

SENATE RESOLUTION 737—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CADET NURSE CORPS AND EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE SENATE FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CADET NURSE CORPS DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 737

Whereas the personnel requirements of World War II created a shortage of nurses and, by 1942, it was evident that the pace of training for new nurses could not keep up with the demands of the military and civilian populations of the United States;

Whereas, as nurses vacated positions in hospitals, schools, and welfare agencies to meet the needs of the Armed Forces, an influx of millions of new workers to industrial areas created unprecedented public health challenges, and such challenges were exacerbated by a nursing capacity that was not sufficient to meet the demands of both the Armed Forces and essential civilian services;

Whereas the Act of June 15, 1943 (57 Stat. 153, chapter 126; commonly known as the "Bolton Act"), unanimously passed both houses of Congress;

Whereas the Bolton Act resulted in the establishment of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps, which was a uniformed service under the direction of the United States Public Health Service and operated from 1943 to 1948;

Whereas the United States Cadet Nurse Corps was open to minorities, including African Americans and Native Americans, because the Bolton Act included a provision restricting discrimination in the administration of the Act on account of race, creed, or color;

Whereas enrollment in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps required a commitment to serve for the duration of World War II, with each cadet taking the following pledge: "I will dedicate myself now and forever to the triumph of life over death; As a Cadet nurse, I pledge to my country my service in essential nursing for the duration of the war.";

Whereas an April 1944 memorandum from the Federal Security Agency identified "national recognition for rendering a vital war service" as a privilege of service in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps;

Whereas with more than 120,000 women enrolled in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps by the termination of the program, the United States Cadet Nurse Corps played an important role in overcoming the nursing shortage at military, Federal, and non-Federal hospitals across the United States; and

Whereas Surgeon General Thomas Parran, appearing before the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives in January 1945, highlighted the positive contribution of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps to the war effort by stating, "We cannot measure what the loss to the country would have been if [the] civilian nursing service had collapsed, any more than we could measure the cost of failure on the Normandy beachheads."; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the formation of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps; and

(2) expresses appreciation for the vital contribution that the members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps made to the war

effort by filling critical military and essential civilian nursing positions during the nursing shortage caused by World War II.

SENATE RESOLUTION 738—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE ITS LIMITED MILITARY ACTIVITIES WITHIN SYRIA AND THAT ENDING SUCH ACTIVITIES AT THIS TIME WOULD EMBOLDEN ISIS, BASHAR AL-ASSAD, IRAN, AND RUSSIA AND PUT OUR KURDISH ALLIES IN GREAT JEOPARDY

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KING, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 738

Whereas ISIS has been dealt a serious blow in Iraq and Syria and is substantially damaged but not yet defeated;

Whereas the United States has a limited military presence in Syria with approximately 2,000 troops who serve as an insurance policy against future threats;

Whereas a precipitous withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Syria will embolden radical jihadist groups in Syria and in the region;

Whereas it is in the vital national interest of the United States to continue to support partners, such as the Kurds, in Syria and other locations in the Global War on Terror;

Whereas a United States withdrawal will embolden the brutal dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad and bring more suffering to the people of Syria and the region;

Whereas a precipitous withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Syria could lead to the release of hundreds of foreign terrorists currently detained by the Syrian Democratic Forces; and

Whereas it is in the national security interest of the United States to counter Iran's and Russia's influence in Syria and throughout the region: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the President to reconsider his decision to withdraw United States Armed Forces from Syria at this time; and

(2) urges any future decision to withdraw United States Armed Forces from Syria to be the result of a robust interagency process and to be conditions-based.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4163. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

SA 4164. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4163 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, supra.

SA 4165. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 695, supra.

SA 4166. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4165 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, supra.

SA 4167. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4166 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 4165 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, supra.

SA 4168. Ms. HARRIS (for Mr. BOOKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3178, to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

SA 4169. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4163 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4170. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4163 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4171. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4174, to amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

SA 4172. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5509, to direct the National Science Foundation to provide grants for research about STEM education approaches and the STEM-related workforce, and for other purposes.

SA 4173. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 767, to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

SA 4174. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. PORTMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1023, to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4163. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 695 of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted:

**DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019**

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (division C of Public Law 115-245) is further amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 105(3) and inserting "February 8, 2019"; and

(2) by adding after section 136 the following:

"SEC. 137. Notwithstanding section 251(a)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and the timetable in section 254(a) of such Act, the final sequestration report for fiscal year 2019 pursuant to section 254(f)(1) of such Act and any order for fiscal year 2019 pursuant to section 254(f)(5) of such Act shall be issued, for the Congressional Budget Office, 10 days after the date

specified in section 105(3), and for the Office of Management and Budget, 15 days after the date specified in section 105(3).

