

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WICKER. On behalf of the majority, I ask for a rollcall.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

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

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll. Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Feinstein	Murphy
Barrasso	Fischer	Nelson
Bennet	Gardner	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Booker	Grassley	Peters
Boozman	Harris	Portman
Brown	Hassan	Reed
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Cantwell	Heinrich	Roberts
Capito	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cardin	Heller	Sasse
Carper	Hoeven	Schumer
Casey	Hyde-Smith	Scott
Cassidy	Isakson	Shaheen
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Coons	Jones	Smith
Corker	Kaine	Stabenow
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	King	Tester
Cotton	Klobuchar	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Udall
Cruz	Leahy	Van Hollen
Daines	Manchin	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Duckworth	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Menendez	Wyden
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—8

Blumenthal	Markey	Schatz
Gillibrand	Merkley	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—11

Alexander	Lee	Rubio
Durbin	McCain	Tillis
Flake	Moran	Toomey
Inhofe	Murray	

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Quattlebaum and Richardson nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6157, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6157) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

AMENDMENT NO. 3695

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I call up substitute amendment No. 3695.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] proposes an amendment numbered 3695.

Mr. SHELBY. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 3699 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3695

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3699.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. SHELBY, proposes an amendment numbered 3699 to amendment No. 3695.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", strike "\$7,503,000" and insert "\$8,503,000".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today, the Senate begins debate on an appropriations package that I believe is absolutely essential to the strength and security of this Nation. The package before the Senate marries the two largest fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills; that is, the Defense bill that funds all national security and the Labor, HHS, and Education bill. Each of these bills carries the near unanimous support of the Appropriations Committee, which is quite unusual.

Senator BLUNT, the chairman of the Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and Senator MURRAY, his ranking member, worked together to produce a strong, bipartisan bill that balances many competing priorities. I commend both of these Senators for their hard work, and I want to take this time to thank them for their continued efforts in this regard. If they haven't been here yet, Senators BLUNT and MURRAY will soon come to the floor to discuss the particulars of the Labor-HHS division of this package, so I am not going to get into the details of that bill, but as chairman of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I want to provide my colleagues here this afternoon with an overview of the funding it contains for America's military.

Secretary Mattis, the Secretary of Defense, as we know—a decorated general who commands deep respect on both sides of the aisle—has warned us that "failure to modernize our military risks leaving us with a force that could dominate the last war, but be irrelevant to tomorrow's security." Think about that for a minute. We cannot allow that to happen.

I think we must rebuild America's military to where it will be second to none in the world. We have to defend this Nation first and foremost. Here in the Senate this afternoon, I am pleased to report that this bill takes a big step in that direction. I will explain why.

It provides an additional \$67.9 billion for overseas contingency operations. The fiscal year 2018 Defense bill, enacted earlier this year, contained the largest increase in military spending in 15 years. The bill now before us does even better by providing an additional \$16 billion above the 2018 level. This funding sustains U.S. force structure and improves military readiness.

It also provides critical resources for a wide range of priorities that are essential to maintaining our technological superiority in an increasingly complex and competitive national security environment.

The bill before us includes substantial investments in the areas of basic research, hypersonics, directed energy, artificial intelligence, microelectronics, missile defense, cybersecurity, and our test and evaluation infrastructure, among many other priorities.

Just as important, the package before the Senate today provides our men

and women in uniform with the largest pay increase they have seen in nearly a decade, and they certainly deserve it. As we debate this bill over the coming days, the sacrifices of these brave men and women should be on the top of the minds of all of us. In light of their sacrifices, I believe it is our duty to ensure they are the best prepared and best equipped military in the world.

The American military is the most feared fighting force the world has ever known, and we want to keep it that way. This bill ensures that continues to be true. That is how we defend this Nation.

I thank the vice chairman at this time of the Defense Subcommittee, Senator DURBIN, for his valuable input in crafting this bill. Together, I believe we have produced a balanced bill that meets the Pentagon's objectives and includes the contributions of Senators from both sides of the aisle. I am proud to present this legislation to my colleagues, and I urge their strong support.

I also want to recognize the vice chairman of the full Appropriations Committee and his work on the committee, Senator LEAHY, and the leaders of both sides, including Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER.

