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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN BARRASSO, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Shepherd of Love, help our lawmakers to live in such magnanimity and restraint that they will be salt and light to their generation. May they make the world more palatable as they bring the illumination of Your Word to the problems they seek to solve. Guided by Your love, lead them to live to glorify Your Name. Lord, give them the wisdom to consistently strive to live in conformity to Your Will.

We praise You, mighty God, for You are slow to anger, abounding in love and mercy. In accordance with Your great love, continue to bless America.

We pray in Your strong 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, July 16, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BARRASSO, a

Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BARRASSO 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 nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Stump, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time?

If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Texas.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last week I had the chance to reconnect with Judge Brett Kavanaugh, the President's choice to be Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, succeeding Anthony Kennedy, who has announced his retirement effective at the

end of this month. I say reconnect because I actually met Judge Kavanaugh back in 2000, when, as attorney general of Texas, I had the great privilege to represent my State in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in an oral argument.

As part of my preparation for that argument—something that is sort of like the Super Bowl for lawyers—I had a chance to practice that argument in a moot court, as it is called, in front of three distinguished Supreme Court advocates, including Brett Kavanaugh, who at that time was a private lawyer. I am sure I benefitted from his help, as I did from the help of the other two.

I have followed Judge Kavanaugh's career closely in the 18 years since I met him. Of course, in the last 12 years, he has served with distinction on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, which some have called the second most powerful court in the Nation, since most of the controversial litigation involving the Federal Government tends to come up through that appellate court from the district courts here in the District of Columbia.

Based on what I know of Brett Kavanaugh, I am pleased with the nominee the President has chosen. After talking to him again, I look forward to supporting his nomination and doing everything I can to ensure his bipartisan confirmation.

On the issue of bipartisanship, let me just point out that Justice Gorsuch was confirmed by 54 votes, a bipartisan vote of confirmation. I would expect, based upon his similar qualifications in many ways—outstanding academic record, outstanding experience, and demonstrated ability on a circuit court of appeals—that I would think and expect that Justice Kavanaugh would get a bipartisan confirmation vote, much as Justice Gorsuch has. Obviously, they are two different individuals, but in terms of their experience, education, preparation, and judicial philosophy, I think it would be difficult to explain why one would vote for Justice

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Gorsuch's confirmation and vote against Justice Kavanaugh.

I know Members of the Senate take our responsibilities to provide advice and consent very seriously. I know a number of our colleagues who don't have the benefit of 18 years of familiarity with the judge will want to do their homework, and that is exactly as it should be.

A bipartisan questionnaire has now gone out to the judge from the Judiciary Committee. Senator FEINSTEIN, the Democratic ranking member, and Senator GRASSLEY, the Republican chairman, have sent a questionnaire, asking him to answer a litany of questions necessary for the Judiciary Committee to prepare for the hearing, which I hope will occur sometime in mid-August or so. We know also that nominees for judicial office get a very extensive background check, and that will have to be updated. I am sure that will take place as well.

Then, we all will have the chance to meet with Judge Kavanaugh, as I did, and to make our own personal assessment after asking questions and getting his answers to those questions.

Many people have now become familiar with the arc of his career: graduating with honors from Yale College, graduating Yale Law School, clerking for two appellate judges before clerking for Justice Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court. From there he went on to work as the Staff Secretary at the White House.

I want to pause and talk about what the Staff Secretary at the White House does. This is kind of an obscure but important position. Basically, you are the last eyes on a document before the President signs it. So what that means is there is a tremendous responsibility to coordinate and to verify the accuracy of the contents of the documents and that they reflect the policies that the President does indeed support before it is presented to him for his signature.

I mention the Staff Secretary position because the last time Judge Kavanaugh was confirmed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, there was no discussion about getting the voluminous copies of records that came across his desk as Staff Secretary. No one particularly thought that those were very useful, and that is for understandable reasons. He didn't author those documents. He didn't create them, but he was responsible for their verification and authentication and to see that they got to the President after having been reviewed as they should be. So as for any excuse that we hear along this confirmation process that the thousands—maybe hundreds of thousands, maybe millions—of documents that would have come across his desk as Staff Secretary will have to all be produced before Senators can vote on his confirmation, well, they didn't do that back when he was confirmed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. I think it makes no logical sense that documents

that came across his desk that he did not create and he did not vouch for are relevant, but, rather, that represents a fishing expedition designed to delay the confirmation process unnecessarily.

After he was Staff Secretary at the White House, he practiced law. Then, of course, he was confirmed to the Federal bench. His resume is really one that speaks for itself, but I want to address some of the character assassinations that have already begun about the judge because it is pretty troubling, knowing him as I have come to know him, to hear these accusations and descriptions, which I think are pure fantasy. They are worse than that. As I said, they are character assassinations. They are conspiracy theories. They are designed to cause good people to doubt this nominee, but there is a good answer to each of them.

First comes one from House Minority Leader PELOSI, who has no role whatsoever in the Supreme Court process. The Senate has the responsibility of providing advice and consent. The House of Representatives is a virtual spectator, like the rest of the American population. She called his nomination "a clear and respectful assault on the fundamental rights of women." It is an outrageous statement.

NARAL Pro-Choice America, the national abortion rights action league, has claimed that any vote to confirm him would be one that would "punish women." This same group also degenerated into a middle-school mocking of his name. I am not sure what relevance that has, but it shows, I believe, how desperate opponents of this nomination are.

If you don't have anything substantive to offer as criticism or if you don't have policy differences that you want to debate, engage in name calling. That is all this is.

A Yale Law professor, Amy Chua, wrote last week in the Wall Street Journal about how Judge Kavanaugh had been a mentor to young female lawyers whom he has engaged with over his legal career. The professor wrote that since he joined the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit in 2006, a quarter of the judge's law clerks, the most valued members of his staff, have been members of a minority group—one or the other—and more than half, 25 out of 48, have been women. Years ago, when I was a member of the Texas Supreme Court, it seemed as though I also had a similar proclivity to hire female clerks.

I asked one of them one day: Why is it you think I hired you to be my law clerk?

She said: It is easy, Judge—women are smarter, and they work harder.

Perhaps that is what Judge Kavanaugh discovered during his experience too.

These women, these former clerks, have spoken glowingly about Judge Kavanaugh's mentorship and his personal decency and support and encour-

agement for their careers. It is absurd and hyperbolic to call Judge Kavanaugh anti-woman. It is so ridiculous. You would wonder why anybody would feel as if they needed to respond. Here in Washington, DC, in the echo chamber inside the beltway and with all the special interest groups and the mainstream media unfortunately many times repeating these falsehoods over and over again, it is necessary for some of us to stand up and say: This is blatantly false.

The women who know Judge Kavanaugh best and worked alongside him in his chambers would take issue with Ms. PELOSI's characterization.

A second line of conspiracy theories regarding Judge Kavanaugh relates to Presidential power. Some have claimed that Judge Kavanaugh believes that a President cannot be indicted for a crime and that that should be an automatic disqualification for Supreme Court consideration. Well, this arises out of a misreading and a misunderstanding of a 2009 Minnesota Law Review article he wrote that explored a gray area of the law and suggested that Congress consider legislation that would defer civil lawsuits and criminal charges until after the President leaves office.

As people will remember, Judge Kavanaugh worked for a while for the independent counsel who was investigating then-President Clinton. He said he learned from that experience that a President is busy doing so many things, it really makes sense not to provide immunity but, rather, to defer litigation of those criminal indictments, should there be any, and civil cases until after the President leaves office. He was quick to note that if the President ever engaged in serious misconduct, there was always the option of impeachment, which is very different from a criminal case. It is one where Congress expresses its view on the suitability of an office holder to continue holding office, and that is always a last resort.