“SEC. 138. The authority provided under title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), as amended by section 2(a) of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-254), shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 105(3).

“SEC. 139. Section 319L(e)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(e)(1)(A)) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 105(3) of this Act.

“SEC. 140. Section 405(a) of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6a note) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 105(3) of this Act.”

This division may be cited as the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019”.

#### DIVISION B—MEDICAID EXTENDERS

##### SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON REBALANCING DEMONSTRATION.

(a) GENERAL FUNDING.—Section 6071(h) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) subject to paragraph (3), \$112,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “Amounts made” and inserting “Subject to paragraph (3), amounts made”; and

(B) by striking “September 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2021”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR FY 2019.—Funds appropriated under paragraph (1)(F) shall be made available for grants to States only if such States have an approved MFP demonstration project under this section as of December 31, 2018.”.

(b) FUNDING FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; OVERSIGHT.—Section 6071(f) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) FUNDING.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (h)(1)(F) for fiscal year 2019, \$500,000 shall be available to the Secretary for such fiscal year to carry out this subsection.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 6071(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.”.

##### SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF PROTECTION FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AGAINST SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) is amended by striking “the 5-year period that begins on January 1, 2014,” and inserting “the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on March 31, 2019.”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) PROTECTING STATE SPOUSAL INCOME AND ASSET DISREGARD FLEXIBILITY UNDER WAIVERS AND PLAN AMENDMENTS.—Nothing in section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) or section 1924 of the Social Security

Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5) shall be construed as prohibiting a State from disregarding an individual’s spousal income and assets under a State waiver or plan amendment described in paragraph (2) for purposes of making determinations of eligibility for home and community-based services or home and community-based attendant services and supports under such waiver or plan amendment.

(2) STATE WAIVER OR PLAN AMENDMENT DESCRIBED.—A State waiver or plan amendment described in this paragraph is any of the following:

(A) A waiver or plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based services under a waiver or plan amendment under subsection (c), (d), or (i) of section 1915 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n) or under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315).

(B) A plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based services for individuals by reason of being determined eligible under section 1902(a)(10)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(C)) or by reason of section 1902(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(f)) or otherwise on the basis of a reduction of income based on costs incurred for medical or other remedial care under which the State disregarded the income and assets of the individual’s spouse in determining the initial and ongoing financial eligibility of an individual for such services in place of the spousal impoverishment provisions applied under section 1924 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5).

(C) A plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based attendant services and supports under section 1915(k) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(k)).

##### SEC. 103. REDUCTION IN FMAP AFTER 2020 FOR STATES WITHOUT ASSET VERIFICATION PROGRAM.

Section 1940 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) REDUCTION IN FMAP AFTER 2020 FOR NON-COMPLIANT STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a calendar quarter beginning on or after January 1, 2021, the Federal medical assistance percentage otherwise determined under section 1905(b) for a non-compliant State shall be reduced—

“(A) for calendar quarters in 2021 and 2022, by 0.12 percentage points;

“(B) for calendar quarters in 2023, by 0.25 percentage points;

“(C) for calendar quarters in 2024, by 0.35 percentage points; and

“(D) for calendar quarters in 2025 and each year thereafter, by 0.5 percentage points.

“(2) NON-COMPLIANT STATE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘non-compliant State’ means a State—

“(A) that is one of the 50 States or the District of Columbia;

“(B) with respect to which the Secretary has not approved a State plan amendment submitted under subsection (a)(2); and

“(C) that is not operating, on an ongoing basis, an asset verification program in accordance with this section.”.

##### SEC. 104. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$31,000,000” and inserting “\$6,000,000”.

##### SEC. 105. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be en-

tered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act; and

(2) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

(d) PAYGO ANNUAL REPORT.—For the purposes of the annual report issued pursuant to section 5 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 934) after adjournment of the second session of the 115th Congress, and for determining whether a sequestration order is necessary under such section, the debit for the budget year on the 5-year scorecard, if any, and the 10-year scorecard, if any, shall be deducted from such scorecard in 2019 and added to such scorecard in 2020.

