

of a number of key stakeholders and advocacy groups.

If confirmed, Mr. Stump would be responsible for adult education and literacy, which would help adults get the basic skills they need to be productive workers and family members and citizens, and which would help community colleges ensure students have the education and skills they need to advance in their education and their careers in order to remain competitive in the 21st century.

Finally, the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the Department of Education is responsible for implementing the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. It is a critical law that gives students and workers the education and skills they need to succeed, and it provides businesses with a high-quality talent pipeline of workers with in-demand skills to compete in a 21st century economy.

Last month, members of our HELP Committee set partisan differences aside and passed the reauthorization of the Perkins CTE Act, which makes important updates to support an education system that prepares students and workers for an economy and a country that works for everyone.

In order to help students, workers, and businesses compete in a rapidly changing global economy, it is critically important that we pass that reauthorization, which would allow programs to adapt to the unique needs of their communities and continue to provide students and workers with the education and training that is necessary for them to get better jobs, earn higher wages, and climb up the economic ladder.

As Members of Congress, we should always be looking for ways to help make people's lives better, which is why I hope we can advance this long overdue bill to the floor in a timely fashion.

If the Senate confirms Mr. Stump, I hope he will remain committed to putting students and workers first no matter what pressure he gets. If he is able to do that, I look forward to working with him to help provide high-quality education and to ensure that, above all, our focus is on students and their success.

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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stump nomination?

Mrs. ERNST. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Ms. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 155 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Feinstein	Paul
Baldwin	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Bennet	Gardner	Reed
Blumenthal	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Harris	Roberts
Booker	Hassan	Rounds
Brown	Hatch	Rubio
Burr	Heinrich	Sanders
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Sasse
Capito	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Hoeven	Schumer
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Scott
Casey	Johnson	Smith
Cassidy	Kaine	Sullivan
Collins	King	Tester
Coons	Klobuchar	Thune
Corker	Lankford	Tillis
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Udall
Cotton	Markey	Van Hollen
Crapo	McCaskill	Warner
Cruz	McConnell	Warren
Daines	Menendez	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Merkley	Wicker
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wyden
Durbin	Murphy	Young
Enzi	Murray	
Ernst	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—15

Boozman	Isakson	Moran
Gillibrand	Jones	Peters
Graham	Kennedy	Shaheen
Heller	Leahy	Shelby
Inhofe	McCain	Stabenow

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 Idaho.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate now proceed to Executive Calendar No. 601, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, due to travel issues, I was unable to attend today's rollcall vote on the nomination of Scott Stump to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the Department of Education.

Had I been able to attend, I would have supported his nomination. •

TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I enthusiastically supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed the Senate and was signed into law 6 months ago. Over the past 6 months, the law's positive impact on our country's economy has not gone unnoticed. Companies, both large and small, are distributing bonuses, raising wages, and investing in their businesses. While many observers recognize the positive ways in which the law is increasing economic confidence and lowering rates for individual taxpayers, the benefits to small businesses are sometimes overlooked. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I strongly supported the tax law because I believed it would reduce taxes for small businesses responsible for employing millions of Americans, allowing small business owners to invest in their businesses and increase economic growth. I recently began this series of speeches to bring attention to the benefits this law provides for small businesses.

While many reports over the past 6 months focus on the new tax law's impact on large corporations, I rise today to bring attention to how tax reform is benefiting HBM Technology Partners, a small business in Reno, NV. HEM Technology Partners provides computer hardware, information technology systems, and computer services

to businesses throughout the Reno area. HBM Technology Partners, incorporated by Harry Foote in 1929 as Harry's Business Machines, originally sold typewriters and various office supplies. After weathering the hard years of the Great Depression and World War II, Harry's son, Gordon, became active in the business after returning from serving our country in the Armed Forces. In the early 1980s Gordon's son, Gary, continued the family tradition of working in the business, and the company began selling electronics, computers, and printers. During this time, the company also started providing specialty plastic-card printing machines to customers in the gaming industry and servicing Hewlett-Packard products. The company now sells several different types of computer hardware and software, cybersecurity products, data backup systems, and specialty printers. I commend HBM Technologies for their ability to continually evolve to meet their customers' needs and adapt as new technologies are introduced.