As one fact checker found, his position is different from saying that Presidents can't ever be indicted. Professors like Noah Feldman at Harvard Law have agreed. The Fact Checker from the Washington Post concluded by calling these claims "an extreme distortion" of Judge Kavanaugh's views and I believe gave it two Pinocchios for being false and misleading.

A third and final line of bogus arguments I want to address this afternoon hinges on his views regarding the Affordable Care Act, sometimes called ObamaCare, with the senior Senator from Massachusetts saying that he is "hostile to healthcare." That is as preposterous as saying he is hostile to women. Who is hostile to healthcare? Well, that was also fact-checked by the New York Times, which found hers and other claims to be highly exaggerated.

The reality is that Judge Kavanaugh, in his official capacity, has issued two

dissenting opinions and legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act, both highly technical in nature. Clearly, he is not against healthcare. That is really just a dumb comment. He is simply a judge, who has no role in evaluating the wisdom or efficacy of policies. His job is to call balls and strikes, as an umpire would, to decide whether something is within the law or outside of the law. I believe he will continue to do that when confirmed as a Justice on the Supreme Court.

I agree with the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, who last week said Judge Kavanaugh's qualifications are "so obvious, and his reputation so excellent, that unhinged attacks are all that remains in the far left's arsenal." I agree with him, but that doesn't mean we won't continue to hear these unhinged, ridiculous charges against a good man. Judge Kavanaugh, by all accounts, is a fair and thoughtful judge who approaches each judicial decision with precise reasoning and careful analysis. That is why the conspiracy theories will not work. They are doomed to fail, and the cracks are already beginning to show.

As I said, the Judiciary Committee will conduct a thorough and timely hearing, and then we will follow with an up-or-down vote in the committee and then on the Senate floor this fall, prior to the time the Supreme Court's new term begins in October. The eventual outcome from this process should be that Judge Kavanaugh will be easily confirmed. That is what he and I believe the American people deserve.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, almost everybody in the world knows by now that the President met with Vladimir Putin today. While nobody knows what the two Presidents said in their private meeting, what they said afterward certainly should alarm all of us.

President Trump refused, once again, to accept the fact that Russia, at Putin's order, interfered in our elections. What the President said was alarming, it was embarrassing, and it is unacceptable. We know Putin interfered, and we know he will do it again in our upcoming elections. This is from the unanimous report of the intelligence community of this country and was reaffirmed earlier today by the Director of National Intelligence, former Senator Dan Coats, who was President Trump's appointee.

In its January 2017 assessment, the IC assessed that Russian President Putin ordered an influence campaign in the 2016 election, which was aimed at

the U.S. Presidential election. That assessment described the campaign as a mix of cyber operations that were conducted by Russian intelligence services in its overt use of propaganda and fake social media accounts and trolls.

Take it from President Trump's own administration. Then-Director of the CIA and now-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged the Russian interference. He stood by the intelligence community's assessments, and that was a year and a half ago. He even said he had every expectation that Russia would continue to try to interfere in our elections.

A few days ago, Dan Coats, who is the Director of the DNI, said:

The warning lights are blinking red again. . . . The digital infrastructure that serves this country is literally under attack.

Just this past Friday, the Justice Department announced the indictment of 12 Russian intelligence officers for hacking the Clinton campaign and the DNC. This is just the latest in a series of indictments.

Today, though, the President, while standing right next to Vladimir Putin, said that while the men and women of the U.S. intelligence community concluded with high confidence that Putin did, indeed, interfere in our elections, President Trump said:

[President Putin] said it's not Russia. I don't see any reason why it would be.

That is rather curious.

Even worse, the President stood next to Putin and said the United States was to blame for the Russian aggression. Let me repeat that. The President stood next to Putin and said the United States was to blame for the Russian aggression. This Senator believes our own intelligence community, not a former KGB spy and colonel who is bent on undermining democracy and the rule of law around the world, is whom you ought to believe.

What does a spy do? In order to achieve a spy's ends, the spy lies. That is what and how Vladimir Putin was trained, and it is obvious he is no friend of the United States.

There has been a lot of discussion about Russia, and I know that, at times, it can be confusing to everyday folks. Yet amidst all of the talk and the disinformation, it is critically important that we don't lose sight of the threat to our democracy. That is what Russian interference in our elections is. It is an attack on the very foundation of our democratic institutions. Of course, that is what Putin is trying to do—invalidate our own democracy in order to divide us; it is to undermine our own faith in our own institutions, and to ultimately undermine American leadership in the world.

This should not be a partisan issue in America, in our domestic politics. I hope we come together quickly, in a bipartisan way, to defend ourselves and to finally push back on Putin. I hope we insist that the White House enforces all of the economic sanctions the Congress has already pushed

through but that the White House has been very slow to enact. I hope this Congress is also going to enact more economic sanctions and get them to where they will really start causing a crimp in the step of the Russian leaders. Why not start freezing the bank accounts of some of its highest leaders?

First, the United States, led by our President, has to see the enemy and the threat for what they are. Now, going on 2 years into his administration, the President is unwilling to stand up to Putin—man-to-man, eyeball-to-eyeball—and to defend our country.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been less than a week since the President nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Already, praise has poured in for his legal abilities, professional accomplishments, and personal character.

Some of the most interesting testimony has come from the men and women who may know better than anyone how Judge Kavanaugh approaches his work—his law clerks. You can learn a lot about a leader by asking the men and women who work for and with him. Thirty-four of his past clerks sent an open letter to Chairman GRASSLEY and Senator FEINSTEIN last week.

Their own political and legal views are quite diverse:

Our ranks include Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. But we are united in this: our admiration and fondness for Judge Kavanaugh run deep.

They describe his commitment to legal excellence:

We never once saw him take a shortcut, treat a case as unimportant, or search for an easy answer. Instead, in each case, large or small, he masters every detail and rereads every precedent.

They also compliment the way Judge Kavanaugh conducts himself both inside and outside the courtroom. They call him "unfailing warm and gracious, grounded, and kind." They describe a "fundamental humility."

A subset of those clerks wrote a second letter. It was from every one of Judge Kavanaugh's female clerks whose current employments allowed them to sign it.

These 18 women explain: "We feel compelled to write separately to convey our uniformly positive experiences with the Judge as a boss on issues of gender and equality in the workplace."

"In our view," they write, "the Judge has been one of the strongest advocates in the Federal judiciary for women lawyers."

They explain how Judge Kavanaugh seeks out the best and brightest, how he goes above and beyond to advise and mentor all of his clerks.

Judge Kavanaugh's hiring reflects, in their words, "rare gender parity." Note

that I did not say “equity” but “parity”—25 women clerks and 23 men. In 2014, in fact, all four of Judge Kavanaugh’s clerks were women—a first for a judge on the DC Circuit. There have been 84 percent of those 25 women who have gone on to Supreme Court clerkships, thanks, in large part, to Judge Kavanaugh’s guidance and support.

Here is how they conclude their letter:

As you likely know by now, Judge Kavanaugh has two daughters, Margaret and Liza. If they decide to follow in their dad’s—and grandmother’s—footsteps and become lawyers, they will enter a legal profession that is fairer and more equal because of Judge Kavanaugh.

We have also heard from Professor Amy Chua, who has served on Yale Law School’s clerkship committee for most of the last decade. During that time, 10 Yale Law School graduates have clerked for Judge Kavanaugh, 8 of whom are women.

She emailed them to ask about their experiences. As she explained in the Wall Street Journal, they lauded his work ethic, his commitment to excellence, his humility, and his decency, and “to a person they described his extraordinary mentorship.”

One woman said:

He’s been an incredible mentor to me despite the fact that I am a left-of-center woman. He always takes into account my goals rather than giving me generic advice.