**SA 4164.** Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4163 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

**SA 4165.** Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This act shall be effective 2 days after enactment.”

**SA 4166.** Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4165 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, as follows:

Strike “2” and insert “3”

**SA 4167.** Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4166 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 4165 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who,

related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

**SA 4168.** Ms. HARRIS (for Mr. BOOKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3178, to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2018”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) The crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction.

(2) Lynching was a widely acknowledged practice in the United States until the middle of the 20th century.

(3) Lynching was a crime that occurred throughout the United States, with documented incidents in all but 4 States.

(4) At least 4,742 people, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968.

(5) Ninety-nine percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by State or local officials.

(6) Lynching prompted African Americans to form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this section as the “NAACP”) and prompted members of B’nai B’rith to found the Anti-Defamation League.

(7) Mr. Walter White, as a member of the NAACP and later as the executive secretary of the NAACP from 1931 to 1955, meticulously investigated lynchings in the United States and worked tirelessly to end segregation and racialized terror.

(8) Nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress during the first half of the 20th century.

(9) Between 1890 and 1952, 7 Presidents petitioned Congress to end lynching.

(10) Between 1920 and 1940, the House of Representatives passed 3 strong anti-lynching measures.

(11) Protection against lynching was the minimum and most basic of Federal responsibilities, and the Senate considered but failed to enact anti-lynching legislation despite repeated requests by civil rights groups, Presidents, and the House of Representatives to do so.

(12) The publication of “Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America” helped bring greater awareness and proper recognition of the victims of lynching.

(13) Only by coming to terms with history can the United States effectively champion human rights abroad.

(14) An apology offered in the spirit of true repentance moves the United States toward reconciliation and may become central to a new understanding, on which improved racial relations can be forged.

(15) Having concluded that a reckoning with our own history is the only way the country can effectively champion human rights abroad, 90 Members of the United States Senate agreed to Senate Resolution 39, 109th Congress, on June 13, 2005, to apologize to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation.

(16) The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which opened to the public in Mont-

gomery, Alabama, on April 26, 2018, is the Nation’s first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.

(17) Notwithstanding the Senate’s apology and the heightened awareness and education about the Nation’s legacy with lynching, it is wholly necessary and appropriate for the Congress to enact legislation, after 100 years of unsuccessful legislative efforts, finally to make lynching a Federal crime.

(18) Further, it is the sense of Congress that criminal action by a group increases the likelihood that the criminal object of that group will be successfully attained and decreases the probability that the individuals involved will depart from their path of criminality. Therefore, it is appropriate to specify criminal penalties for the crime of lynching, or any attempt or conspiracy to commit lynching.

(19) The United States Senate agreed to unanimously Senate Resolution 118, 115th Congress, on April 5, 2017, “[c]ondemning hate crime and any other form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement to violence, or animus targeting a minority in the United States” and taking notice specifically of Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics demonstrating that “among single-bias hate crime incidents in the United States, 59.2 percent of victims were targeted due to racial, ethnic, or ancestral bias, and among those victims, 52.2 percent were victims of crimes motivated by the offenders’ anti-Black or anti-African American bias”.

(20) On September 14, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed into law Senate Joint Resolution 49 (Public Law 115-58; 131 Stat. 1149), wherein Congress “condemn[ed] the racist violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia” and “urg[ed] the President and his administration to speak out against hate groups that espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and White supremacy; and use all resources available to the President and the President’s Cabinet to address the growing prevalence of those hate groups in the United States”.

(21) Senate Joint Resolution 49 (Public Law 115-58; 131 Stat. 1149) specifically took notice of “hundreds of torch-bearing White nationalists, White supremacists, Klansmen, and neo-Nazis [who] chanted racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant slogans and violently engaged with counter-demonstrators on and around the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville” and that these groups “reportedly are organizing similar events in other cities in the United States and communities everywhere are concerned about the growing and open display of hate and violence being perpetrated by those groups”.

**SEC. 3. LYNCHING.**

(a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 250. Lynching**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) OFFENSES INVOLVING ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.—If 2 or more persons willfully cause bodily injury to any other person, because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin of any person—

“(A) each shall be imprisoned not more than 10 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both, if bodily injury results from the offense; or

“(B) each shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life, fined in accordance with this title, or both, if death results from the offense or if the offense includes kidnapping or aggravated sexual abuse.