At the outset of the appropriations cycle, the four of us met and agreed to work together in an effort to return the Senate to regular order. Since that time, the Appropriations Committee has passed all 12 bills before the July 4 recess, all with strong bipartisan margins—the first time, as the Presiding Officer knows, it has been done in 30 years.

The first minibus contained three bills and passed the Senate by a vote of 86 to 5. It is now in conference with the House. The second minibus contained four bills, two of which had not seen the light of day on the Senate floor in many years—Interior and FSGG. That package passed by a vote of 92 to 6. Hopefully, it will soon be in conference as well.

By August, the Senate had passed more appropriations bills than our counterparts in the House. That had not happened in the last 20 years. None of this would have been possible, as the Presiding Officer knows, without the partnership of Vice Chairman LEAHY and the leadership of Senators MCCONNELL and SCHUMER. I thank each of them once again.

Our work continues, starting now. We have a great opportunity to extend the success we have generated thus far. It has been more than a decade since the Senate passed a Labor-HHS appropriations bill, period, and it has been a dozen years since the President was able to sign a Defense appropriations bill into law before October 1. These two records, I believe, must be broken.

We must not only provide the resources necessary to rebuild our military, we must do so before the end of the fiscal year. There is no time to waste when it comes to our national

security. With the confirmed cooperation of my colleagues, I am confident we will continue to get our work done in a deliberate and timely manner. I thank all Senators for working together to produce regular order in the appropriations process.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### REMEMBERING ARETHA FRANKLIN

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to a woman whose voice and whose soul truly was larger than life.

Aretha Franklin was known, first and foremost, as a singer, and what a singer she was. For so many of us, her voice provided a soundtrack to the highs and lows of our lives.

A couple of things happened on April 29, 1967. For one, it was my 17th birthday. For another, that was the day Aretha Franklin released "Respect." Let me tell you, that song felt like a gift that day, and it has felt like a gift every time I have heard it ever since. Her voice really was a gift, not just to me but to the whole world. She won 18 Grammys, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, was the 1994 Kennedy Center Honors awardee, and was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She was the recipient of the highest civilian honor in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A panel of music experts convened by Rolling Stone magazine in 2008 named her the greatest singer of all time—not bad for a preacher's daughter from Detroit.

All those awards are important; however, they don't begin to measure how she made us feel. I will never forget the 2015 Kennedy Center Honors, which saluted my friend and singer-songwriter Carole King. Aretha strolled onstage in her jewels and her furs, and she was pure magic. Her soulful rendition of "Natural Woman" made Carole King dance in her seat, and she made President Obama tear up. Those final, magnificent notes—when she tossed her coat on the stage and raised her arms in triumph—brought every single person in that audience to their feet, including me.

Her voice was remarkable—so remarkable, in fact, that in 1986 the Michigan Legislature declared it to be a precious natural resource. That remarkable voice of hers wasn't limited to songs, however. Aretha also used her voice—sometimes loudly, sometimes quietly—to speak up for justice and to make a difference in Detroit and across the country. That is probably no surprise, given her roots.

Aretha was the daughter of Pastor C.L. Franklin of New Bethel Baptist

Church in Detroit, and she first found her soulful voice singing and playing the piano in church and in other places in Detroit. The Reverend Franklin was active in the civil rights movement, alongside leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Aretha was there to fund the work. Her longtime friend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, shared his memory with the Detroit Free Press last week:

When Dr. King was alive, several times she helped us make payroll. On one occasion, we took an 11-city tour with her as Aretha Franklin and Harry Belafonte . . . and they put gas in the vans. She did 11 concerts for free.

He added:

Aretha has always been a very socially conscious artist, an inspiration, not just an entertainer.

We certainly know this in Michigan, where she was named the Michiganian of the Year in 2003 and was awarded the Detroit News's Lifetime Achievement Award in June. According to Pastor Robert Smith, Jr., of New Bethel Baptist, a few times a year, Aretha would send the church checks—big ones, not small ones. That was in addition to her annual free concerts featuring famous gospel singers and free holiday meals.

Speaking of food, Aretha's generous support of food banks in Metro Detroit was one reason she was named the 2008 MusiCares Person of the Year. Her generosity literally fed Detroit families, and her music fed the world's souls.

I was personally honored to have the opportunity to be with Aretha on many occasions. I was particularly honored to have the opportunity to introduce her a year ago, in June 2017, when she gave her last concert in Detroit, MI, at the Detroit music festival. I know I am not the only person who can say that no matter the song, no matter the temperature, when I hear Aretha sing, I get chills.

