

and they want us to work together to safeguard them so that they are available and effective for our seniors, our children, our most vulnerable, now and in the future.

With the creation of Medicare and Medicaid, our country acknowledged an obligation to protect the health and wellness of our people, and it has acknowledged and it has seen the value of doing so—for individuals, for communities, and for our economy.

Fifty-three years ago, Americans made a promise to each other, as self-governing people have the unique privilege and power to do. I am going to continue fighting to make good on that promise for years to come.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before my colleague leaves the floor, I want to thank her for her thoughtful remarks in recognizing that as we talk about the future of Medicare and Medicaid, what we see is a constant need to update these terrific programs for the times. When I was director of the Gray Panthers, opioids were not an issue. Today, it is a dominant force in American life. My colleague is a leader in the effort to find smart, passionate, cost-effective programs to deal with those challenges, and I thank her for her thoughtful comments.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I thank Senator WYDEN for his leadership for our seniors, for our Nation's economy, and for all of our people.

Mr. WYDEN. I thank my colleague.

Mr. President, I have one brief comment to wrap up. I see my colleague from Florida here. My colleagues have essentially spent close to an hour talking about these programs that are literally a lifeline to millions of Americans, Medicare and Medicaid. As highlighted tonight, it has always been that we have had to play a lot of defense to prevent big attacks on these programs—we even saw them in the President's budget as I went page by page—when what we really would like to do is play offense and think about the future.

My colleague from Florida is here. He has a very large elderly population, as many Senators do.

When I was director of the Gray Panthers, Medicare had two parts. There was Part A for hospitals and Part B for doctors. That was it. If you had a broken ankle and you went to the hospital, that was Part A. If you had a horrible case of the flu, you went to the doctor, and you were taken care of in an outpatient fashion. That is not Medicare today. Medicare today is chronic illnesses—diabetes, heart disease, chronic pulmonary diseases. Eighty percent of the Medicare Program is going to be consumed by chronic illnesses in the days ahead.

Congress has just begun the effort to update the Medicare guarantee to incorporate those hugely important challenges—cancer, diabetes, heart disease. Those are chronic illnesses. I close by way of saying that this update means,

again, that the guarantee reaches into every nook and cranny of our community. That means seniors in traditional Medicare, seniors who secure their healthcare through Medicare Advantage, and seniors in accountable care organizations. All of them, wherever they get their healthcare, ought to be able to secure an updated Medicare guarantee that addresses the upcoming challenge of our times, the great challenge of our times dealing with chronic illnesses.

My colleagues have laid out what our job is all about, which is preventing the effort to go backward, when we like to think about going forward into the future in a fashion that updates the Medicare guarantee for all older people and those who look forward to those years, and protecting the great safety net of our time—Medicaid.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 1017 through 1029 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### 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. Stephen R. Lyons

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Brian T. Kelly

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Mark D. Kelly

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in

the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

#### To be brigadier general

Col. Timothy J. Madden

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigan

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps in the United States Marine Corps, and for appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5044:

#### To be general

Lt. Gen. Gary L. Thomas

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### To be brigadier general

Col. Susan J. Pietrykowski

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jon T. Thomas

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### To be brigadier general

Col. Gregory K. Anderson  
Col. Christine A. Beeler  
Col. Peter N. Benchoff  
Col. Mark S. Bennett  
Col. Gregory J. Brady  
Col. Michele H. Bredenkamp  
Col. Edmond M. Brown  
Col. Robert M. Collins  
Col. Kimberly M. Colloton  
Col. David S. Doyle  
Col. Thomas J. Edwards, Jr.  
Col. Marcus S. Evans  
Col. Brett T. Funck  
Col. James J. Gallivan  
Col. Brian W. Gibson  
Col. Amy E. Hannah

Col. Jered P. Helwig  
 Col. Donn H. Hill  
 Col. Scott A. Jackson  
 Col. John D. Kline  
 Col. Gavin A. Lawrence  
 Col. Kevin C. Leahy  
 Col. Michelle M. Letcher  
 Col. Charles J. Masaracchia  
 Col. Michael C. McCurry, II  
 Col. John V. Meyer, III  
 Col. Duane R. Miller  
 Col. Scott M. Naumann  
 Col. Christopher R. Norrie  
 Col. Allan M. Pepin  
 Col. Andrew D. Preston  
 Col. Mark C. Quander  
 Col. John L. Rafferty, Jr.  
 Col. Jeth B. Rey  
 Col. Joseph A. Ryan  
 Col. James M. Smith  
 Col. Brett G. Sylvia  
 Col. Joel B. Vowell  
 Col. Todd R. Wasmund

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. Pasqualette

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S  
 DESK

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1598 AIR FORCE nominations (23) beginning JACQUELINE E. BERRY, and ending CONNIE L. WINIK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2018.

PN2156 AIR FORCE nominations (167) beginning ANTHONY J. ACETO, and ending REGIS C. ZOZO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2018.