“(2) OFFENSES INVOLVING ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR DISABILITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If 2 or more persons, in any circumstance described in subparagraph (B), willfully cause bodily injury to any other person because of the actual or perceived religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any person—

“(i) each shall be imprisoned not more than 10 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both, if bodily injury results from the offense; or

“(ii) each shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life, fined in accordance with this title, or both, if death results from the offense or if the offense includes kidnapping or aggravated sexual abuse.

“(B) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the circumstances described in this subparagraph are that—

“(i) the conduct described in subparagraph (A) occurs during the course of, or as the result of, the travel of the defendant or the victim—

“(I) across a State line or national border; or

“(II) using a phone, the internet, the mail, or any other channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce;

“(ii) the defendant uses a phone, the internet, the mail, or any other channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in connection with the conduct described in subparagraph (A);

“(iii) in connection with the conduct described in subparagraph (A), the defendant employs a firearm, dangerous weapon, explosive or incendiary device, or other weapon that has traveled in interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(iv) the conduct described in subparagraph (A)—

“(I) interferes with commercial or other economic activity in which the victim is engaged at the time of the conduct;

“(II) otherwise affects interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(III) occurs within the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

“(3) OFFENSES OCCURRING IN THE SPECIAL MARITIME OR TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—Whoever, within the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States, engages in conduct described in paragraph (1) or in paragraph (2)(A) (without regard to whether that conduct occurred in a circumstance described in paragraph (2)(B)) shall be subject to the same penalties as prescribed in those paragraphs.

“(b) ATTEMPT.—Whoever attempts to commit any offense under this section—

“(1) shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both; or

“(2) if the offense includes kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life, fined in accordance with this title, or both.

“(c) CONSPIRACY.—If 2 or more persons conspire to commit any offense under this section, and 1 or more of such persons do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense the commission of which was the object of the conspiracy.

“(d) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No prosecution of any offense described in this section may be undertaken by the United States, except under the certification in writing of the Attorney General, or a designee, that—

“(A) the State does not have jurisdiction;

“(B) the State has requested that the Federal Government assume jurisdiction;

“(C) the verdict or sentence obtained pursuant to State charges left demonstratively unvindicated the Federal interest in eradicating bias-motivated violence; or

“(D) a prosecution by the United States is in the public interest and necessary to secure substantial justice.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the authority of Federal officers, or a Federal grand jury, to investigate possible violations of this section.”.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 249 the following:

“250. Lynching.”.

**SA 4169.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4163 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . COLA.**

(a) The adjustment in rates of basic pay for employees under the statutory pay systems that takes effect in fiscal year 2019 under section 5303 of title 5, United States Code, shall be an increase of 1.4 percent, and the overall average percentage of the adjustments taking effect in such fiscal year under sections 5304 and 5304a of such title 5 shall be an increase of 0.5 percent (with comparability payments to be determined and allocated among pay localities by the President). All adjustments under this subsection shall be effective as of the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

(b) Notwithstanding section 737 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2018 (division E of Public Law 115-141), the adjustment in rates of basic pay for the statutory pay systems that take place in fiscal year 2019 under sections 5344 and 5348 of title 5, United States Code, shall be no less than the percentages in subsection (a) as employees in the same location whose rates of basic pay are adjusted pursuant to the statutory pay systems under section 5303, 5304, and 5304a of title 5, United States Code. Prevailing rate employees at locations where there are no employees whose pay is increased pursuant to sections 5303, 5304, and 5304a of such title 5 and prevailing rate employees described in section 5343(a)(5) of such title 5 shall be considered to be located in the pay locality designated as “Rest of U.S.” pursuant to section 5304 of such title 5 for purposes of this subsection.

(c) Funds used to carry out this section shall be paid from appropriations, which are

made to each applicable department or agency for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2019.

**SA 4170.** Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4163 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 695, of 1993 to establish a voluntary national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS DURING SHUTDOWNS.**

(a) COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “An officer” and inserting “Except as specified in this subchapter or any other provision of law, an officer”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘covered lapse in appropriations’ means any lapse in appropriations that begins on or after February 8, 2019; and

“(B) the term ‘excepted employee’ means an excepted employee or an employee performing emergency work, as such terms are defined by the Office of Personnel Management.

“(2) Each Federal employee furloughed as a result of a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for the period of the lapse in appropriations, and each excepted employee who is required to perform work during a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for such work, at the employee’s standard rate of pay, at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates.

