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has intensified steps to separate Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia from the rest of Georgia by continuing its fortification of the occupation lines and constructing barbed wire fences to further divide the population;

Whereas Georgia remains in full compliance with the European Union-mediated, August 12, 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, and continues its efforts to reach tangible results in the Geneva International Discussions;

Whereas the human rights situation in the Russian-occupied Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia has deteriorated, and the Parliament of Georgia adopted a resolution on March 21, 2018, in recognition of this fact;

Whereas the United States Government supports Georgia's sovereignty and right to choose its own alliances, and recognizes the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia as Russian Federation-occupied territories within the internationally recognized borders of Georgia;

Whereas the United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership, signed in January 2009, outlines the importance of bilateral efforts to advance cooperation in the areas of education, public outreach, health, and cultural exchanges to ensure the strong and enduring people-to-people ties between the United States and Georgia;

Whereas the Memorandum on Deepening the Defense and Security Partnership between the United States and Georgia, signed in July 2016, enhances the defense and security cooperation and reinforces our shared determination to strengthen Georgia's resilience and self-defense capabilities;

Whereas relations between the United States and Georgia have developed into a strong alliance based on shared values and principles;

Whereas, since 1994, the Georgia National Guard has had a partnership with the country of Georgia through the National Guard State Partnership Program, helping build capacity among partner forces and providing deterrence against the aggression of the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has shown an unwavering commitment to strengthening transatlantic security by being the largest non-NATO troop contributor to the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan and one of the top overall contributors to Resolute Support;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has been a leader of the region in democratic development and has initiated positive commitments in the areas of judicial reforms, strengthening the role of Parliament, and utilizing international election monitoring organizations and transparency;

Whereas, on August 1, 2017, Vice President Mike Pence visited Georgia to condemn the Russian Federation's occupation of Georgian territory and attend Exercise Noble Partner, involving 800 Georgian and 1,600 United States troops;

Whereas, on November 20, 2017, the Department of State made a determination approving a sale of the Javelin missile system to Georgia, providing increased capacity to meet Georgia's national defense requirements;

Whereas, on January 26, 2018, the United States Government condemned the Russian Federation's ratification of an agreement with de facto leaders of South Ossetia regarding a joint military force; and

Whereas a democratic and stable Georgia is in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Georgia on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first Democratic Republic of Georgia;

(2) acknowledges the close and enduring strategic partnership and strong alliance between the United States and Georgia;

(3) supports strengthening the defense and security cooperation between the United States and Georgia;

(4) supports further developing trade and commerce relations between the United States and Georgia;

(5) reaffirms the support of the United States for Georgia's accession to NATO;

(6) continues to condemn the Russian Federation's occupation of Georgian sovereign territory, and recognizes Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia as Russian-occupied territories within the internationally recognized borders of Georgia;

(7) remembers the victims of the August 2008 war between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

(8) condemns human rights abuses by the Government of the Russian Federation in the occupied Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, including the recent killing of Georgian citizens Archil Tatunashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, and Davit Basharuli;

(9) reaffirms the support of the United States for a peaceful, unified Georgia and a secure future for the region;

(10) reaffirms the necessity of the implementation of the August, 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement that stipulates the withdrawal of Russian Federation forces to their pre-conflict locations and establishes international security mechanisms on the ground;

(11) emphasizes the importance of ensuring the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons; and

(12) recognizes the Government of Georgia's ongoing efforts to strengthen democracy in Georgia by implementing reforms that expand media transparency and freedoms, increase government transparency, accountability, and responsiveness, promote political competition and democratic electoral processes, and strengthen judicial independence and the rule of law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 528—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 20 THROUGH MAY 26, 2018, AS ''NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK''

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 528

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas the public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 20 through May 26, 2018, as ''National Public Works Week'';

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 529—PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2018, WHICH INCLUDE BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FACED BY MINORITY POPULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUCH AS AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKAN NATIVES, ASIAN AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 529

Whereas the origin of National Minority Health Month is National Negro Health Week, established in 1915 by Dr. Booker T. Washington;

Whereas the theme for National Minority Health Month in 2018 is ''Partnering for Health Equity'';

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has set goals and strategies to advance the safety, health, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas a study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, entitled ''The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States'', concludes that, between 2003 and 2006, the combined cost of health inequalities and premature death in the United States was $1,240,000,000,000;

Whereas African American women were as likely to have been diagnosed with breast cancer as non-Hispanic White women, but African American women were almost 41 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than non-Hispanic White women between 2011 and 2015;

Whereas African American women lose their lives to cervical cancer at twice the rate of non-Hispanic White women;

Whereas African American men are 60 percent more likely to die from a stroke than non-Hispanic White men;