PN2216 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning MICHAEL A. BASSO-WILLIAMS, and ending IRSHAD A. SHAKIR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 25, 2018.

PN2217 AIR FORCE nomination of Vikhyat S. Bebartha, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 25, 2018.

PN2218 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning MARY F. STUEVER, and ending LAVANYA VISWANATHAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 25, 2018.

PN2225 AIR FORCE nominations (2496) beginning KATHLEEN E. AALDERINK, and ending ISAIAH S. ZYDUCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2018.

PN2246 AIR FORCE nomination of Nisha R. Baur, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2247 AIR FORCE nomination of Jay T. Flottmann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2248 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher P. Wherthey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2249 AIR FORCE nomination of Issa M. Alvarez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2250 AIR FORCE nomination of Nathaniel P. Lisenbee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2251 AIR FORCE nomination of Sean P. Malanowski, which was received by the Sen-

ate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2252 AIR FORCE nominations (17) beginning JAMES W. BARNES, and ending BRADLEY A. WISLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2253 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning ADAM D. AASEN, and ending GEORGE E. QUINT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2287 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning ILDA Y. ISAZA, and ending YOBANKA E. PAEZ-MUNOZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2288 AIR FORCE nomination of Samantha S. Rieger-Pinson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2335 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning STEVEN J. NORDEEN, and ending STEPHANIE E. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2018.

#### IN THE ARMY

PN2079 ARMY nomination of Alexis N. Mendozadejesus, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 7, 2018.

PN2188 ARMY nominations (2) beginning SAMUEL B. ALBAHARI, and ending RICCARDO C. PAGGETT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2189 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JOHNMARK R. ARDIENTE, and ending NATHAN A. GUNTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2190 ARMY nominations (3) beginning RYAN J. BERGLIN, and ending JAMES A. NARDELLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2191 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DAVID L. BURRIER, and ending WILLIAM T. CIGICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2192 ARMY nomination of Joshua V. Arndt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2193 ARMY nominations (7) beginning CHRISTOPHER Z. FARRINGTON, and ending MICHAEL P. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2194 ARMY nomination of Roderick W. Sumpter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2195 ARMY nomination of Daniel Torres, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2196 ARMY nominations (42) beginning MICHAEL P. ANTECKI, JR., and ending D014175, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2197 ARMY nominations (291) beginning LISA M. ABEL, and ending D014651, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2198 ARMY nominations (433) beginning DREW Q. ABELL, and ending G010393, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2199 ARMY nominations (473) beginning ELI S. ADAMS, and ending D014147, which

nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2018.

PN2219 ARMY nomination of Rochell A. Maier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 25, 2018.

PN2220 ARMY nomination of Robert C. Soper, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 25, 2018.

PN2221 ARMY nominations (53) beginning VINCENTE G. ALCIVAR, and ending EDWARD W. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 25, 2018.

PN2226 ARMY nomination of Benjamin E. Solomon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2018.

PN2227 ARMY nominations (4) beginning WILLIAM J. NELS, and ending KELLIE A. WHITTLINGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2018.

PN2228 ARMY nominations (2) beginning VENDECK M. DAVIS, and ending RYAN G. LAVOIE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2018.

PN2229 ARMY nominations (2) beginning HARRY A. HORNBUCKLE, and ending MICHAEL J. KIMBALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2018.

PN2254 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MATTHEW W. ALLEN, and ending FRANCIS E. SANFORD, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2255 ARMY nomination of Brian C. Morgan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2289 ARMY nomination of Kenneth F. Klock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2290 ARMY nomination of Brandon C. Klink, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2291 ARMY nomination of Burton C. Glover, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2292 ARMY nomination of Manuel Reyes, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2293 ARMY nomination of Emmanuel D. Eisenstein, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2294 ARMY nomination of Marshall L. Bartee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2296 ARMY nominations (18) beginning ETHAN P. CARTER, and ending SAMUEL R. WETHERILL, IV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2297 ARMY nominations (6) beginning PATRICIA J. RASMUSSEN, and ending KENT J. VINCE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2298 ARMY nominations (3) beginning JEREMY W. BERNDT, and ending AMY M. RAMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2299 ARMY nominations (4) beginning SCOTT M. EVERHART, and ending ALBERT SOHNEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2300 ARMY nomination of William Perez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2301 ARMY nominations (6) beginning ROBYN D. BOLGLA, and ending RHONDA D. WYNDER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2302 ARMY nominations (17) beginning MICHAEL C. AMPELAS, and ending KURT G. ZIMMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2303 ARMY nominations (12) beginning MICHAEL S. ALLAIN, and ending CARMEN M. TUCKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2304 ARMY nominations (8) beginning DONNA M. KENTLEY, and ending DAVID J. SKELLEY, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2305 ARMY nomination of Kimberly D. Dejesus, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2306 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ROYAL M. MINOR, III, and ending BENITO E. RODRIGUEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2307 ARMY nominations (8) beginning EDWARD L. BARRON, JR., and ending MICHELE M. RICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2308 ARMY nominations (30) beginning LORI J. ALLERT, and ending LARA K. TERAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2309 ARMY nominations (44) beginning CARL W. ADAMS, and ending JOHN H. WU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2336 ARMY nominations (20) beginning DAWUD A. A. AGBERE, and ending D010823, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2018.