“(3) During a covered lapse in appropriations, each excepted employee who is required to perform work shall be entitled to use leave under chapter 63 of title 5, or any other applicable law governing the use of leave by the excepted employee, for which compensation shall be paid at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates.”.

(b) RESTORATION OF USE-OR-LOSE LEAVE LOST BECAUSE OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.—Section 6304(d)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding “or” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) the cancellation of paid leave scheduled during a lapse in appropriations for the department, agency, or other employing authority employing the employee, as required under subchapter III of chapter 13 of title 31;”.

**SA 4171.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4174, to amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal

data management, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy-making Act of 2018”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—FEDERAL EVIDENCE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Federal evidence-building activities.

TITLE II—OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ACT

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Open Government data.

TITLE III—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Confidential information protection and statistical efficiency.

Sec. 303. Increasing access to data for evidence.

TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Rule of construction.

Sec. 402. Use of existing resources.

Sec. 403. Effective date.

**TITLE I—FEDERAL EVIDENCE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

**SEC. 101. FEDERAL EVIDENCE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of part I of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 301 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS”; AND

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER II—FEDERAL EVIDENCE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

**“§ 311. Definitions**

“In this subchapter:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘Executive agency’ under section 105.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(3) EVALUATION.—The term ‘evaluation’ means an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency.

“(4) EVIDENCE.—The term ‘evidence’ has the meaning given that term in section 3561 of title 44.

“(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized governing body of any Indian Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group or community which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

“(6) STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES; STATISTICAL AGENCY OR UNIT; STATISTICAL PURPOSE.—The terms ‘statistical activities’, ‘statistical agency or unit’, and ‘statistical purpose’ have the meanings given those terms in section 3561 of title 44.

**“§ 312. Agency evidence-building plan**

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—The head of each agency shall include in the strategic plan required under section 306 a systematic plan for identifying and addressing policy questions relevant to the programs, policies, and regulations of the agency. Such plan shall contain the following:

“(1) A list of policy-relevant questions for which the agency intends to develop evidence to support policymaking.

“(2) A list of data the agency intends to collect, use, or acquire to facilitate the use of evidence in policymaking.

“(3) A list of methods and analytical approaches that may be used to develop evidence to support policymaking.

“(4) A list of any challenges to developing evidence to support policymaking, including any statutory or other restrictions to accessing relevant data.

“(5) A description of the steps the agency will take to accomplish paragraphs (1) and (2).

“(6) Any other information as required by guidance issued by the Director.

“(b) EVALUATION PLAN.—The head of each agency shall issue in conjunction with the performance plan required under section 1115(b) of title 31, an evaluation plan describing activities the agency plans to conduct pursuant to subsection (a) of this section during the fiscal year following the year in which the performance plan is submitted. Such plan shall—

“(1) describe key questions for each significant evaluation study that the agency plans to begin in the next fiscal year;

“(2) describe key information collections or acquisitions the agency plans to begin in the next fiscal year; and

“(3) any other information included in guidance issued by the Director under subsection (a)(6).

“(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the head of an agency shall consult with stakeholders, including the public, agencies, State and local governments, and representatives of nongovernmental researchers.

### “§ 313. Evaluation Officers

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The head of each agency shall designate a senior employee of the agency as the Evaluation Officer of the agency.

“(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Evaluation Officer of an agency shall be appointed or designated without regard to political affiliation and based on demonstrated expertise in evaluation methodology and practices and appropriate expertise to the disciplines of the agency.

“(c) COORDINATION.—The Evaluation Officer of an agency shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate activities with agency officials necessary to carry out the functions required under subsection (d).

“(d) FUNCTIONS.—The Evaluation Officer of each agency shall—

“(1) continually assess the coverage, quality, methods, consistency, effectiveness, independence, and balance of the portfolio of evaluations, policy research, and ongoing evaluation activities of the agency;

“(2) assess agency capacity to support the development and use of evaluation;

“(3) establish and implement an agency evaluation policy; and

“(4) coordinate, develop, and implement the plans required under section 312.

### “§ 314. Statistical expertise

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall designate the head of any statistical agency or unit within the agency, or in the case of an agency that does not have a statistical agency or unit, any senior agency official with appropriate expertise, as a statistical official to advise on statistical policy, techniques, and procedures. Agency officials engaged in statistical activities may consult with any such statistical official as necessary.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP ON INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY.—Each statistical official designated under subsection (a) shall

serve as a member of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy established under section 3504(e)(8) of title 44.