Whereas Hispanics have higher rates of end-stage renal disease caused by diabetes, and are 40 percent more likely to die of diabetes, than non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas the HIV diagnosis rate among Hispanic men is more than 3 times the HIV diagnosis rate among non-Hispanic White men;

Whereas the HIV diagnosis rate among Hispanic women is more than 4 times the HIV diagnosis rate among non-Hispanic White women;

Whereas, in 2016, although African Americans represented only 12 percent of the population of the United States, African Americans accounted for 44 percent of HIV infections;

Whereas, in 2015, African American youth accounted for an estimated 55 percent, and Hispanic youth accounted for an estimated 24 percent, of all new HIV infections among youth in the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders were 1.6 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas Native Hawaiians living in the State of Hawaii are 2.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites living in Hawaii;

Whereas Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are 30 percent more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas, although the prevalence of obesity is high among all population groups in the United States, in 2015, 44 percent of American Indian and Alaskan Natives, 35 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, 40 percent of African Americans, 32 percent of Hispanics, 29 percent of non-Hispanic Whites, and 11 percent of Asian Americans more than 18 years old were obese (not including overweight);

Whereas, in 2015, Asian Americans were 1.7 times more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to contract Hepatitis A;

Whereas, among all ethnic groups in 2015, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders had the highest incidence of Hepatitis A;

Whereas Asian Americans are 2 times more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to develop chronic Hepatitis B;

Whereas of the children living with diagnosed perinatal HIV in 2015, 64 percent were African American, 15 percent were Hispanic, and 11 percent were non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes as 4 of the 10 leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaskan Natives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaskan Natives die from diabetes, alcoholism, unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide at higher rates than other people in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaskan Natives have a life expectancy that is 4.4 years shorter than the life expectancy of the overall population of the United States;

Whereas African American women die from childbirth or pregnancy-related causes at a rate that is 3 to 4 times higher than the rate for non-Hispanic White women;

Whereas African American babies are 3.2 times more likely than non-Hispanic White babies to die due to complications related to low birth weight;

Whereas American Indian and Alaskan Native babies are twice as likely as non-Hispanic White babies to die from sudden infant death syndrome;

Whereas American Indian and Alaskan Natives have 1.6 times the infant mortality rate as that of non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas American Indian and Alaskan Native babies are 70 percent more likely to die from accidental deaths before their first birthday than non-Hispanic White babies;

Whereas sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 people in the United States, occurring in approximately 1 out of every 365 African American births and 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic births;

Whereas only 9.5 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, 6.8 percent of Asian Americans, 8 percent of Hispanics, 9 percent of African Americans, and 14 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives received mental health treatment or counseling in the past year, compared to 18 percent of non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas marked differences in the social determinants of health can lead to poor health outcomes and declines in longevity; and

Whereas community-based health care initiatives, such as prevention-focused programs, present a unique opportunity to use innovative approaches to improve health practices across the United States and to reduce disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2018, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations in the United States, such as American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 530—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KAINE,

Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 530

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, comprised of over 45 distinct ethnicities and over 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 72 percent between 2000 and 2015;

Whereas there are approximately 21,000,000 residents of the United States who identify themselves as Asian and approximately 1,500,000 residents of the United States who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up nearly 6 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas 2018 marks several important milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including—

(1) the 120th anniversary of United States v. Wong Kim Ark, 169 U.S. 649 (1898), a Supreme Court decision that determined that the 14th Amendment grants birthright citizenship to all persons born in the United States, regardless of the national origin of their parents;

(2) the 75th anniversary of the Act entitled ''An Act to repeal the Chinese Exclusion Acts, to establish quotas, and for other purposes'', approved December 17, 1943 (commonly known as the ''Magnuson Act of 1943'') (57 Stat. 600, chapter 344), which formally repealed the Act entitled ''An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese'', approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the ''Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882'') (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126);

(3) the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.), which granted reparations to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II; and

(4) the 25th anniversary of the enactment of Public Law 103–150 (107 Stat. 1510), which acknowledged the 100th anniversary of the January 17, 1893, overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and offered an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and the United States Armed Forces, including—

(1) Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, was the highest-ranking Asian American government official in the history of the United States;

(2) Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American Congressman;

(3) Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian American woman to be elected to Congress;

(4) Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian American Senator; and

(5) Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry;

Whereas the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, is composed of 63 Members this year, including 17 Members of Asian or Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas, in 2018, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in—

(1) the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia; and

(2) the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas the commitment of the United States to diversity in the judiciary has been demonstrated by the nominations of high-caliber Asian American and Pacific Islander jurists at all levels of the Federal bench;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the government of the United States and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) recognizes that Asian American and Pacific Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 531—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2018 AS ''NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 531

Whereas an estimated 78,980 new cases of primary and non-malignant tumors in the brain and central nervous system are expected to be diagnosed in the United States during calendar year 2018;