With respect to Judge Kavanaugh’s approach to deciding cases, Professor Chua pointed out that he “actively seeks out clerks from across the ideological spectrum who will question and disagree with him” because “he wants to hear other perspectives before deciding a case.”

“Above all,” she observed, Judge Kavanaugh “believes in the law and wants to figure out, without prejudging, what it requires.”

Again, we have already heard so many speak up to recommend this impressive nominee.

In the weeks ahead, we will hear more, including from Judge Kavanaugh himself, when our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee conduct hearings on his nomination. Yet I wanted to call special attention today to the warm words of those who have worked with and for Judge Kavanaugh. They have seen firsthand just how rigorously he approaches his work as a judge and how graciously he shares his time and his talent with others. Judge Kavanaugh is certainly an impressive nominee.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on another matter, fueled by American workers and job creators and assisted by the pro-growth policies of this Republican government, our economy continues to surge ahead.

Last week, we examined the Department of Labor’s June jobs report, which indicated another month of remarkable growth—213,000 new jobs. On

Friday, economists at the Florida Chamber of Commerce announced that the Sunshine State’s GDP had surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time. That is \$1 trillion for the GDP of Florida. If Florida were a sovereign nation, it would be the 17th largest national economy in the world. In the past year, Floridians, alone, have created 182,000 new jobs. It is hard to argue with the facts, but it is even harder to argue with reports that come straight from hard-working Americans.

Last month, during his visit to Duluth, MN, President Trump met with local workers and job creators to discuss tax reform and economic growth in their communities, and he heard them loud and clear. Republican policies are working.

Adam Morse, a production truck-driver for U.S. Steel Minntac, told President Trump that “the tax plan is working, and I’m seeing a difference in my paycheck.”

Ray Klosowski, Commissioner of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, says that the past year has brought significant steps forward for the port and the jobs it supports. They added a first-ever intermodal freight area, which has allowed Duluth to process containers from the west coast and significantly expand shipping capabilities. There are millions of dollars in new contracts and commitments to hire hundreds of new workers at the port. Mr. Klosowski summed it up, saying:

The customers . . . we’ve been used to—our old tried-and-true customers—have experienced expansion because of the new tax structure. . . . They’re coming to us with more business than we’ve [ever] seen in the past.

Our Democratic colleagues are still grasping for ways to put a negative spin on all of this good news and the Republican policies that are helping it along. But all around the country, Americans are trying to get their attention so that they can explain just how tax reform, regulatory reform, and the rest of our policy agenda are helping to improve their businesses and their lives.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, like any patriotic American—Democrat, Republican, or Independent—I was appalled by the press conference that capped off the President’s trip to Europe this morning. President Trump hardly pressed President Putin on a single issue, saying that “both countries” are responsible for the state of relations between the United States and Russia.

When it comes to interference in the 2016 elections, the President has managed to point the finger at just about everyone except the culprit. The one person he hasn’t blamed is the man who is actually responsible—Vladimir Putin. Rather than taking the opportunity to confront Putin and stand up in defense of the United States, rather than demanding that Putin hand over the Russian intelligence agents who were indicted last week, the President took the word of the KGB over the brave, hard-working men and women of the CIA. It is amazing. When has a President ever done something like that—believed our enemies instead of our own intelligence agents, who have worked so diligently and hard to keep us safe?

Vladimir Putin’s goal for over a decade has been the weakening of American leadership and the erosion of vital international alliances, such as NATO, that promote American values of democracy, freedom, and open markets. He has labored for 10 years, and he didn’t get very far, and now President Trump is handing him the keys to the city.

President Putin could hardly have scripted a more successful foreign trip for his interests than the one we have just witnessed by President Trump. Now, because of President Trump’s inexplicable actions, Americans and citizens of the world from one end to the other are scratching their heads, saying: What is going on inside the President’s head? Because of the President’s almost inexplicable actions, a single, ominous question hangs over the White House: What could possibly cause the President to put the interests of Russia over those of the United States? Millions of Americans will continue to wonder if the only possible explanation for this dangerous and inexplicable behavior is the possibility—the very real possibility—that President Putin holds damaging information over President Trump.

The questions of the moment—now that our security has been put at risk by the President—are these: Where are our Republican colleagues? Where are the Republicans who cheered Reagan’s famous challenge to Gorbachev to “tear down this wall”? Where are the Republicans who demanded a strong response from President Obama when Putin annexed Crimea? Where are the Republicans who surely know in their hearts that trusting Putin over American intelligence, defense, and law enforcement diminishes the standing of our great country?

Now is the time, if there ever were one, for Republicans to stand up. If we wait much longer, our global alliance will fracture; the institutions America created in the ashes of World War II will crumble; and our allies will consider abandoning us, maybe even embracing China, if the consequences—economic and military—are devastating for our country; and Putin’s Russia will emerge all the stronger for

it. American power, prestige, and even our economy will be deeply damaged.

I am pleading—pleading—with my Republican colleagues to push back by doing four things:

First, ratchet up—not water down—sanctions against Russia.

Second, join us in demanding that the President's national security team immediately come to Congress and testify.

Third, end attacks by so many on the hard right on the Department of Justice, the FBI, and Special Counsel Mueller. These attacks are beyond the pale, but now that the President has done this with Putin, these attacks are dangerous to the future of the Republic.

The special counsel needs to finish his work. The President needs to sit for an interview with the special counsel, as previous Presidents have done and as Republicans demanded of President Clinton.

The President has no problem breaking bread with a man who maliciously attacked America during our elections, but he can't sit down with a man charged with investigating it—Special Counsel Mueller. Please. What is the President afraid of? What is he hiding that we don't know?

Fourth, our Republican colleagues must demand with us that the President insist that the 12 indicted Russians be sent to the United States immediately to stand trial.

Every one of these actions is important. Every one should be bipartisan. Every one of our Republican colleagues, no matter what their ideologies within the Republican Party are, should choose country over party—what is good for America over the politics of the moment. Let us show strength and not fear when President Trump shows weakness, as he has today.

I am asking Leader MCCONNELL and Speaker RYAN, both friends, to make sure the four things we have asked for are done. I am pleading with them, for the sake of the country, to do so.

The President is doing grave harm to the standing of the United States, to the strength of the United States, to the security of the United States, and to the economic robustness of the United States by kowtowing to Vladimir Putin. The President will continue to do it if he is not checked, and the best check is our Republican colleagues, if they only have the decency, the honor, and the courage to stand up at a time when the moment calls for it. Some have—Senator MCCAIN, Senator GRAHAM, and Senator SASSE—but where are the others? Where is Leader MCCONNELL?

The summit today was an insult to all Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. We have to stand up together and push back.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

On a related matter, Mr. President, I wish to speak for a moment on President Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

We know President Trump promised to pick a judge who would be hostile to a woman's right to choose—to *Roe v. Wade*—and to the healthcare law, including protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. That is incredibly troubling in and of itself, but I have little doubt that every one of those 25, in the eyes of the Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation, which put together the list, would do those two things that would so hurt America in my judgment.

There is another troubling aspect of Judge Kavanaugh's nomination: His views on Presidential power and whether Presidents should be treated as though they are above the law. Judge Kavanaugh seems to take an almost monarchical view of Executive power. He has written that a sitting President should not be subject to criminal or civil investigation or prosecution while in office. He has even written that a President doesn't need to enforce a law that the President "deems" unconstitutional. It contradicts the well-settled principle—something at the heart of our Constitution and what the Founding Fathers in their greatness did back in 1789—that Presidents should not be above the law.

Now, those are dangerous beliefs at any time, but at this moment in time, with this President, those beliefs are especially dangerous. Anyone who followed the President's trip overseas and his summit today with President Putin saw a reckless, self-centered President willing to bully allies and comfort adversaries, seemingly on a whim.