### “§ 315. Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director, or the head of an agency designated by the Director, shall establish an Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building (in this section referred to as the ‘Advisory Committee’) to review, analyze, and make recommendations on how to promote the use of Federal data for evidence building.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall consist of the Chief Statistician of the United States, who shall serve as the Chair of the Advisory Committee, and other members appointed by the Director as follows:

“(1) One member who is an agency Chief Information Officer.

“(2) One member who is an agency Chief Privacy Officer.

“(3) One member who is an agency Chief Performance Officer.

“(4) Three members who are agency Chief Data Officers.

“(5) Three members who are agency Evaluation Officers.

“(6) Three members who are members of the Interagency Council for Statistical Policy established under section 3504(e)(8) of title 44.

“(7) At least 10 members who are representatives of State and local governments and nongovernmental stakeholders with expertise in government data policy, privacy, technology, transparency policy, evaluation and research methodologies, and other relevant subjects, of whom—

“(A) at least one shall have expertise in transparency policy;

“(B) at least one shall have expertise in privacy policy;

“(C) at least one shall have expertise in statistical data use;

“(D) at least one shall have expertise in information management;

“(E) at least one shall have expertise in information technology; and

“(F) at least one shall be from the research and evaluation community.

“(c) TERM OF SERVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of 2 years.

“(2) VACANCY.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

“(d) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation.

“(e) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

“(1) assist the Director in carrying out the duties of the Director under part D of subchapter III of chapter 35 of title 44;

“(2) evaluate and provide recommendations to the Director on how to facilitate data sharing, enable data linkage, and develop privacy enhancing techniques; and

“(3) review the coordination of data sharing or availability for evidence building across all agencies.

“(f) REPORTS.—The Advisory Committee shall submit to the Director and make publicly available an annual report on the activities and findings of the Advisory Committee.

“(g) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee shall terminate not later than two years after the date of the first meeting.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of part I of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before the item relating to section 301 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS”; AND

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER II—FEDERAL EVIDENCE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

“311. Definitions.

“312. Agency evidence-building plan.

“313. Evaluation Officers.

“314. Statistical expertise.

“315. Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building.”.

(c) AGENCY STRATEGIC PLANS.—Section 306(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (8), by—

(A) striking the period at the end; and

(B) inserting after “to be conducted” the following: “, and citations to relevant provisions of the plans required under section 312; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) an assessment of the coverage, quality, methods, effectiveness, and independence of the statistics, evaluation, research, and analysis efforts of the agency, including—

“(A) a list of the activities and operations of the agency that are currently being evaluated and analyzed;

“(B) the extent to which the evaluations, research, and analysis efforts and related activities of the agency support the needs of various divisions within the agency;

“(C) the extent to which the evaluation research and analysis efforts and related activities of the agency address an appropriate balance between needs related to organizational learning, ongoing program management, performance management, strategic management, interagency and private sector coordination, internal and external oversight, and accountability;

“(D) the extent to which the agency uses methods and combinations of methods that are appropriate to agency divisions and the corresponding research questions being addressed, including an appropriate combination of formative and summative evaluation research and analysis approaches;

“(E) the extent to which evaluation and research capacity is present within the agency to include personnel and agency processes for planning and implementing evaluation activities, disseminating best practices and findings, and incorporating employee views and feedback; and

“(F) the extent to which the agency has the capacity to assist agency staff and program offices to develop the capacity to use evaluation research and analysis approaches and data in the day-to-day operations.”.

(d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which each strategic plan required under section 306(a) of title 5, United States Code, is published, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) summarizes agency findings and highlights trends in the assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a)(9) of section 306 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (c); and

(2) if appropriate, recommends actions to further improve agency capacity to use evaluation techniques and data to support evaluation efforts.

(e) EVALUATION AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with any inter-agency council relating to evaluation, shall—

(A) issue guidance for program evaluation for agencies consistent with widely accepted standards for evaluation; and

(B) identify best practices for evaluation that would improve Federal program evaluation.

(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, the head of each agency shall oversee the implementation of such guidance.

(3) OPM GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the guidance under paragraph (1) is issued, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall—

(A) identify key skills and competencies needed for program evaluation in an agency;

(B) establish a new occupational series, or update and improve an existing occupational series, for program evaluation within an agency; and

(C) establish a new career path for program evaluation within an agency.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(A) AGENCY.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” under section 105.