The world has lost a legend; however, the world can take comfort in the fact that Aretha will always be with us. In her voice, Aretha was given an amazing gift. Her gift to us was sharing it, and we are very grateful.

Mr. President, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

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

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

#### OHIO STATE WORK PERIOD

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, as a number of my colleagues did, last week when the Senate wasn't in session, as I always do, I returned to my beloved State of Ohio and went home to Cleveland and spent much of last week going around the State.

I love Pope Francis's comment when he exhorted his parish priests to go out

and smell like the flock. That says to me how important it is to go out and listen to people and listen to people's concerns.

I was in Lima talking to workers about pensions and about their work manufacturing. I was in Findlay with the mayor and a number of providers, and we listened to people talk about what they are doing to address the opioid crisis in Cleveland, Toledo, Dayton, and around the State.

What strikes me perhaps more than anything is the dignity of work; that whether you see someone waiting tables in a diner, whether you see someone at a plant working on an assembly line, whether you see somebody doing construction, whether you see somebody in a school or in a hospital, taking care of children in a school, taking care of patients in a hospital, what comes through to me is just the dignity of work.

What concerns me is, this body doesn't really understand that. They don't understand people want a chance to make a living, they want a decent wage, they want a chance to raise their children in a safe neighborhood, and they want access to housing.

We know one out of four people who rent in this country spend more than half their income for housing, and we know what that means if something goes wrong in their lives, if their car breaks down, if their child gets sick, that they can lose their apartment, they can be foreclosed on, they can be evicted.

To me, what came through this trip around the State this week more than anything was how this body is so out of touch with what work means; the honor, the dignity of work, how honorable it is; that people, whether they work with their brains or their hands or their brains and their hands, as most people do, that work should be rewarded.

We are seeing workers work harder than ever before. We are seeing corporate profits go up. We are seeing executive compensation explode. We are seeing productivity rise. Yet workers' wages are flat.

In fact, during the last year and a half, while the stock market is up and the President brags about job growth—and we all are happy with job growth—what we don't hear said, which is true, is that workers' wages have been stagnant or have gone down. Workers are actually making less than they were a year and a half ago.

We know that since 2010, since the auto rescue, we have seen job growth every quarter, every month since 2010. We saw greater job growth 3 years ago than we have the last 2 years, but we have not seen wage growth, and I will give you one of the reasons for that.

Congress passed a tax bill less than a year ago, and that tax bill, first of all, blew a hole in the budget. That is a problem because now my Republican colleagues want to raise the retirement age for Medicare, want to cut spending

for the cleanup of Lake Erie, want to cut spending on things like LIHEAP, the low-income energy heating assistance plan for seniors who are struggling with the decision, do I pay for my medicine or my heat or do I have enough food to eat. So it is a question of this Congress has not really—they passed a tax bill that blows a hole in the deficit. At the same time, think about this one provision in the tax bill.

If you are making cars in Youngstown, OH, Lordstown, or in Toledo, if you are making the Jeep or the Chevy Cruze in Youngstown, and you pay a 21-percent tax rate—that corporation—but if that corporation decides to move overseas, they pay a tax rate of 10.5 percent. So, in other words, because of the tax bill the President signed fewer than 12 months ago, the Federal Government is saying, we are going to give a corporation a 50-percent-off coupon on their taxes if they move overseas.

So what did GM just do? The same day GM announced more than 1,000 workers in Lordstown, OH, were laid off—the same day—they announced they were going to build a plant in Mexico to make the Chevy Blazer.

Now, I asked the CEO of GM, if you are going to lay off people in Lordstown, if you are making fewer Chevy Cruzes, why don't you retool, invest some of those billions of dollars in tax savings in Lordstown, OH, in the Mahoning Valley and Youngstown or at the GM plant in Defiance or at the GM plant in Toledo or in some of your GM supply chain, GM suppliers? Why don't you invest there instead of in Mexico? She didn't say this was the reason, but it is pretty clear because the special interests in this body, meeting in the majority leader's office, meeting in the Speaker's office, meeting in the White House—and the White House looks like a retreat for corporate executives if we have ever seen any such thing—made a decision to give tax breaks to companies that move overseas. So more and more companies are going to see it is attractive. They like that idea of a 50-percent-off coupon to shut down production in Mansfield, OH, and move to Vietnam or to China or to South Korea or to Turkey or to Mexico.