Whereas up to 500,000 individuals were diagnosed with metastatic brain tumors that were the result of cancer spreading from another part of the body to the brain in 2016;

Whereas pediatric brain tumors are the leading cause of death from cancer in children under the age of 19;

Whereas the average survival rate in the United States for all malignant brain tumor patients is only 34.9 percent;

Whereas an estimated 16,616 people in the United States will lose their battle with a primary brain tumor during calendar year 2018;

Whereas brain tumors may be malignant or benign, but can be life-threatening in either case;

Whereas nearly 700,000 people in the United States are currently living with a brain tumor;

Whereas treatment of brain tumors is complicated by the fact that there are more than 130 different types of tumors;

Whereas the treatment and removal of brain tumors present significant challenges because of the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain;

Whereas brain tumors affect the primary organ in the human body that not only controls cognitive ability, but the actions of every other organ and limb in the body, leading to brain tumors being described as a disease that affects the whole individual;

Whereas brain tumor research is supported by a number of private, nonprofit research foundations, and by institutes at the National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke;

Whereas basic research advances may fuel research and development of new treatments for brain tumors;

Whereas there remain challenging obstacles to the development of new treatments for brain tumors, and there are no strategies for screening or early detection of brain tumors;

Whereas, despite the number of people newly diagnosed with a brain tumor every year, and their devastating prognoses, there have only been 4 drugs and 1 device approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat brain tumors during the preceding 30 years;

Whereas the mortality rates associated with brain tumors have changed little during the past 30 years;

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of brain tumors, including the difficulties associated with research on those tumors and the opportunities for advances in brain tumor research and treatment; and

Whereas May 2018, when brain tumor advocates nationwide unite in awareness, outreach, and advocacy activities, is an appropriate month to recognize as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2018 as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month'';

(2) encourages increased public awareness of brain tumors to honor those who have lost their lives to that devastating disease or are currently living with a brain tumor diagnosis;

(3) supports efforts to develop better treatments for brain tumors that will improve the quality of life and the long-term prognosis of those individuals diagnosed with a brain tumor;

(4) expresses its support for those individuals who are battling brain tumors, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers of those individuals; and

(5) urges a collaborative approach to brain tumor research, which is a promising means of advancing understanding of, and treatment for, brain tumors.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I am glad to introduce a resolution to designate May 2018 ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month.'' It is my hope that this resolution will show our support for the patients battling brain tumors, as well as their families, and friends who fight alongside them. It is estimated that 78,980 new cases of primary and non-malignant tumors in the brain and central nervous system will be diagnosed and 16,616 people in the United States will lose their battle with a primary brain tumor this year alone. This resolution will increase public awareness and honor those who have suffered, or are suffering from a brain tumor, while encouraging researchers to redouble their efforts in the search for a cure. I thank Senator MARKEY and our bipartisan colleagues for their support for this important cause.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. FISHER. Mr. President, I have 6 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:

COMMITTEE ON 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, May 24, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Cybersecurity: Risks to the financial services industry and its preparedness.''

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 9 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Rural Health Care in American: Challenges and Opportunities.''

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the nomination of John J. Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on pending legislation and the following nominations: Andrew S. Oldham, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Alan D. Albright, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Thomas S. Kleeh, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, Peter J. Phipps, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Michael J. Truncale, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Wendy Vitter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Erica H. MacDonald, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, Ryan Wesley Bounds, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, J. Campbell Barker, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Susan Brnovich, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Chad F. Kenney, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Jeremy D. Kernodle, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Maureen K. Ohlhausen, to be Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Scott Patrick Illing, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 2 p.m. to conduct a closed hearing.

VETERANS CEMETERY BENEFIT CORRECTION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 399, H.R. 4910.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4910) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I 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.

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

The bill (H.R. 4910) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HERSHEL ''WOODY'' WILLIAMS VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3663 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 (H.R. 3663) 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. I 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.

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

The bill (H.R. 3663) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 528, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 528) designating the week of May 20 through May 26, 2018, as ''National Public Works Week.''

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 528) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 529, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 529) promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2018, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 529) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2018 AS ''NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 531, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 531) expressing support for the designation of May 2018 as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month.''

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 531) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018, THROUGH MONDAY JUNE 4, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 25, at 11 a.m.; Tuesday, May 29, at 9 a.m.; Thursday, May 31, at 11:30 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 31, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, June 4; 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; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Wier nomination; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 4.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:23 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 25, 2018, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CHRISTOPHER FALL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE CHERRY ANN MURRAY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RONALD GIDWITZ, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.

DONALD LU, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC.

RONALD MORTENSEN, OF UTAH, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION), VICE ANNE CLAIRE RICHARD.