(B) EVALUATION.—The term “evaluation” has the meaning given that term in section 311 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

## TITLE II—OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ACT

### SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act” or the “OPEN Government Data Act”.

### SEC. 202. OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(15) the term ‘comprehensive data inventory’ means the inventory created under section 3511(a), but does not include any underlying data asset listed on the inventory;

“(16) the term ‘data’ means recorded information, regardless of form or the media on which the data is recorded;

“(17) the term ‘data asset’ means a collection of data elements or data sets that may be grouped together;

“(18) the term ‘machine-readable’, when used with respect to data, means data in a format that can be easily processed by a computer without human intervention while ensuring no semantic meaning is lost;

“(19) the term ‘metadata’ means structural or descriptive information about data such as content, format, source, rights, accuracy, provenance, frequency, periodicity, granularity, publisher or responsible party, contact information, method of collection, and other descriptions;

“(20) the term ‘open Government data asset’ means a public data asset that is—

“(A) machine-readable;

“(B) available (or could be made available) in an open format;

“(C) not encumbered by restrictions, other than intellectual property rights, including under titles 17 and 35, that would impede the use or reuse of such asset; and

“(D) based on an underlying open standard that is maintained by a standards organization;

“(21) the term ‘open license’ means a legal guarantee that a data asset is made available—

“(A) at no cost to the public; and

“(B) with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting such asset;

“(22) the term ‘public data asset’ means a data asset, or part thereof, maintained by the Federal Government that has been, or may be, released to the public, including any data asset, or part thereof, subject to disclosure under section 552 of title 5; and

“(23) the term ‘statistical laws’ means subchapter III of this chapter and other laws pertaining to the protection of information collected for statistical purposes as designated by the Director.”.

(b) GUIDANCE TO MAKE DATA OPEN BY DEFAULT.—Section 3504(b) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) issue guidance for agencies to implement section 3506(b)(6) in a manner that takes into account—

“(A) risks and restrictions related to the disclosure of personally identifiable information, including the risk that an individual data asset in isolation does not pose a privacy or confidentiality risk but when combined with other available information may pose such a risk;

“(B) security considerations, including the risk that information in an individual data asset in isolation does not pose a security risk but when combined with other available information may pose such a risk;

“(C) the cost and benefits to the public of converting a data asset into a machine-readable format that is accessible and useful to the public;

“(D) whether the application of the requirements described in such section to a data asset could result in legal liability;

“(E) a determination of whether a data asset—

“(i) is subject to intellectual property rights, including rights under titles 17 and 35;

“(ii) contains confidential business information, that could be withheld under section 552(b)(4) of title 5; or

“(iii) is otherwise restricted by contract or other binding, written agreement;

“(F) the requirement that a data asset be disclosed, if it would otherwise be made available under section 552 of title 5 (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’); and

“(G) any other considerations that the Director determines to be relevant.”.

(c) FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MAKE DATA OPEN BY DEFAULT.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—Section 3506 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) in accordance with guidance by the Director, develop and maintain a strategic information resources management plan that, to the extent practicable—

“(A) describes how information resources management activities help accomplish agency missions;

“(B) includes an open data plan that—

“(i) requires the agency to develop processes and procedures that—

“(I) require data collection mechanisms created on or after the date of the enactment of the OPEN Government Data Act to be available in an open format; and

“(II) facilitate collaboration with non-Government entities (including businesses), researchers, and the public for the purpose of understanding how data users value and use government data;

“(ii) identifies and implements methods for collecting and analyzing digital information on data asset usage by users within and outside of the agency, including designating a point of contact within the agency to assist the public and to respond to quality issues, usability issues, recommendations for improvements, and complaints about adherence to open data requirements within a reasonable period of time;

“(iii) develops and implements a process to evaluate and improve the timeliness, completeness, consistency, accuracy, usefulness, and availability of open Government data assets;

“(iv) includes requirements for meeting the goals of the agency open data plan, including the acquisition of technology, provision of training for employees, and the implementation of procurement standards, in accordance with existing law, regulation, and policy, that allow for the acquisition of innovative solutions from public and private sectors;

“(v) identifies as priority data assets any data asset for which disclosure would be in the public interest and establishes a plan to evaluate each priority data asset for disclosure on the Federal Data Catalogue under section 3511 and for a determination under 3511(a)(2)(A)(iii)(I)(bb), including an accounting of which priority data assets have not yet been evaluated; and

“(vi) requires the agency to comply with requirements under section 3511, including any standards established by the Director under such section, when disclosing a data asset pursuant to such section; and