Imagine that. Imagine both the economic illiteracy and the moral debauchery, if you will, of setting up a tax bill that says: We will give you a lower tax rate if you move overseas. I mean, what kind of a Congress passes a bill that says if you move overseas, we will lower your tax rate? That is what Congress did. It was already bad enough before we passed this last tax bill, but now we are seeing what I think is going to happen more and more. GM makes a decision: They lay off people in Youngstown, paying a 21-percent tax rate, they move overseas, and they are paying a 10.5-percent tax rate. I don't understand the logic. I don't understand the morality of that.

I hope this Congress will look at my legislation, which will turn that

around. It is our jobs and car act that simply will say: If you buy an American car—and 100 different models of cars and trucks qualify for this—if you buy an American car or an American truck, meaning mostly made in the United States, assembled here, you will get \$3,500 off the price of that car at the dealership, and that is, in essence, paid for by making the tax rate we charge U.S. companies that move overseas—charge that same tax rate that we charge in this country. That is how you pay for it.

It makes sense. It would mean more jobs in Ohio. It would matter for the dignity of work because autoworkers and the supply chain and steelworkers, glassmakers, and people making car seats in Northwest Ohio—all of them will have more jobs and will be able to provide for their families in a way that they really believe the American dream is all about.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO KARA NELSON

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday. Even though we had a short week here in the Senate, it is one of my favorite times of the week because I get to talk about the Alaskan of the Week, which is a recognition we give to somebody who is doing something important in our State.

I can see by the smile on the pages' faces that it is their favorite time of the week, too, because we talk about Alaska and we talk about somebody who is making a difference. Maybe, it is a difference just in their local community. Maybe, it is in the State. Maybe, it is nationwide.

What I really enjoy doing in this speech every week is not just highlighting my great State. Of course, we all think our States are great. I know the Presiding Officer thinks his State is great, and I encourage people watching on TV or in the Galleries to come on up to Alaska. You will have the trip of a lifetime. There is great fishing right now and wonderful, beautiful scenery, but the reason you will love it so much is the people—strong, tough, resilient, wonderful people. That is what we do in terms of the Alaskan of the Week. We talk about the people.

Today, I want to talk about someone very special, a woman who has become a good friend of mine, named Kara Nelson. She is our Alaskan of the Week. Kara calls Juneau home.

Sometimes our Alaskans of the Week are unsung heroes. Maybe they have been working on something for years—decades, really—and not a lot of people know what they are doing. Other times, their efforts go from something

hardly noticed to somebody who is really noticed. I would say that Kara is somebody who, over the last couple of years, is really noticed. She is kind of a rock star in the State, and to be honest, she deserves the attention that she is given.

Kara works with women who have been in trouble, who have struggled with the issues of addiction, and have gone to prison sometimes for it. She is working with women who are trying to get a new start in life. There is nothing more important, I think—whether it is in Alaska or Louisiana, or anywhere in the country—than to give people a new start.

Here is a little bit about Kara, who has been generous enough to share her story openly, because it can be a difficult story to tell. She was born and raised mostly in Ketchikan—“logging camps,” she calls them. She was a good student. She was a good athlete. She got good grades. But then, unfortunately, like too many of our young people today—whether in Alaska or anywhere across the country—she started using drugs.

Eventually drugs took over her life completely. She dropped out of high school, and, in her words, “lived the life of an addict” for 20 years. For two decades, she was addicted to heroin and other drugs. She was arrested in 2005 for drug-related charges. For years—again, like so many people who we are seeing in our country—she ping-ponged in and out of prison until she was released on June 1, 2011.

It has been a tough life with tough experiences, but here is the good news. What has she done with that life since? She has been clean and sober ever since, which we all know is not easy. It takes courage. It takes discipline. She credits her faith and the peer support community she was able to find once she was released from prison. It is the kind of support she is now offering to hundreds of women across Alaska.

Shortly after her release from prison, Kara began to attend meetings led by two women she knew had been part of prison ministries. These women, Ellen Campbell and Ramona Ignell, had an idea of opening up a place for women who were getting out of prison and needed help transitioning into freedom. They needed help. Many were going through their own addiction challenges. They thought Kara would be the perfect person to direct the program. As all Alaskans know now, they thought right because she was that person.