DENISE NATALI, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (CONFLICT AND STABILIZATION OPERATIONS), VICE DAVID MALCOLM ROBINSON, RESIGNED.

ALAINA B. TEPLITZ, OF COLORADO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES.

CHRISTINE J. TORETTI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

JOSEPH B. RYAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

MICHAEL FRANCIS ADAMITIS
RUSSELL L. ADAMS
KIMBERLY M. AINSWORTH
DAVID GEORGE ALLEN
KEOLANI W. BAILEY
SONYA JEAN BATCHELOR
MATTHEW GRANT BRANCATO
GENE C. BUCKNER
LAURA POLZ CAPUTO
JEFFERY GUY CARLTON
JUSTIN JONATHAN CHAPMAN
MARCIA LYNN COLE
BRUCE ALLEN COWAN
TROY A. CRAMER
JEREMIAH J. CRUZ
ALBERT JOSEPH DANZA
JOHN J. DEVINE
TROY A. DRENNAN
MARC ANTHONY ECCHER
DAVID B. ETHEREDGE
CHRISTOPHER PETER FILER
DANIEL PATRICK FINNEGAN
KIMBERLY A. FITZGERALD
JOHN PAUL FLINT
DARRELL L. FUN
LARRY EUGENE GARDNER
TIMOTHY JOSEPH GORDON
BRIAN JAMES GRASKY
ASHLEY E. GROVES
STEPHANIE L. HAINES
DAVID L. HALASIKUN
KENT ERWIN HARBAUGH, JR.
JEFFREY TODD HILLS
SUSANNE MARIE HISCOCK
AMY D. HOLBECK
CHRISTOPHER J. HOWARD
MICHAEL A. HRYNCIW III
MATTHEW R. HUMMEL
MARK ALAN HURLEY
JENNY LORAN JOHNSON
MARK R. JOHNSON
WILLIAM DAVID JOHNSTON
ROBBY A. KEY
KYLE M. KOVARIK
CHRISTINE M. KROMIS
RANDOLPH LEON LAKE
ERIC LEE LAUGHTON
BRIAN JOSEPH LAURI
SCOTT W. LERDON
TINA LOUISE LIPSCOMB
JOSEPH FRANKLIN LOGAN
ROGER D. LUDWIG
CLARENCE K. MAYNUS, JR.
ROBERT D. MCCULLERS
MARK ELLIOTT MCDANIEL
TERESA JANIE MCDONALD
DANIEL TIMOTHY MCGEE
RYAN TAYLOR MCGUIRE
MICHAEL BERT MEASON
CHARLES C. MERKEL
GARY S. MONROE
DARYL EUGENE NEWHART
JULIAN LEONARD PACHECO
CHRISTOPHER J. PAROT
GARY E. PELLETIER
GEOFFREY ALAN PETYAK
BRANT ALLEN PUTNAM
KENNETH J. RADFORD, JR.
MICHAEL J. REVIT
DAVID HERBERT RICE
STEVEN ROTHSTEIN
JOSEPH L. RUEGEMER
JAMES CORBY SCOTT
HOLLY M. SHENEFELT
DAVID WILLIAM SHEVCHIK
CHRISTIAN B. SHUE
ROBERT A. SIAU
CHRISTOPHER B. SIGLER
KARLYN KATHRYN SLAYDON
JOHN P. SORGINI II
JOHN LEROY STEELE III
DANA RENE STEFANEC
TAMMY DENISE STREET
PAUL J. SYRIBEYS
DEREK RYAN TATE
STEVEN RALPH THOMAS
JON S. TRAINER
KRISTINA A. TWEEDY
BART T. VANROO
JEFFREY R. WALES
CARYN CHRISTINE WARREN
ANDREW JOSEF WINEBERGER
LESLIE ANN ZYZDAMARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BARBARA B. ACEVEDO
MARY A. BAUZA LAWVER
KENNETH L. BEADLE
ERIKA L. BEST
SCOTT A. BLACK
BRYAN W. BOVITZ
TRACY A. BRANNOCK BENNETT
SAUNYA N. BRIGHT
PETER E. CARRA
VICKI L. CHARBONNEAU
BRIAN M. CLARKE
WILLIAM P. CLARKSON II
SHAUNA G. CRIM
DANNY C. DACEY
JESSICA DEES
KIERAN K. DHILLON
DARRICK N. DURAN
JOSHUA M. ELSTON
SEAN J. ESTRADA
CASSANDRA J. GILBERT
MARC J. GRAESSLE
HEIDI L. GRANDIN
STEPHANIE K. HARLEY
SHANNON E. HUNT
DEBORAH L. KARRER
TRACY E. MAYFIELD
KIMBERLY A. MCCOY SINGH
JULIE M. MEEK
DONALD T. MICHAEL
REBEKAH R. MOONEY
BRANDON C. MORGAN
CHAD E. MORROW
MICHAEL C. RENKAS
PATRICE L. REVIEREBUFORD
DAVID M. STUEVER
MELISSA L. TENNANT
SAMUEL B. TOBLER
JOHN M. TONARELLI
AARON D. TRITCH
JOHN W. WAGGONER
SHAWNEE A. WILLIAMS
DAVID S. WINTER
HEATH S. WOOCKMAN