President Trump's first 1½ years in office has been marked by numerous examples of the President stretching Executive authority, testing the rule of law, and the separation of powers.

Now, more than ever—and especially in light of today's events—we need a Supreme Court Justice who understands and respects the important boundaries the Constitution and our system of government place on the Chief Executive. We don't need a Justice who is ideologically predisposed to favor almost unchecked Executive power, especially with Donald Trump as President of the United States.

Judge Kavanaugh has clearly tipped his hand that he prefers to give broad deference to the Executive. Perhaps that is why Judge Kavanaugh was ultimately selected from the list of 25. That all had been given the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval by the Federalist Society, intent on repealing *Roe*, and by the Heritage Foundation, intent on rolling back government-involved healthcare, whether it be ACA, protecting preexisting conditions, or Medicaid.

Special Counsel Mueller's probe appears to be discovering more and more evidence of President Putin's interference in our election and potential cooperation of American citizens in that interference. Given that a Justice Kavanaugh could one day be faced with a ruling on the matter of whether a sit-

ting President can be indicted or subpoenaed, I hope Senators from both parties scrutinize Judge Kavanaugh's beliefs about Executive power.

On all other courts, potential defendants don't get to pick their jurors. The President—particularly this President—shouldn't have that power either.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Connecticut.

TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, in my lifetime, no American President has ever had a more disastrous overseas trip than the one that was just concluded by President Trump—5 days of disaster after disaster, insult after insult, capitulation after capitulation. Today, Donald Trump has America weaker in the world than at any time in recent memory.

Let's start with what just happened today that has the whole world reeling. To the shock and horror of the American public, President Trump stood on stage with Vladimir Putin and told the world that he believes Putin when Putin insists that Russia did not try to interfere in the American elections in Trump's favor in 2016.

Despite what President Trump wants us to believe these days, there are still some truths left in the world. Not everything is political spin. Not everything in the world today is up for debate. Russia did attack our elections in 2016. They plan on attacking our elections in 2018. In 2016, they did so with the explicit purpose of trying to elect Donald Trump. All 100 Senators agree on this. Every U.S. intelligence agency agrees on this. Every U.S. law enforcement agency in the country agrees on this. Everyone working for Donald Trump in his national security cabinet agrees on this.

Now, we actually have the specific names of the specific Russian individuals who carried out these attacks. They have been indicted by Donald Trump's Department of Justice. There is simply no question, no debate over whether the Russian Government engaged in a massive, willful, illegal campaign to push the 2016 election to Donald Trump. It is a fact.

President Trump, no doubt, doesn't like this fact. First, because there is an investigation that is pending right now over the outstanding question of whether he knew it was happening and whether he and his campaign team coordinated with the Russians to make that happen. There is increasing evidence that this might be the case, but we will have to wait for the Mueller report to know.

Second, without the Russians' help, it is possible that Donald Trump might not be President. We don't know this, but the slim margins where the President prevailed in certain States leave room to surmise that without Russia's help, Donald Trump might not have been elected President.

Regardless of whether Trump coordinated with the Russians and regardless

of whether their support tipped the balance, it frankly doesn't explain what just happened in Helsinki. When asked if Trump agrees with his staff, every Member of the Senate, and every law enforcement and intelligence agency in his government or Russia, he chose Russia.

Let me say that again. When asked whether the President of the United States believed his own government or Russia, our President said he believed Russia. He took sides against American national security interests, and we are left with a question of why. We raise that question because, frankly, the expectations for this summit, this meeting between the American President and the Russian leader, were very low. All President Trump had to do at that press conference today was to offer some mild pushback—an acknowledgment of Russia's interference in the election—and to stand up and, in mild terms, offer America's support for the sovereignty of Ukraine. He didn't do any of that. So we are left with this question of why.

Now I don't know what Mueller knows. I don't know what Vladimir Putin knows. But Americans should be freaked out today that there is some explanation that we don't know for why our President is so friendly to Russian national security interests and so hostile to our own.

Of course, today, my colleagues, was just the icing on the cake. We already have forgotten what happened on the first 4 days of this trip. Shortly before the meeting with Putin, Trump announced to the world that after several days of meetings and consultations with our European partners, he could definitively say that Europe was an enemy of the United States. He called the European Union a foe. That conclusion was bracketed by his comments upon his arrival in Europe, when he announced that his meeting with Putin was going to be a whole lot easier than his meetings were going to be with Europe.

Let's be clear. First, Europe is our most important friend and ally, and it has been that way for a very long time, and nothing has changed. In the last 70 years, when we have needed help in the world, the first place we turn to is Europe. It shares our democratic values. They are our most important trading partner. The post-World War II order that has ushered in an order of relative global stability never before seen in the world is reliant on the continued alliance of the United States and Europe.

We have always had our grievances. We may want them to spend a little bit more money on defense. They may want us to shoulder a little bit more of the burden with respect to the world's refugee crisis and not leave it all up to them. But the alliance is just as important as it ever has been, and Europe is just as important a partner as it ever has been.

Here is the other thing to make clear. Donald Trump's intent is to

smash the European Union and to break the United States and Europe apart from each other. His advisers and Cabinet members may go on TV or show up to hearings on Capitol Hill, and they may say all the right things about the strength of the transatlantic alliance and America's rock-solid commitment to NATO. I have heard them say it. I saw John Bolton say it on TV this weekend. I watched Secretary Pompeo come to the Foreign Relations Committee and testify to such before Congress.

But the people who work for President Trump don't set U.S. policy. The President does, and the President has made it clear over and over that NATO is temporarily functionally irrelevant.

That sounds like a radical thing to say, but let's just admit that it is true for the time being. Trump has made it crystal clear that if Russia ever perpetuated a Ukraine-style attack on a NATO country, one that was in plain sight for everybody to see but that was officially denied by the Kremlin—does that sound familiar? That is what happened in Ukraine—a clear Russian invasion but officially denied by the Kremlin. Does this sound familiar? The 2016 attacks on American elections are there for everyone to see, and they are denied by the Kremlin. Trump has made it clear that if Russia ever perpetuated an attack like that against a NATO country, Trump would believe Russia and not his own eyes, not his own government. He has telegraphed to Russia that if you simply deny the invasion or the attack, we will believe you, not our own government, not our own intelligence and security agencies. That is what he told us.

That is what would likely happen if Europe was attacked. The Europeans know this. Why we are so much weaker today is because that message to the Europeans comes with a price. If the Europeans don't feel that we are going to get their back, having watched the President mock and insult them over the course of the last 4 days, it is now in doubt as to whether they would come to our defense if we asked, as we did after the attacks on September 11.

None of our European partners will say that. They are going to try to save face. They are going to try to be the bigger party to this contest and say that the strength of the alliance is as strong as it ever has been. But it is not, and there are consequences—potentially serious ones for the United States.

For as bad a shape as the President left NATO, the EU is in no better condition today. It is in tatters in large part because of a President who continues to cheerlead those who want to break apart the EU. There are people who understand the genius of the European Union who are working hard to keep it together, and I am going to cheerlead them, but President Trump spent his time in Britain telling anybody who would listen, including the press, that unless Britain carried out a

clean break from the EU, there would be consequences from the United States. That is madness. Our policy should be the opposite—that if Britain and the EU want to reconcile, America will be there to assist.

Let's bring it back to Vladimir Putin again because his top priority—his No. 1 goal—is the dissolution of the European Union, which is his main political and economic rival on the Eurasian continent. The breakup of NATO is right up there as well. His chief ally in the deconstruction of the EU and NATO today is the President of the United States.