Because of last year's tax law, this third generation family-owned small business recently distributed bonuses to its seven employees. These bonuses allow the workforce at HBM Technologies to have more financial freedom to provide for their families. Stories like this exist all over the country. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act opens the door for small businesses to invest in their businesses, hire new workers, and increase wages. Additionally, the new law increases small businesses' confidence and allows them to reward their longtime employees, while also lowering small businesses' taxes and encouraging new capital investment. I congratulate HBM technologies on their hard work and look forward to watching their continued success.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 21ST HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I stand here today to honor the distinguished veterans of the Northern Colorado Honor Flight who have made the 21st trip to Washington, DC. Over 120 distinguished veterans from World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war made the trip to visit our national memorials that were built in their honor.

Military service is an exceptional duty to country. Few words can describe the sacrifice that these men and woman have made for our country. They have helped to preserve our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Without reservation or fear, when our country has been threatened, our veterans have stepped up and have answered our country's call.

Twice a year, veterans are able to travel to our Nation's Capital, where we get to recognize their selflessness,

fortitude, and bravery. In 2005 the Honor Flight Program was formed to honor veterans that served in World War II. Now, 13 years later, the program spans across our country and recognizes veterans from every generation, who are able to travel to Washington, DC, free of charge.

Please join me in honoring William Behrns, Leila Morrison, Gail Wares, Melvin Cook, Eldred Cooley, Eugene Curry, Bead Dennison, James Dewey, Tito Garcia Jr., Karl Gruber, Manuel Jimenez, Donald Johnson, Myron Kapperman, Roger Lindgren, Bobby Lewis, John Mansfield, Thomas Mathias Jr., Dale Mikkelson, Mary Miller, Robert Murphy, Howard Nornes, James Onorato, Wilbur Smith, Sigvard Stenlund, Bruce Abel, Gary Allen, Russell Ayer, Roger Baker, John Ballenski, Phillip Ballenski, Robert Beckman, Delmar Benkendorf, Joseph Bicek, Ivan Birdsall, Roger Booker, James Boyle, Ronnie Brown, Robert Buchanan, Ronald Byers, Wesley Carter, Timothy Casseday, Everett Collins, David Cordova, John Cordova, Keith Cross, Terry Curry, Terry Dack, Scott Dallman, James Ehrlich, Rodney Enriques, Gary Evans, Brian Finkle, Lewis Finch, Rudolph Gallegos, Pete Gomez, Clayton Goss, Stanley Graffis, John Haddick, Michael Hadwick, William Hamlin, Arthur Harris, Michelle Herdengen, Charles Hill, Richard Hill, William Hilgenberg, Ronald Hoagland, Robert Johnson, Ronald Klug, Terry Kramer, Lonnie Kruike, Darrel Kyger, Bertram Langeberg, Gerald Lauer, Jay Lee, James Lichty, Anthony Lucas, Thomas Mannix, Juan Martinez, Modesto Martinez, James McDaniel, Kenneth McDonald, Ronald McDuff, Phyllis Minch, Alfred Montoya, Thomas Moreno, Donald Morris, Stephen Morris, Dennis Moss, Joseph Muzy, Emery Patrick, Joseph Plummer, Steven Prater, Benjamin Prieb, Ronald Rains, Donald Ratliff, Richard Regan, Fredrick Reiter, Thomas Robb, Bonnie Rohn, Fernando Romero Jr., Charles Rossi, Janice Schilling, Dennis Seitz, William Sladek, Michael Smith, Stephen Smith, Edward Snider Jr., John Tallman, Bruce Tibboel, Gary Todd, Gary Trippel, Billy Trobee, David Valdez, Wesley Van Pelt, Louis Velasquez, Stuart Veltkamp, Paul Wallace, Bryan Warwick, Tom Wasmer, Robert Watters, Steven Wilson, John Yost, and William Young. •

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by—Ms. Cuccia, 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 which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 50. An act to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3281. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the transfer to non-Federal ownership of appropriate reclamation projects or facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6237. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 50. An act to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3281. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the transfer to non-Federal ownership of appropriate reclamation projects or facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### 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-5943. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Report to Congress from the Chairman of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies"; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Foreign Relations.

EC-5944. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, five (5) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5945. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5946. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 560) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.