In 2015, the transition house that Kara and others founded, called Haven House, in Juneau, AK, opened its doors. So far, 33 women have gone through the program and only 2 have re-offended, which is a remarkable record and success story.

Kara is also involved in so many other programs throughout the State. There are actually too many to name, but let me give you a few highlights. These are just a few of the highlights

of what she has done. She is the co-chair of the Juneau Reentry Coalition and the cofounder of the Juneau Recovery Community Organization. In 2016, she was a fellow of Just Leadership USA. She is an active member of the Juneau Homeless and Housing Coalition, Juneau’s Disability Abuse Response Team, Juneau’s Recovery Coaches Advisory Board, and Alaska’s Statewide Recidivism Reduction Task Force. The list is a lot longer than that. That gives you a sense of how involved she is and how much she cares about these issues. Last year, for all her work, she was awarded the prestigious Director’s Community Leadership Award from the FBI in recognition of her outstanding service to the advancement of justice.

In the middle of all of this hard work, she went back to school to finish her associate’s degree and was able to be reunited with her three children. On paper and in a speech like this, this certainly all looks impressive, but I am here to tell you there is nothing like hearing her story in person.

Let me take you back to a meeting I had in 2015. I had just been elected. Kara and seven other women—three of whom were recently out of prison and the first residents of Haven House—came to my office. They were in DC to attend a march to combat addiction. They were trying to get Members of the Senate and the House to support the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, cosponsored and led by my good friend Senator ROB PORTMAN, from Ohio, and my good friend from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE.

They came to my office. On this day, I had certainly one of the most impactful meetings I have had in the Senate. It was a meeting where they were all very honest and open about what they had been through, and, to be perfectly blunt, these women have been through hell. They talked about it with courage, grace, and dignity. They talked about how Alaskans were suffering through this addiction—opioid and heroin addiction, in particular—and how they needed help and how they needed Federal legislation.

Their honesty, resiliency, and courage were something I was so impressed by, so moved by. In many ways, it was a gift for me as a Senator to see this and to try, just a little bit, to understand this.

This meeting went very long. After I heard these stories, I started reading more about this crisis. It is impacting all of our States, and certainly many parts of Alaska. I told my staff that we have to focus on this. For 2 years, we convened a summit in our State. It was called the Alaska Wellness Summit: Conquering the Opioid Crisis.

Kara and her colleagues who came to see me inspired all of us to do this. In many ways, they were the stars of this event. They told the Alaskans who gathered their stories and their challenges. We talked about all kinds of issues—Federal, State, and local. We

brought Federal officials to this summit. The Surgeon General of the United States came. The Deputy Secretary of HHS came. Statewide and local officials were all there gathering together, saying: We can do this. We can tackle this. Let’s work together. There is hope. There is hope because of people like Kara.

I have a big State in terms of territory, but it is not a big State in terms of population. Over 500 people showed up at this summit, with several hundred more online to listen and to get ideas and to give us ideas and to get inspiration from people like Kara. Inspired by that summit and people like Kara, we are organizing another summit—actually, tomorrow—in Anchorage: the Alaska Wellness Summit 2.0. This event will also bring together, like we did before, a number of Federal, State, and local stakeholders to discuss not only the addiction epidemic but also issues relating to drug trafficking and, unfortunately, the associated crime wave that is hitting many of the communities in Alaska and victimizing many Alaskans.

Kara will be one of the people in front of hundreds presenting at the summit. Again, she will likely talk about her own experiences and inspire people and give them courage that they can get through what they are going through, and she will talk about how successful peer-to-peer work has been for her and the other women she has been working with. Whatever she talks about tomorrow, I know that she will bring courage, insight, and internal fire because she has it. She has been through a lot. She is a leader, and she is a leader by example.

I want to conclude by saying that her work and the work of so many others on tackling this crisis and all of the difficult side effects is so important. Kara, please keep it up. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all the work you have done, for your courage, your commitment, and your inspiration, and, of course, congratulations to you on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 3705 AND AMENDMENT NO. 3706  
TO AMENDMENT NO. 3695

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be called up en bloc and reported by number: Menendez-Murkowski No. 3705 and Fischer-Baldwin No. 3706. I further ask consent that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 20, the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed and that there be no second-degree amendments in order to the amendments prior to the votes.