America is so much weaker today than we were just 5 days ago, and that is saying a lot. Our Nation and the world has never seen a more cataclysmic foreign trip than the one that we just witnessed.

This country can survive a lot. We are resilient. But President Trump is making this country a laughing stock. We used to be a pillar of strength, an example to be looked up to. Now we are the butt of jokes. We are seen as weak—a total pushover. All you need to do if you are a despot or an autocrat or an enemy of America is to get in the room with the U.S. President, and he will give you everything you want, with no price to pay.

That is America in the world today, and I couldn't be sadder about it.

I yield back.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor in support of the nomination of Scott Stump, to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Career, Technical, and Adult Education.

As President Trump and Secretary DeVos continue to roll back protections for students and make it easier for predatory for-profit colleges to take advantage of our students, students need someone at the Department who will remain committed to putting them first no matter what Secretary DeVos tries to pressure him to do.

Although most of the nominees President Trump has picked for the Department have pledged their allegiance to Secretary DeVos and her agenda, I believe Mr. Stump will be different. If confirmed, Mr. Stump would be responsible for advising Secretary DeVos on career and technical education, adult education and literacy, and community college education while overseeing over \$2 billion in funding to provide our students and workers with the education and skills they need to compete and get ahead in the 21st century.

Mr. Stump's resume shows he is a nominee who is qualified for this position. He has served as the assistant provost for career and technical education for the Colorado Community College System. He was elected by his peers to serve as the president of the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium. He also earned the support

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 Mikkelsen, 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 Kruise, 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.

EC-5947. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining Inspection Requirements for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Single-Family Mortgage Insurance: Removal of the FHA Inspector Roster" (RIN2502-AJ03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5948. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report on the continued compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the 1974 Trade Act's freedom of emigration provisions, as required under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5949. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan, France, and Switzerland to support the design, development, manufacture, and final delivery of completed Boeing 777-300ER New Government Aircraft to Japan in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-004); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5950. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of 7.62mm automatic machine gun systems, barrels, spare parts, components, technical data, and basic operator maintenance training to Saudi Arabia in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-109); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5951. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture abroad of significant military equipment and the export of defense articles, including technical data, defense services to Israel to support the manufacture, design, development, fabrication, assembly, testing and repair of tail booms, tail cones, tail rotor pylons stabilizers and folding rotor blade systems for H-60/S-70 helicopters in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-143); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5952. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Norway to support the design, development, assembly, engineering, integration, and manufacturing of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) propulsion sections in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-119); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5953. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms controlled under Category

I of the U.S. Munitions List of semi-automatic pistols, rifles, and bolt-action rifles for commercial resale to Canada in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-007); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5954. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report containing information about a proposed transaction that is necessary for and within the scope of the 2013 Presidential waiver of the prohibitions in sections 40 and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act relative to Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5955. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and accessories abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of fully automatic 5.56mm carbines and commando rifles with accessories, operator's manuals and training to Qatar in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-092); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5956. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a certification regarding the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) requirements of the Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5957. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities; Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities" (RIN1820-AB77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 10, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5958. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-380, "Commission on the Arts and Humanities Temporary Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5959. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-392, "Public Housing Credit-Building Pilot Program Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5960. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-395, "Green Finance Authority Establishment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5961. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition to the National Network" (RIN2125-AF82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 3, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5962. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Dahlonga Plateau Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1573. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to place signage on Federal land along the trail known as the "American Discovery Trail", and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-301).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1645. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-302).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Report to accompany S. 2857, a bill to designate the Nordic Museum in Seattle, Washington, as the "National Nordic Museum", and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-303).

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 3217. An original bill to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

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. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 3213. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to subject crowdfunding vehicles to the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3214. A bill to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 3215. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of a bus operations safety risk reduction program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3216. A bill to amend the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 to extend the jurisdiction of tribal courts to cover crimes involving sexual violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 3217. An original bill to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 259

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain

marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 693

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 1121

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 1158

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1158, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States Government capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1301, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1580, a bill to enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children

and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.

S. 1589

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1589, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1879

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1879, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1917, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1958

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1958, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require Internet-based, real-time responses to requests to verify taxpayer income for legitimate business purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 1990

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1990, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amounts payable by the Department of Veterans Affairs for dependency and indemnity compensation, to modify the requirements for dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain veterans rated totally disabled at the time of death, and for other purposes.

S. 2358

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2358, a bill to require a study on women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from

Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2578, a bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide advanced notice to Congress before changing any questions on the decennial census, and for other purposes.

S. 2821

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2821, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) 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. 2843

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis.

S. 2863

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2961

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2961, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 3084

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3084, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to allow Members of Congress to tour detention facilities that house unaccompanied alien children.

S. 3112

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3112, a bill to provide standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained, and for other purposes.

S. 3154

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3154, a bill to ensure Members of Congress have access to Federal facilities in order to exercise their Constitutional oversight responsibilities.

S. 3192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3192, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to update and modernize the reporting requirements for contaminants, including lead, in drinking water, and for other purposes.

S. 3194

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3194, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to cap prescription drug cost-sharing, and for other purposes.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3198, a bill to require annual reports on allied contributions to the common defense, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) 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. 525

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 556

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 556, a resolution reaffirming the commitment of the United States to hold the Ortega regime accountable for acts of violence and human rights abuses perpetrated against the Nicaraguan people.

S. RES. 571

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 571, a resolution condemning the ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3394. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3395. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3394. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5026. EVALUATION OF AIRPORT MASTER PLANS.

Section 47106 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) **EVALUATION OF AIRPORT MASTER PLANS.**—When evaluating the master plan of an airport for purposes of this subchapter, the Secretary shall take into account—

“(1) the role the airport plays with respect to medical emergencies and evacuations; and

“(2) the role the airport plays in emergency or disaster preparedness in the community served by the airport.”.

SA 3395. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5026. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING WOMEN IN AVIATION.

It is the sense of Congress that the aviation industry should explore all opportunities, including pilot training, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, and mentorship programs, to encourage and support female students and aviators to pursue a career in aviation.

SEC. 5027. SUPPORTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE AVIATION FIELD.

(a) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—To encourage women and girls to enter the field of aviation, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall create and facilitate the Women in Aviation Advisory Board (referred to in this section as the “Board”), with the objective of promoting organizations and programs that are providing education, training, mentorship, outreach, and recruitment of women into the aviation industry.

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The Board shall consist of members whose diverse background and expertise allows them to contribute balanced points of view and ideas regarding the strategies and objectives set forth in subsection (f).

(c) **SELECTION.**—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall appoint members of the Board, including representatives from the following:

(1) Major airlines and aerospace companies.

(2) Nonprofit organizations within the aviation industry.

(3) Aviation business associations.

(4) Engineering business associations.

(5) United States Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol.

(6) Institutions of higher education and aviation trade schools.

(d) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.**—Members shall be appointed to the Board for the duration of the existence of the Board.

(e) **COMPENSATION.**—Board members shall serve without compensation.

(f) **DUTIES.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall present a comprehensive plan for strategies the Administration can take, which include the following objectives:

(1) Identifying industry trends that directly or indirectly encourage or discourage women from pursuing careers in aviation.

(2) Coordinating the efforts of airline companies, nonprofit organizations, and aviation and engineering associations to facilitate support for women pursuing careers in aviation.

(3) Creating opportunities to expand existing scholarship opportunities for women in the aviation industry.

(4) Enhancing aviation training, mentorship, education, and outreach programs that are exclusive to women.

(g) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit a report outlining the comprehensive plan for strategies pursuant to subsection (f) to—

(A) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(C) the Administrator.

(2) **AVAILABILITY ONLINE.**—The Administrator shall make the report publicly available online and in print.