HEIDI P. WORLEY
CHRISTY L. ZAHN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MAC B. CARTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

PATRICIA YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

DIEGO L. BECERRA III
EPIFANIO M. GARZA, JR
ANTONIO J. HARDY
NATALIE A. JUHLIN
MICHAEL E. ZELLOUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PATRICK M. ABELL
ANTHONY K. ATLAS, SR.
RONALD L. BAHL
CLINT A. BARNES
DAVID K. BASHAW
CHARLES R. BELL
MICHAEL J. BORGEL
KEVIN D. BRANCH
BRENDA M. BROCKINGTON
RANDALL S. BROWN
TONRI C. BROWN
ANGELA A. BUTTS
ANDREW D. CECIL
DARYL A. CHAMBERLAIN
JOSEPH B. CORCORAN III
RICHARD W. CORNER II
JOSEPH F. COX
BILL R. CROUSE
DAPHNE D. DAVIS
JOSEPH M. DREKSLER
GARY A. DUFF
LORENZO L. EASON, JR.
CARLOS E. ESPARRA
TRICIA A. GINTHER
DANIEL J. GRASSETTI
JOSHUA R. HEGAR
FREDERICK A. HOCKETT, JR.
HOWARD M. KEEBLER
STEVEN P. KISNER
STEPHEN W. LADD
LISA M. LAMB
CHARLES W. LEWIS
MARKUS J. LEWIS
URBI N. LEWIS
PEGGY R. MCMANUS
KYLE A. MYERS
MARTIN J. NARANJO
MARK A. NED
JAY P. OTKEN
SCOTT N. PARKER
DAVID W. PAYNE, JR.
ROBERT L. PENN
MONICA M. RADTKE
ANTIONETTE N. RAINEY
LEAH M. REID
MARK F. SCHOENFELD
TOMIKA M. SEABERRY
EFREM Z. SLAUGHTER
DAVID R. SONNEK
DAVID J. SPESS
VICTOR H. SUNDQUIST
KATHERINE A. TROMBLEY
FRANK S. VICTOR
CHRISTOPHER W. WARNER
SMITH A. M. WILLIAMS
CLAUDE WOODS, JR.
ALBERT F. YONKOVITZ, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GEORGE R. K. ACREE
MICHAEL A. AKE
ERIK ANDERSEN
TROY E. ARMSTRONG
JEFFREY R. BAKER
RAYMOND J. BARNES
RANDALL D. BARTON
ANDREW J. BATES
FREDERICK W. V. BATES
BRUCE A. BECKER
MARC E. BELSCAMPER
THOMAS E. BENTON
GLORIA A. BERLANGA
ERIC G. BEUERMAN
MICHAEL T. BICE
KEVIN M. BIGGIE
JEFFREY M. BILODEAU
WILLIAM L. BLANCO
GERALD W. BODNAR
RONALD W. BONESZ
MARLON C. BRANNAN
JAMES H. BRIDGMAN
MAX A. BROSIG
JEFFREY K. BROWNLEE
TIFFANY A. BUETHE
CHRISTOPHER T. BURT
RICHARD F. BURTT
ADAM M. CALDERON
CHRISTOPHER A. CALDWELL
ANDREW J. CALIENDO
KRISTINE L. CAMBRE
HENRY T. CAPELLO, JR.
SIDNEY U. CARDOZO
DANIEL J. CARROLL
PAUL A. CERNIAUSKAS
CATHERINE L. CHERRY
JOHN G. CHURCH
JOHN M. CLINE
ANTHONY J. CLOUD
EDWARD A. CLOYD
JOSEPH A. COGNITORE
ANDREW W. COLLINS
JELORA J. COMAN
MICHAEL F. COTE
JOHN C. CRAWSON
KEVIN B. CREECH
SHANE C. CROFTS
GENE M. CUMMINS
HUBERT L. DAVIDSON, JR.
JUSTIN H. DAVIS
WILLIAM R. DAVIS
RONALD E. DELOATCH
STEVEN W. DENNEY
MICHAEL J. DIAZ
WILLIAM L. DIONNE
ANDREW E. DODSON
DAVID R. DORAN
JON K. DYER
ROBERT A. EASON III
PAMELA L. ELLISON
JEFFREY W. ERDLEY
DIRK D. ERICKSON
TODD M. ESSING
JON D. FARR
CARL A. FASSBENDER
JAMES R. FIDLER
PETER E. FIORENTINO
ANTHONY P. FLOOD
JORGE M. FONSECA
BRIAN H. FOULK
ANTHONY D. FULTON
WILLIAM B. GENTLE
WALTER R. GILL
JOHN A. GOBEL
RUSSELL P. GRANT III
ROBERT A. GRAVES
RANDALL E. GREEN
ELTON S. GRIFFIN
JOHN E. GRIFFIS
KIMBERLY HAMLIN
ANTHONY S. HAMMETT
COLBY Q. HAMMONDS
JAY T. HANCOCK
RICHARD P. HANES
JOSEPH A. HARO
MICHELE P. HARPER
JASON T. HART
