

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—83

Alexander	Fischer	Nelson
Baldwin	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Blunt	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cardin	Inhofe	Schumer
Carper	Isakson	Scott
Casey	Johnson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Jones	Shelby
Collins	Kaine	Smith
Corker	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	King	Tester
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Young
Feinstein	Murray	

NAYS—11

Booker	Menendez	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Merkley	Warren
Harris	Peters	Wyden
Hirono	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—6

Coons	Heinrich	Markey
Duckworth	Leahy	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 majority leader.

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.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I hope this is just going to be a speed bump on the way to getting on to the NDAA, because that is very important legisla-

tion that I want to get to, but I have an amendment. It happens to be a germane amendment to a very, very important part of this bill—the CFIUS reform legislation recently reported out of the Banking Committee.

I want to continue to work with the chairman and the ranking member and the leader to ensure that I will have an opportunity to offer this amendment. That is all I am looking for—to have a vote on my germane amendment. When we can work that out, I will be happy to grant my consent, but in the meantime, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Todd Young, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Johnny Isakson, Joni Ernst, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, James M. Inhofe, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me just share what just happened here. I have been involved with this for a long time, including over in the House when we had our NDAA. Now, I am fully aware and everybody here knows that we have passed this NDAA for 57 consecutive years, and we are going to pass it. But one of the things I really don't like about the procedure is that one person—any one person, Democrat or Republican—can object, as this was just objected to, and cause us to have to file cloture. This is going to put this off for a period of time, and two undesirable results can result. One result can be that it can ultimately deny Members from offering their amendments, whether they are germane or not.

I will state how much I appreciate the fact that Senator REED and I in our committee have worked very closely together, and we made a decision that we want to have an open amendment process. We had discussion of this in our committee and everyone agrees with this.

This could have the effect of ultimately closing the door to everyone who has an amendment. We don't want that, but we did everything we could to stop an objection from taking place so that we could at least move on to the bill.

We need to get on the bill, and then we can try to do all kinds of arrangements. At one time, Senator REED and I talked about maybe coming up with 10 amendments or 15 amendments or 3 amendments each, Democrats and Republicans, so that we could at least say to the individuals on our side—and I would say to my Republican friends—that I will do everything within my power to see that you get a vote. Unfortunately you can't do that because you can't guarantee there will be a vote. So that is the thing I regret, and the other bad part of this is that it is going to put it off for about a week.

I just got back from all of our war zones, talking to our troops on the ground, telling them that this is going to happen, that we are going to be taking up the NDAA, and telling them what is in it in terms of pay raises, what is in it in terms of priorities, and how we are going to try to get modernized. Right now we have several pieces of equipment that over the last 10 years have been ignored, and we have peer competitors in Russia and in China that have better equipment than we do. An artillery piece is evaluated by rapid fire and range, and right now our rapid fire is not as fast as either Russia's or China's. We see what is happening in the China Sea. We are over there. We see that our allies are looking and thinking: You know, the Chinese are preparing for World War III. What are we doing?

By postponing this, all of our troops and all of our very valued people who are risking their lives on a daily basis are going to wonder: Why didn't we go ahead and go with this thing? It is wrong.

I do want to say this. Senator REED and I and our committees did everything we could to try to accommodate everyone as best as our rules would allow us to do. In living with the limitations that we have, we have done everything we can do.

I do want to compliment the entire Senate Armed Services Committee. We have also worked on the House side. Between Senator REED and me—Democrats and Republicans—we have done everything we could to keep this from happening. Again, as long as I can remember, at the last minute, one Senator can put this off and create the damage and potential damage that has been created now. I do regret that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, first, this is an opportunity for me to commend and thank the Senator from Oklahoma for extraordinary leadership on the committee. Obviously, we were all inspired by Chairman MCCAIN and his incredible leadership over the last many,