(h) **SUNSET.**—The Board shall terminate upon the submittal of the report pursuant to subsection (g).

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO FULFILL ITS AGREEMENT TO HOLD CREDIBLE ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 436, S. Res. 386.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 386) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part

printed in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 386

Whereas the people of the United States have a strong relationship with the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and a strong commitment to the principles of democracy and adherence to the rule of law;

Whereas, in 2006, the Government of the DRC adopted a new constitution that limited the President to two consecutive five-year terms, which for President Joseph Kabila expired on December 19, 2016;

Whereas President Kabila swore to uphold the constitution of the DRC as part of his oath of office;

Whereas the constitutionally required elections have not yet taken place;

Whereas citizens of the DRC have repeatedly demanded that their constitutional right to elect a new President after two terms be upheld and that President Kabila must therefore step down;

Whereas, on December 31, 2016, the National Episcopal Conference of Congolese Bishops mediated a political agreement between the ruling coalition and main opposition parties under which President Kabila is prohibited from running for a third term, constitutional changes which would extend the President's time in office are prohibited, and elections were to be held before the end of 2017;

Whereas, on March 31, 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2348, which called for a "swift implementation" of the December 2016 political agreement, including "peaceful, credible, inclusive and timely elections no later than December 2017, leading to a peaceful transition of power";

Whereas, on June 21, 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2360, which stressed "the importance of the DRC and its national partners taking all necessary steps to accelerate preparations for the elections without further delays";

Whereas, on November 5, 2017, the Congolese electoral commission released a calendar that would delay elections until at least December 23, 2018, while noting numerous "constraints" that could impact respect of this calendar;

Whereas the failure to hold constitutionally required elections has increased political uncertainty, violence, and instability inside the DRC, and the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator said that amid the political stalemate, "conflict is rapidly spreading across the country and in appalling ways, even in a country blighted by violence and insecurity for decades";

Whereas, despite contributions in billions of dollars in development, peacekeeping, humanitarian, and diplomatic support from the United States and the international community over the past two decades, persistent insecurity has plagued the DRC and a perpetual humanitarian crisis is devolving rapidly further as a result of President Kabila's continued effort to maintain the presidency;

Whereas the natural wealth of the DRC is monopolized by a narrow few and enabled by endemic corruption, regional proxy conflict, and poor governance, which together have promoted insecurity and resulted in rates of internal displacement, disease, and mortality approaching the highest in the world;

Whereas political space in the DRC continues to be heavily restricted, as evidenced by arrests and detention of members of the political opposition, democratic activists, and journalists, and by restrictions on fundamental freedoms such as speech and assembly, and Congolese state security forces have repeatedly responded to peaceful protestors with violence including assaults on Catholic communities;

Whereas American Michael Sharp and Swede Zaida Catalán, members of the United Nations

Group of Experts, were assassinated in 2017 while investigating reports of atrocities by state security forces in the Kasai region, and there has been little effort made by the Government of the DRC to cooperate with any independent investigation into these murders; and

Whereas members of the opposition have been targeted, arrested, harassed, and violently attacked by security forces: Now, therefore, be it Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo failed to hold elections in 2016 as required by its Constitution and later failed to fulfill its political commitment to hold elections in 2017;

(2) expresses concern that the growing security, humanitarian, and human rights crisis in the DRC is exacerbated by the lack of a duly elected leadership;

(3) recognizes that impunity and the lack of effective rule of law undermine democracy, and that the arrest and detention of civil society activists and the harassment of political opponents close political space and repress peaceful dissent;

(4) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to complete concrete steps towards holding elections, including—

(A) issuance of district-level voter registration data;

(B) completion of legislation to enable redistricting;

(C) fulfillment of the constitutionally required step of "calling the electorate";

(D) publication of the final list of presidential and parliamentary candidates; and

(E) holding presidential, parliamentary, and provincial elections by December 23, 2018;

(5) calls on the opposition to take all steps possible within the DRC to support and promote immediate free, fair, and inclusive elections;

(6) welcomes United States Government sanctions targeting several senior security officials and other individuals responsible for human rights abuses, impeding democracy, and gross corruption in the DRC;

(7) encourages the careful vetting of all planned United States assistance to Congolese state security forces to ensure that its impact and importance to United States national security objectives outweigh the potential damage to United States interests that might result in working with the state security services of the DRC;

(8) notes the importance of continued unity among the international community that untested, un-piloted technology, such as electronic voting machines, given their high cost, risk of failure, and potential for manipulation, should not be used if a credible election process is intended to benefit all Congolese citizens;

(9) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate with United States, Swedish, and United Nations officials to enable a credible and independent investigation of the killing of Michael Sharp and Zaida Catalán, and to identify and bring to justice those responsible for their murder;

(10) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to end political arrests and free political detainees, including youth activists, in support of a credible and inclusive electoral environment; and

(11) urges the President of the United States, in close coordination with regional and other international partners, to use appropriate means—

(A) to provide appropriate electoral assistance to support the organization of credible elections in the DRC by December 23, 2018; and

(B) to deter further electoral calendar slippage and abuses against the people of Congo, including through the consideration of targeted sanctions against high-level DRC officials, including close associates of President Joseph Kabila responsible for further delay of or impediment to elections or otherwise maintaining President

Kabila's rule beyond the constitution's two-term limit.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution, as amended.

The resolution (S. Res. 386), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 17; further, 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. I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Blew nomination, under the previous order, and that at 11:45 a.m. all time be yielded back and the Senate then vote on confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate, and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that following disposition of the Blew nomination and notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Thursday, July 12 ripen; finally, that following the cloture vote on the Quarles nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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, following the remarks of Senators BROWN and SASSE.

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

The Senator from Nebraska.

TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about what happened in Helsinki today.

Let's not mince words. Today was a terrible day for the American brand, for the American people, and for all of our allies. We did not negotiate from a position of strength. We acted from a position of weakness. As a result, one of the world's worst despots walked away today from Helsinki with a win.

Vladimir Putin is walking away from Helsinki with an undeserved legitimacy. The United States took a loss today when we backed away from our longstanding commitment to principled American leadership and, frankly, basic reality.

Today the press asked the President of the United States whom he believed on the subject of Russia's information operation in the United States in 2016. Did he believe in the men and women of the U.S. intelligence community or did he believe in Vladimir Putin, a member of the Russian intelligence community, a thug turned Russian despot?

The choice here was between the people who are risking their lives on behalf of our freedom and people who go around the world taking people's lives to limit freedom. The President of the United States—how did he answer? He answered that he didn't see "any reason" why Putin would have interfered in the U.S. election.

Make no mistake. Putin has a reason. The reason is clear to all those who have been watching growing Russian authoritarianism in recent years. Putin wants to weaken the U.S. Government. Putin wants to make the American people believe that our system of government isn't any different than his "thugocracy." Putin wants to destroy NATO, which isn't just an alliance. It is, arguably, the most important military alliance in two millennia.

Putin wants to undermine confidence in self-government, not only in this country but around the world. That is why Putin, a Soviet-style dictator who thinks a lot more about American elections than he ever thinks about his sham elections, attacked us in 2016. It is why he is planning to attack us this fall in 2018. It is why there are ongoing information operations against the United States and against our public at present, as everyone who goes into a SCIF and reads their intelligence briefing knows. It is why Putin is planning to attack the U.S. 2020 election already.

That is why the men and women of the U.S. intelligence community unanimously and without any regard to party understand that Putin waged

an information operation against the United States in 2016.

That is why Dan Coats, an esteemed former Member of this body, went to the press today—not 6 months ago—and reaffirmed: "Our assessments of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and their ongoing pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy" remain the opinion of the U.S. intelligence community.