TONY L. HASSLER
MARK A. HATFIELD
MICHAEL C. HENDERSON
KRISTINE L. HENRY
THOMAS L. HERNANDEZ
ROBERT C. HERNDON
DAVID E. HICKETHIER
CHAD A. HIGGINBOTHAM
JAVONTKA R. HOEFLEIN
REUBEN J. HOKANSON
ROBERT J. HOWARD
ROBERT W. HUGHES, JR.
JOHN T. HYATT
DWIGHT D. IKENBERRY
ALBERTO IRIZARRYORTIZ
NICHOLAS P. JASKOLSKI
GRAY A. JOHNSON, JR.
JULIUS M. JOHNSON
MICHAEL A. JONES
MATTHEW L. JORDAN
ROBERT J. KADAVY
TIMOTHY T. KEMP
KRIS A. KOUGH
JASON L. LAMBERT
MATTHEW B. LAMBETH
MARY F. LAUMBACH
ERIC J. LECKEL
ROBERT A. LEE
HAYMET LLOVET
STANLEY R. MANES
DANIEL T. MARKERT
JOEL L. MARTIN
DAVID MASON, JR.
DONALD M. MCCARTY
FRANK J. MCGOVERN IV
JOHN S. MCKAY
JOSEPH B. MERRILL
JOYCE L. MERRILL
JAMES C. MEYER
DANIEL D. MINER, JR.
OLIVER F. MINTZ
DEREK G. MIXON
MICHAEL J. MOFFIT
PATRICK R. MONAHAN
MICHAEL K. MORENI
SETH L. MORGULAS
DONALD J. MOSINSKI
LISA A. MULLINAX
AUGUST T. MURRAY
ALEJANDRO NAVARRETE
CHRISTIAN M. NEARY
DAVID G. NEARY
MARK J. NELSON
EVERTON E. NEVERS
GERALD L. NEWMAN
KELVIN C. NICHOLS
KENNETH A. NILES
COLIN S. NOYES
ROBERT W. OCONNELL
VINCENT M. ORLANDO
ORLANDO G. ORTEGA
EDWARD J. OSHEEHAN
DOUGLAS E. PALMER
ROCHELLE T. PARKS
ROBERT M. PARSONS
LYNN A. PATE
MICHAEL D. PAZDERNIK
PATRICK J. PELLETIER
GLEN R. PETERSEN
LISA A. PIERCE
TIMOTHY D. PILLION
JOHN R. PIPPY
ANTHONY B. POOLE
JOHN T. PRESTON
ALFRED C. PRILL
CESAR V. PUDIQUET
CLINE R. PYATT
RICARDO QUILES
JAMES A. REED
DANIEL A. REICHEN
KEITH E. ROBINSON
MOSES P. ROBINSON II
JOHN B. RUNY
KEVIN C. SANDERS
DANA P. SANDERSUDO
SIMON L. SCHAEFER
ANDREW C. SCHULTE
STANLEY Y. SEO
ALEXANDER M. SHARPE
MICHAEL P. SHOEN
DAYMONE A. SIMMONS
KEVIN L. SMITH
RICHARD D. SNOWDALL
GEORGE A. STAKIAS
DAVID L. STEVENS
ROBERT K. STINSON, JR.
MICHAEL S. STRANSKY
LUKE T. STRICKERT
RICHARD M. SUDDER II
MARK A. TALLO
RONALD D. TAMMARO
WILLIAM X. TAYLOR
SCOTT C. THOMAS
DONALD L. THOMSEN III
DANA J. TOURANGEAU
TODD A. TOWNSEND
BARBARA P. TUCKER
WILLIAM R. TUCKER II
TODD J. TUTTLE
MATTHEW W. TWOMBLY
THEODORE O. UNBEHAGEN
MICHAEL J. URRUTIA
CATHLEEN A. VANBREE
BARTHOLOMEW J. VERBANIC
CHARLES C. VEREEN, JR.
EDWARD J. WALLACE
NORMAN P. WALLS
KEVIN L. WARFIELD
RUSSELL J. WARR
MICHAEL W. WASHINGTON
JEFFREY WATKINS
CRAIG A. WEEDON
BRENT A. WILKINS
CHRISTOPHER M. WILLIAMS
GERARD B. WILLIAMS II
MICHAEL E. WILSON
CRAIG C. WORSHAM
KIMBERLEY A. YORK
JAMES E. YOUNG III
STEVEN S. ZEGA
ARTHUR E. ZEGERS IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MELISSA K. G. ADAMSKI
JOSEPH W. ADAMSON
NICHOLAS S. ADLER
DAVID W. ALBERTSON, JR.
BRENT W. ALLEN
JAMES B. ALLEN
HAROLD V. ANDERSON
JOSEPH A. ASHER
RICHARD AVILES
MICHELLE M. AVOLIO
THOMAS J. BROOKS
SEAN S. BROWN
KENNETH W. BRYANT
RUSSELL B. CHAMBERS
MARK I. CHOATE
MICHAEL B. CLARK
CHERYL A. CLEMENT
DANIEL W. CLOYD
PATRICK D. COMBS
STACY A. CORDELL
PAUL L. DEAL
KELLY M. DICKERSON
MICHAEL T. DOBBS
JOHN G. DRAKEFORD
LANCE R. DUELLMAN
JOHN M. DUNN
MICHAEL C. EHRENHOFER
WILLIAM F. EHRHARDT
STEPHANIE B. W. ELLIOTT