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

The clerk will report the amendments en bloc by number.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for others, proposes amendment

numbered 3705 and amendment numbered 3706 to amendment No. 3695 en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3705

(Purpose: To provide funding for the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018)

At the appropriate place in title II of division B insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) There is appropriated under the heading "National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health" under the heading "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention", in addition to any other amounts made available under such heading, \$1,000,000 to implement the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-194).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount appropriated under the heading "General Departmental Management" under the heading "Office of the Secretary" is hereby reduced by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3706

(Purpose: To appropriate an additional \$10,000,000 for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide for POW/MIA identification within the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency, and to provide an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VIII of division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) The amount appropriated by title II of this division under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" is hereby increased by \$10,000,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for POW/MIA identification within the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency.120 (b) The amount appropriated by title II of this division under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" is hereby decreased by \$10,000,000.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL F. McKEON

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize city court Judge Michael F. McKeon of Auburn, NY, on his retirement from the New York bench after 20 years of dedicated and faithful service to his community and to his State.

Judge McKeon was born and raised in Auburn and, save for a few years during college and law school, has lived his entire life in this vibrant community in the heart of New York State's Finger Lakes region.

Judge McKeon has dedicated much of his professional life to public service. After law school, he clerked for New York State Supreme Court Justice Robert White for 7 years, and while in private practice, he also served as corporation counsel for the city of Auburn. For 27 years, McKeon also taught criminal justice courses at Cayuga County Community College in Auburn.

First elected as Auburn's city court judge in November 1998, Judge McKeon quickly got to work implementing new and innovative ways of administering justice and ensuring that those with behavioral and addiction illnesses got access to critical treatment and support to help turn their lives around. Under his leadership, Auburn introduced one of the first drug treatment courts in New York State. Soon thereafter, he founded a behavioral health court for misdemeanor and felony offenders.

McKeon was a very active member of the Nation's drug court community and became a sought-after resource for other judges in New York and throughout the country looking to introduce drug courts into their communities. With evangelists like Judge McKeon demonstrating great successes in helping end addiction through diversion and treatment programs, Federal funding for drug court programs reached its highest levels in fiscal year 2017.

Judge McKeon was chosen by his peers as president of the New York State City Court Judges Association from 2006 to 2008 and vice president from 2002 to 2006. He continued his drug court advocacy in these leadership roles, helping New York State become one of the Nation's leaders in drug court adoption. In 2015, he worked with the State legislature to pass the first cost-of-living-adjustment for State judges in 13 years. McKeon also served as chair of the Local Codes Advisory Committee to the chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals.

I congratulate Judge McKeon and his family on his well-earned retirement, and I thank him for his outstanding service to his beloved Auburn.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 183 on confirmation of the nomination of A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation of the nomination, as I did in the Judiciary Committee.

Further, I was necessarily absent for vote Nos. 184 and 185, relative to the nomination of Julius Ness Richardson to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture and yea on confirmation of the nomination, as I did in the Judiciary Committee.●

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA,

establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate is considering S. Amdt. 3695, a "minibus" spending measure covering programs within the jurisdiction of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The defense portion of this amendment includes provisions designated as overseas contingency operations funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of BBEDCA. These provisions provide \$67,914 million in revised security budget authority and \$37,285 million in outlays for fiscal year 2019. The inclusion of the overseas contingency operations designations with these provisions makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

The amendment also includes provisions designated as program integrity spending pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(B), section 251(b)(2)(C), and section 251(b)(2)(E) of BBEDCA. CBO estimates these provisions will increase budget authority by \$1,897 million and outlays by \$1,573 million in fiscal year 2019. The budget authority from these provisions is categorized as nonsecurity spending.

Accordingly, I am increasing the fiscal year 2019 budgetary aggregate by \$69,464 million in budget authority and \$38,556 million in outlays. Further, I am revising the budget authority allocations to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing revised security budget authority by \$67,914 million, revised nonsecurity budget authority by \$1,897 million, and outlays by \$38,858 million in fiscal year 2019.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES	
(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)	
\$ in millions	2019
<b>Current Spending Aggregates:</b>	
Budget Authority .....	3,548,015
Outlays .....	3,508,052
<b>Adjustments:</b>	
Budget Authority .....	69,464
Outlays .....	38,556
<b>Revised Spending Aggregates:</b>	
Budget Authority .....	3,617,479
Outlays .....	3,546,608