This isn't a question of Republican versus Democrats. This is a question of patriotism versus deciding that you want to be on the side of sowing discord and doubt in America.

We shouldn't sugarcoat this. Vladimir Putin is a despot, and he is propped up by a band of oligarchs every bit as corrupt as he is. Putin fakes democracy while preventing free and fair elections. Putin funnels massive amounts of Russian wealth from himself to himself and his cronies and keeps an iron grip on the press.

These matters are not matters of dispute. It is not "on the one hand" or "the other hand" or what some people are saying. The Russian people know who Vladimir Putin is. You can ask the leaders of political opposition in that country who tried to get a free and fair election. You can ask the human rights activists or the international observers who try to speak up against what he has done or show up in my office to give firsthand accounts in certain situations in which Putin has intervened. You can ask the journalists who tried to expose corruption in the country.

Do you know who these men and women often end up being? They are the men and women who just randomly, disproportionately happen to fall out of fifth story windows of office buildings in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the people who just randomly happen to show up in one-car accidents that either are never investigated or, when they are investigated, unfortunately, there weren't witnesses and there are never prosecutions.

Vladimir Putin is working overtime to make the Soviet Union great again. Over the past decade, he has carried out an aggressive, often brutal expansionist campaign. In 2008, he invaded next-door Georgia. In 2014, he invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea. Putin has provided military support to the Assad regime in Syria. Russian troops are responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians. Under the guise of attacking the Islamic State, Russia has targeted hospitals and schools and many other civilian locations.

Putin is currently flexing his muscle across Europe, although his preference there is always for more subtle means than tanks and Kalashnikovs, if he can get away with it. One, he has more deniability and, two, it is cheaper. In 2007, Estonia was hit with a wave of cyber attacks originating in Russia—the beginning of a campaign of cyber warfare that has become one of Mr. Putin's primary tools. Not only in the Baltics and Ukraine but in Germany

and France, as recently as last year, Russian hackers attempted to interfere with elections, disrupt parliamentary proceedings, and shut down media operations. This is in addition to trying to put his thumb on the scale of pro-Putin parties across Europe, including by spreading misinformation through influential Russian-backed and Russian-originating social media accounts.

These questions are not actually gray—gray space war—but any Member of this body who does their homework, any Member of the House down the hall who does their homework, and lots of the good and well-meaning people who serve around the President who do their homework know these things to be true. These questions are not in dispute.

Putin's most daring performance to date, though, was deciding to take on the most powerful country in the world with an influence operation inside the United States. National political committees in 2016 saw their computer networks breached and their data stolen. Vladimir Putin isn't obsessed with the ups and downs of political life here in the United States. He isn't an agent of one party or the other—one candidate or the other. Vladimir Putin is an agent of chaos, and his objective is to undermine trust. His objective is to make Americans doubt ourselves and doubt whether U.S. leadership over the last 75 years has been a good or a bad thing and to doubt whether we should keep our word to our allies. Vladimir Putin's objective is to make us think there is no difference between countries on the global stage that believe in human rights, that believe in free press, free religion, free assembly, and free speech versus those who don't. Vladimir Putin's goal is to breach a moral equivalency that allows his thugocracy to be no less ugly than what happens in our country, where people who often disagree decide to argue by means of reason and persuasion, not by violence.

His goals aren't that hard to figure out. His enemy is trust and good faith. Vladimir Putin is trying to create mistrust in this country, and today the President of the United States decided to let Vladimir Putin off the hook and, in so doing, he creates an incentive for Putin to ratchet up his campaigns of misinformation. This should be a time for all Americans to stand together against what Putin is doing. It is a fundamental part of the President's job to articulate basic truths.

While we are being clear about who Vladimir Putin is, we should also be clear about who we, the American people, are. We are a nation that believes in human dignity. We believe this isn't just true of 320 million Americans; it is true of 7.5 billion people across this globe. We believe in free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right of protest—not because government gives us those rights but because God created us with dignity.

Government is not the author or source of people's rights. Governments are just tools to secure the rights that people have by virtue of having been created with dignity. In other words, we believe the very stuff that terrifies Vladimir Putin.

Vladimir Putin believes only that might makes right. Americans don't believe that. We never have, and may we never devolve to believing only that. We are dedicated to the thesis that the dignity of every person is worth protecting. It is not the job of the U.S. Government to be the policemen of every Nation on Earth, but it is most clearly part of the job of the United States to articulate, on the global stage, things that are true of everyone, everywhere. We are dedicated to the idea that humans should flourish.

Vladimir Putin is dedicated to the opposite. He crushes men, women, and children underfoot for the purposes of keeping his hold on power. Americans do not stand with Vladimir Putin. Americans stand with the Russian champions of liberty and of free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right of protest against tyrants like Vladimir Putin.

We believe in peace through strength, and we believe in basic moral clarity. That is why, in the wake of the world's two most destructive wars, Americans created an international order. It is an American-led international order. The international order embodies America's fundamental values, and we push back against the drift to Old World authoritarianism in all of its forms—the very things Vladimir Putin lusts after.

This world isn't made for the elites, but it is made for American interests to be articulated because we are the de facto leader of the free world. That is why we have always negotiated from a position of strength.

Sadly, today, we negotiated from a position of weakness. In previous years, many Americans, myself included, have spoken out against the crazy idea that America could somehow "lead from behind." Today, America decided to simply give in. As I came to the floor tonight, the President tweeted that "in order to build a brighter future, we cannot exclusively focus on the past." Fair enough, but let's talk about that future. What do we want from it and at what cost? Is the cost of the future President Trump wants the sacrificing of American moral leadership on the global stage? Is it walking away from the idea that 7.5 billion people have been created with dignity? Is it walking away from the idea that America fundamentally announces to the world that we believe everybody has the rights of free speech, press, religion, assembly, and protest not because a government might decide to condescend and grant you this right? The government's job is to serve the people by preserving these rights

which come from nature and nature's God.

The problem today is not the United States. The problem today is not the Russian people. The problem that needed to be named today was Vladimir Putin. Instead, our President decided to advance a faith moral equivalency that plays right into the hands of Vladimir Putin's bloody hands. Everyone in this body should be disgusted by what happened in Helsinki today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF RANDAL QUARLES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it has been a good year to be a Wall Street banker. Barely a day goes by that doesn't bring news of another consumer protection rollback, another unraveling of taxpayer protections, or another handout to Wall Street. The man at the center of many of these decisions is right now, on this floor, up for nomination to a 14-year term as Governor on the Board of the Federal Reserve.

When Randy Quarles' nomination to serve as Vice Chair of Supervision at the Fed—the first person ever to serve in that position—when it came before the Senate last year, I urged my colleagues to vote no. Quarles' record worried many of us that he wasn't interested in doing actual supervision. I said he seemed far too ready to swallow financial industry talking points, once again, and relax the rules for Wall Street.

Since then, his record at the Federal Reserve has confirmed the worst fears so many of us held. In just 10 months under Mr. Quarles' leadership, the Fed has taken steps to systematically unravel Wall Street reform.

Let's look at what happened. Start with the stress test. The Fed allowed the seven largest banks to redirect \$96 billion that should have been used to pay workers, to reduce fees for consumers, and to protect taxpayers from bailouts. Instead, they plowed that money into share buybacks and dividends that do what? Of course, they reward wealthy executives and the biggest investors. Two banks, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, had capital below the required amounts. Those banks failed the test, but they got passing grades anyway because they are Wall Street. The Fed reportedly called them up and let them haggle over the test results. Imagine this happening in school—when you were at school growing up in Oklahoma or I in Ohio—to allow them to proceed after haggling over the test results. They allowed them to proceed with buybacks and dividends that would drain the required capital.