ANTHONY R. ELY
THOMAS M. ESKOLA
JAMES E. FERRON
MICHAEL B. FIELD
JOEL D. FISCHER
MONICA M. FOLEY
JOHN N. GAMBY
CLAYTON E. GARDNER III
GREGORY E. GIMENEZ
JOHN R. GLORIOSO
MARK F. GOELLER
KRISTINA J. GREEN
WILLIAM H. GUENTHER
CLIFFORD R. GUNST
MICHAEL J. HAHN
LANCE J. HALDER
RICHARD H. HALLIBURTON
TRAVIS A. HARTMAN
GAIL E. HEARD
CEDRIC G. HILL
LAURA A. HOWELL
ANDREW R. HOWES
BRADFORD L. HUGHES
MICHAEL A. HUNTER
BRYAN S. IRVINE
CHRIS S. ISERI
ANDRE L. JENKINS
CHRISTIAN E. JENNI
EDGAR R. JUGUETA
KEITH K. KELLY
LANCE A. KINCANON
TINA L. KIRKPATRICK
MICHAEL A. KLEPZIG
HENRY R. KORF
ERIC G. KRANTZ
VANCE KUHNER
ANDREWS C. A. MACK
KIMBERLEY M. MARQUEZ
RYAN C. MCDAVITT
ANTHONY MERRIWEATHER
MICHAEL W. MILLER
KELLY L. MIMS
FRANCISCO M. MORERA
MICHAEL P. MORRIS
ANHTUAN T. NGUYEN
JAMES L. NINNIS
PATRICK G. OLEARY
STANLEY OSTREM
LIONEL A. OVIDE
KARL J. PAINTER
CRISTINA PAOLONI
MATTHEW A. PATTERSON
CAROLINE R. POGGE
JAMES F. PORTER
KENNETH H. QUIMBY
TIMOTHY S. RADOS
RODNEY J. REGO
STEVEN P. RESSLER
JOHN D. RHODES
BRIAN T. ROBERTS
MARK S. ROBERTSON
PHILIP F. ROMANELLI
BRETT C. SAXON
ELLIOT D. SCHROEDER
DELBRIA D. SCOTT
RICKY L. SEMPLE
CLINTON C. SEYBOLD
RICKY L. SHAWYER
RACHEL E. SHERRER
KENNETH A. SHUBERT
STEPHEN W. SHUMWAY
MICHAEL T. SLACK
EARL C. SPARKS IV
BERNARD J. STABINSKI
NARVAEZ L. STINSON
CHRISTOPHER M. SULLIVAN
ROGER B. SWARTWOOD
KENNETH TAFAO, JR.
ANDREW J. TALMADGE
LESLIE L. TEAGUE III
KYLE B. TEAMEY
PAUL D. TIESZEN
BRIAN J. VANDEWAL
EDWARD W. VANGIEZEN
PAUL A. VENCILL
CHARLES E. WACK
STEPHEN G. WALDROP
NATHANIEL P. WALTON
ANGELIA R. C. WARD
JAMES B. WEAVER
DANIEL A. WHITLOCK
ERIC M. WILSON
BRIAN K. WOODFORD
JAMES YI

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ADRAIN D. FELDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ASHLEY D. GIBBS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

REYNALDO A. JORNACION

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 24, 2018:

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ANNIE CAPUTO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2021.