PN2337 ARMY nomination of Cynthia A. Hopkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2018.

PN2338 ARMY nomination of Michael J. Loomis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2018.

PN2339 ARMY nomination of Latonia M. Mahnke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2018.

PN2340 ARMY nomination of Justin A. Evison, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2018.

#### IN THE NAVY

PN2230 NAVY nomination of Travis A. Montplaisir, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2018.

PN2231 NAVY nomination of Ariana P. Bensusan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2018.

PN2256 NAVY nomination of Bruce S. Kimbrell, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2257 NAVY nomination of Samantha C. Dugan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2258 NAVY nomination of Brian L. Lees, which was received by the Senate and ap-

peared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2018.

PN2310 NAVY nominations (28) beginning KORY A. ANGLESEY, and ending BENJAMIN C. WAITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2311 NAVY nominations (32) beginning DAVID W. ALEXANDER, and ending HAROLD B. WOODRUFF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2312 NAVY nominations (48) beginning JONATHAN D. ALBANO, and ending JAMES P. ZAKAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2313 NAVY nominations (70) beginning JANE J. ABANES, and ending MICHELLE L. WESTCOTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2314 NAVY nominations (25) beginning MATTHEW S. BAILEY, and ending ADAM B. YOST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2315 NAVY nominations (42) beginning LYNDA S. AMELL, and ending CHADWICK Y. YASUDA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2316 NAVY nominations (52) beginning LALEH ABDOLAZADEH, and ending CHRISTOPHER L. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2317 NAVY nominations (145) beginning LISA L. ABELS, and ending JERRY YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

PN2318 NAVY nomination of Javier Lopezmartinez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 18, 2018.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### RUSSIAN ELECTION INTERFERENCE

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, one of the interesting developments in our public debate in America today is Russia and the elections of 2016. Lost in all the noise and all the debate and all the legitimate issues that arise from it is this perception that if you are taking on Russian interference, that is a Democratic position or an anti-President Trump position, and that if you think this is all much ado about nothing, then you are taking a pro-President position. Nothing could be further from the truth. Vladimir Putin is neither a Republican nor a Democrat. He is not interested in making America great; he is interested in making America weak.

The reason Vladimir Putin is interested in making America weak is because while America is not at war with Vladimir Putin, Vladimir Putin is at

war with America. You may say: Well, that doesn't sound right because war means bullets, rockets, missiles, aircraft, and launching attacks. This misses the broader point. For Russia, under the Russian doctrine of conflict, information is a weapon; information war is a part of war. We are not in an armed conflict, but sadly, while we Americans go on about our lives and do not spend all day obsessing about Russia—until 2016 and some of the issues that arose there—Vladimir Putin is obsessed with America, and those in his government who surround him are as well.

We Americans look at Russia and say they are an important country. They have nuclear weapons and significant conventional military capabilities. But they have a very small economy of \$2 trillion—about the size of Italy's or Spain's. They are not really geopolitically relevant in many parts of the world. They still can't project power the way they used to during the Soviet Union. Yes, they are involved in Syria and other places, and they are doing more of that than ever before, and they have a veto vote on the United Nations Security Council. They are not really a relevant nation. Culturally, their people have much to be proud of and have contributed a tremendous amount to the world. On a daily basis, Russia may be a nuclear and somewhat military peer competitor of the United States but not economically, not commercially.

But the Russian Government's view of America is very different. They view America as an aggressive power that seeks to destroy Russia. I know that sounds bizarre to Americans who know that we spend little, if any, time thinking about how to go to war with Russia, but in their mindset, we do. They view us as an aggressive power that wants to fight and degrade them. They hold us responsible for the end of the Soviet Union, which, to them, represented power—not so much ideology, but power—for the current leaders. They blame us for expanding NATO in a way they feel encircles them. They blame us for the color revolutions throughout Europe, and they believe we want one of those to happen in Russia as well. Most of all, they think we are seeking to take advantage of Russia and humiliate them. This is the view of Russia's leaders. This is why, while we are not at war with Russia on information, Russia, under Vladimir Putin, is at war with the United States.

We keep talking about this issue as if it were espionage. I have had people come to me and say that everybody spies on everyone. This is not about espionage—trust me. Many countries in the world spy, and on each other, including our allies. This is not about espionage; this is about information warfare.

Information warfare is a part of the Russian doctrine of confronting an enemy and weakening them from within. What happened in 2016 and what is