Under Quarles' leadership, the Fed wants to make funneling money back into stock buybacks even easier. The Fed's pending proposal on Big Bank

capital will allow the eight largest banks in this country—banks each worth hundreds of billions of dollars—to redirect up to \$121 billion into share buybacks and dividends. This is money that could be used to protect taxpayers from bailouts.

Remember, share buybacks and dividends juice stock prices. They do little to increase long-term growth or to reward the workers who make a company's success possible. Going forward, the Fed also wants to make stress tests even easier. Apparently, haggling with the megabanks over the scores wasn't lenient enough.

Quarles has proposed letting bankers comment on the tests before they are administered. That is like letting the students write the exams, and the Fed is considering dropping the qualitative portion of the stress test altogether. That is the part of the test that examines banks' risk management processes, data systems, and the fitness of its board of directors.

I understand these board of directors are all paid—I believe in every single case of the eight largest banks—at least \$200,000 a year. The Fed plans changes for the Volcker rule, the rule that stops big banks from taking big risks with Americans' money. That rule requires the banks make investments in the real economy, not casino-style trades using families' checking and savings accounts.

Lest you think only American banks are getting a handout, soon foreign banks will be getting in on the action. This spring, Mr. Quarles said the Fed wants to loosen the rules on foreign megabanks. We are talking about Deutsche Bank, Santander, UBS, Credit Suisse, and Barclays. You have read about those banks. In most cases, those banks have broken our laws. These foreign banks have broken our laws time and again. Yet we are going to loosen the rules on these foreign megabanks.

The question I have with all these weakening of protections for American taxpayers and American consumers is, What problem exactly is the Fed, under Mr. Quarles' watch, trying to solve? Banks increased their profits by 13 percent last year. That is before you account for the windfall in the tax cut. When you add in the tax benefits, it was a 28-percent increase in their profits. The banking sector bought back \$77 billion worth of stock last year. The CEOs of the six largest banks got an average raise of 22 percent. So what exactly is Mr. Quarles trying to fix? What is not going all the banks' way day after day? The CEO of Wells Fargo got a 36-percent raise, even as scandal after scandal mounted at the bank under his watch.

I don't think these megabanks are really the people who need Mr. Quarles' help. Maybe you ought to look elsewhere. Maybe look at the tellers. The average teller in this country makes \$12.50 an hour. Wages for ordinary Americans simply aren't moving up.

Mr. Quarles was in a very similar position a decade ago in the Bush administration. The financial sector was booming, but average Americans were sitting around their kitchen tables, feeling less and less secure, wondering what they were going to do next.

During this time when Mr. Quarles served in the Bush administration, the Treasury Department's foreclosure filings in Ohio doubled—from around 40,000 at the beginning of 2002 to 80,000 by the end of 2006. Mr. Quarles just brushed off concerns about the growing troubles in the mortgage market. Famously, he said in those days, in 2006, that the future looked bright. His actions today suggest he ain't learned a lot since. His amnesia and the collective amnesia of this body are just a little too familiar in this town. We can't afford any more nominees who fail American workers, who fail American homeowners, or who fail American taxpayers.

It always comes back to, whose side are you on? Are you going to fight for the little guy, whether she punches a time clock or whether he works in a diner, or are you going to fight for the 1 percent? Are we here to serve American workers in the middle class, or are we here to serve Wall Street? Randal Quarles has made it clear whose side he is on. I urge my colleagues to reject his nomination.

THE FREE PRESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, first, I want to say how much I appreciate Senator SASSE's words. I hope that other people in his political party will have the courage he has to stand up and speak out on some of these things.

This week, the President of the United States went overseas. Instead of standing up to America's enemies, the President of the United States went out of his way to attack the American free press.

As Senator MCCAIN described today's press conference with Russian President Putin: "The President made a conscious choice to defend a tyrant against the fair questions of a free press and to grant Putin an uncontested platform to spew propaganda and lies to the world."

Let me repeat that. Senator MCCAIN—once a Republican nominee for President of the United States and one of the most respected Senators of our lifetimes—said: "The President made a conscious choice to defend a tyrant against the fair questions of a free press and to grant Putin an uncontested platform to spew propaganda and lies to the world."

We are talking about a man—President Putin—who presides over a regime in which journalists are killed. According to a 2016 PolitiFact article, Russia ranks 180 out of 199 countries for press freedom, behind, not ahead of, Iraq, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and others. This is according to the international watchdog Freedom

House. After all, Putin was a KGB agent.

Yet the President didn't just defend a dictator against the press; he openly attacked the American free press. While heading to meet with the leader of a country that tramples on the rights of journalists, our President, President Trump, said: "Much of our news media is, indeed, the enemy of the people." That is Soviet talk. That is Putin kind of talk. That is KGB talk. That has never been the talk of an American President. "Much of our news media is, indeed, the enemy of the people."

Everybody in this body knows a lot of reporters. Nobody in this body believes that the media are enemies of the people. Unfortunately, almost nobody on this side of the aisle will stand up to the President and say: No, Mr. President. No, FOX News. The media are not enemies of the people; they are doing work that is essential to our democracy.

A journalist's entire job is to ask tough questions to challenge powerful interests. In church, we comfort the afflicted. Journalists afflict the comfortable. We know that reporters put their safety and sometimes their lives—we see that—on the line, whether when they are covering floods and hurricanes at home or when they are transversing the globe to bring us war zone stories. We depend on reporters in Ohio and around the world to bring us the stories that have an impact on our day-to-day lives and to tell the stories that might not otherwise be told. Yet, too often today, we see reporters restricted, vilified, and threatened—all for doing their jobs. We can't dismiss these threats as just empty rhetoric.

Think of the anguish and the heartbreak and the terrible sight that happened at the newsroom at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis. We all know too well how dangerous a job it has become to report the news. Just last Thursday, the Herald newspaper—the daily paper south of Columbus in Circleville, OH—received an unmarked letter in the mail. Inside, it threatened physical harm to all of the workers there. Think about that—just for doing their jobs at a local newspaper in covering football games, in covering a business that might have cheated a customer, or in covering a politician who might have cut corners. In serving their community, these workers had their safety threatened.

This is personal to me, and I apologize for making this personal. My wife, Connie Schultz, is a Pulitzer Prize winner from the Cleveland Plain Dealer. She writes a weekly column for the Creators Syndicate in 150 newspapers. She is about as far from being an enemy of the people as anyone I know.

She was a working-class kid who grew up in Ashtabula, OH. Her dad carried a union card, which saved her life because she had health care at the Cleveland clinic that other people would have not been able to have bene-

fited from whose dads didn't have insurance. She worked her way through Kent State University, and she became a reporter.

Do you know why she won the Pulitzer Prize? She won the Pulitzer Prize because she has written about servers—servers in restaurants where sometimes management skims their tips. She has written about single parents who struggle every day and oftentimes get little help from anybody. She has written about workers and a system that is so often rigged against them. They work every bit as hard as we all do here, but they get so little for it.

She teaches at Kent State. She teaches millennials. She teaches young men and women who are mostly working-class kids, most of whom will graduate with tens of thousands of dollars in debt, which is something the President of the United States has never faced. They work part time and some of them full time. They struggle to get through their classes. They want to be reporters because they want to go out and comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable because they care about truth and care about honesty. Again, they are as far as can be from being enemies of the people. How shameful it is the President of the United States says that.

The job of the President of the United States and the job of our political leaders is to set an example—to respect our democratic institutions, including the press, and to bring Americans together and not divide us.

Please, Mr. President, won't you do that?

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, July 17, 2018.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:57 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

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 general

LT. GEN. JOHN M. MURRAY

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. JAMES F. PASQUARETTE

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 16, 2018:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCOTT STUMP, OF COLORADO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.