DAVID WRIGHT, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2020.

JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES RANDOLPH EVANS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LUXEMBOURG.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

JELENA MCWILLIAMS, OF OHIO, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

JELENA MCWILLIAMS, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

RUBYDEE CALVERT, OF WYOMING, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022.

LAURA GORE ROSS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID B. CORNSTEIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO HUNGARY.

FRANCIS R. FANNON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ENERGY RESOURCES).

INTER–AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ELIOT PEDROSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER–AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JONATHAN R. COHEN, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

JONATHAN R. COHEN, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR MISSION SUPPORT, A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MICHAEL F. MCALLISTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS, A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U. S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DANIEL B. ABEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. SCOTT A. BUSCHMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. LINDA L. FAGAN

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GREGORY J. SLAVONIC, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. PETER G. VASELY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER 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. DIRON J. CRUZ

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DANIEL T. LASICA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. BRADFORD J. SHWEDO

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ANTONIO A. AGUTO, JR.
BRIG. GEN. MARIA B. BARRETT
BRIG. GEN. XAVIER T. BRUNSON
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES H. CLEVELAND
BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS C. CRISSMAN
BRIG. GEN. BRADLEY K. DREYER
BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY W. DRUSHAL
BRIG. GEN. RAUL E. ESCRIBANO
BRIG. GEN. JOHN R. EVANS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. ANTONIO M. FLETCHER
BRIG. GEN. SEAN A. GAINEY
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN W. GILLAND
BRIG. GEN. MARK W. GILLETTE
BRIG. GEN. KARL H. GINGRICH
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES R. HAMILTON
BRIG. GEN. DAVID C. HILL
BRIG. GEN. DAVID T. ISAACSON
BRIG. GEN. KENNETH L. KAMPER
BRIG. GEN. DONNA W. MARTIN
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH P. MCGEE
BRIG. GEN. PAUL H. PARDEW
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK B. ROBERSON
BRIG. GEN. ANDREW M. ROHLING
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD M. TOY
BRIG. GEN. JOEL K. TYLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. WENDY L. HARTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. SHAN K. BAGBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL L. PLACE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CRAIG S. FALLER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WARREN D. BERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DONALD E. KIRKLAND

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DARSIE D. ROGERS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRADLEY A. BECKER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. MICHAEL M. GILDAY

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. LEWIS A. CRAPAROTTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. DANIEL J. O'DONOHUE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID B. BURGY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHELE C. EDMONDSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JEFFREY S. SCHEIDT

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH M. MARTIN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOSEPH L. OSTERMAN

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ERICA H. MACDONALD, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

SCOTT PATRICK ILLING, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MCKISA P. FRYER, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AARON J. OELRICH AND ENDING WITH GREGORY P. NORTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2018.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF RYAN C. BOYLE, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHAD J. KIMBROUGH AND ENDING WITH TRAVIS K. PUGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 15, 2018.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF TODD M. YOSICK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MITCHELL P. KREUZE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHERYL L. ANTHOS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK A. CRIMALDI AND ENDING WITH JAMES A. WATSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 24, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DERRICK J. CHACON AND ENDING WITH TODD M. LEEDS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 24, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES E. SMITH, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALLEN D. ALDENBERG AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY A. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM J. GRIMES AND ENDING WITH JEREMY P. MOUNT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID W. EASTBURN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ZINA L. ROBERTS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRADFORD M. BURRIS AND ENDING WITH JOHN H. COCHRAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2018.

ARMY NOMINATION OF COURTNEY T. TRIPP, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TAM BUI, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JUSTIN J. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH ROBERT C. ZYLA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARMANDO ACOSTA, JR. AND ENDING WITH ROGER M. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 18, 2018.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JAMES B. THOMPSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JON C. PETERSON, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF JASON A. PARISH, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF HISHAM K. SEMAAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF THOMAS A. ESPARZA, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JUSTIN S. HEITMAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN P. WALSH, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JUSTIN M. ADCOCK, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DANIEL A. WARD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROBERT M. HESS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SAMANTHA J. SAVAGE, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NEIL PARTAIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GABRIEL F. SANTIAGO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY N. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH JACOB H. WEBB, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2018.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID A. BESACHIO, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF EVAN E. WERNER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KEVIN B. SMITH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AUGUSTINO ALBANESE II AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS P. ZIESER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 24, 2018.

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF KYLE S. YOUNG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER .

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF MICHAEL S. DAEFFLER, TO BE LIEUTENANT.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REBECCA A. DREW AND ENDING WITH SARAH J. REED, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 24, 2018.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on May 24, 2018 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

EDWARD MASSO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2017.