“(C) is updated annually and made publicly available on the website of the agency not later than 5 days after each such update;”;

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) in accordance with guidance by the Director—

“(A) make each data asset of the agency available in an open format; and

“(B) make each public data asset of the agency available—

“(i) as an open Government data asset; and

“(ii) under an open license.”; and

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) ensure that any public data asset of the agency is machine-readable; and

“(6) engage the public in using public data assets of the agency and encourage collaboration by—

“(A) publishing on the website of the agency, on a regular basis (not less than annually), information on the usage of such assets by non-Government users;

“(B) providing the public with the opportunity to request specific data assets to be prioritized for disclosure and to provide suggestions for the development of agency criteria with respect to prioritizing data assets for disclosure;

“(C) assisting the public in expanding the use of public data assets; and

“(D) hosting challenges, competitions, events, or other initiatives designed to create additional value from public data assets of the agency.”.

(2) USE OF OPEN DATA ASSETS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each agency (as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) shall ensure that any activity by the agency meets the requirements of section 3506 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by this subsection.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) DATA INVENTORY AND FEDERAL DATA CATALOGUE.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 3511 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§3511. Data inventory and Federal data catalogue**

“(a) COMPREHENSIVE DATA INVENTORY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with the Director and in accordance with the guidance established under paragraph (2), the head of each agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable, develop and maintain a comprehensive data inventory that accounts for all data assets created by, collected by, under the control or direction of, or maintained by the agency. The head of each agency shall ensure that such inventory provides a clear and comprehensive understanding of the data assets in the possession of the agency.

“(2) GUIDANCE.—The Director shall establish guidance for agencies to develop and maintain comprehensive data inventories under paragraph (1). Such guidance shall include the following:

“(A) A requirement for the head of an agency to include in the comprehensive data inventory metadata on each data asset of the agency, including, to the maximum extent practicable, the following:

“(i) A description of the data asset, including all variable names and definitions.

“(ii) The name or title of the data asset.

“(iii) An indication of whether or not the agency—

“(I) has determined or can determine if the data asset is—

“(aa) an open Government data asset;

“(bb) subject to disclosure or partial disclosure or exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5;

“(cc) a public data asset eligible for disclosure under subsection (b); or

“(dd) a data asset not subject to open format or open license requirements due to existing limitations or restrictions on government distribution of the asset; or

“(II) as of the date of such indication, has not made such determination.

“(iv) Any determination made under section 3582, if available.

“(v) A description of the method by which the public may access or request access to the data asset.

“(vi) The date on which the data asset was most recently updated.

“(vii) Each agency responsible for maintaining the data asset.

“(viii) The owner of the data asset.

“(ix) To the extent practicable, any restriction on the use of the data asset.

“(x) The location of the data asset.

“(xi) Any other metadata necessary to make the comprehensive data inventory useful to the agency and the public, or otherwise determined useful by the Director.

“(B) A requirement for the head of an agency to exclude from the comprehensive data inventory any data asset contained on a national security system, as defined in section 11103 of title 40.

“(C) Criteria for the head of an agency to use in determining which metadata required by subparagraph (A), if any, in the com-

prehensive data inventory may not be made publicly available, which shall include, at a minimum, a requirement to ensure all information that could not otherwise be withheld from disclosure under section 552 of title 5 is made public in the comprehensive data inventory.

“(D) A requirement for the head of each agency, in accordance with a procedure established by the Director, to submit for inclusion in the Federal data catalogue maintained under subsection (c) the comprehensive data inventory developed pursuant to subparagraph (C), including any real-time updates to such inventory, and data assets made available in accordance with subparagraph (E) or any electronic hyperlink providing access to such data assets.

“(E) Criteria for the head of an agency to use in determining whether a particular data asset should not be made publicly available in a manner that takes into account—

“(i) risks and restrictions related to the disclosure of personally identifiable information, including the risk that an individual data asset in isolation does not pose a privacy or confidentiality risk but when combined with other available information may pose such a risk;

“(ii) security considerations, including the risk that information in an individual data asset in isolation does not pose a security risk but when combined with other available information may pose such a risk;

“(iii) the cost and benefits to the public of converting the data into a format that could be understood and used by the public;

“(iv) whether the public dissemination of the data asset could result in legal liability; and

“(v) whether the data asset—

“(I) is subject to intellectual property rights, including rights under titles 17 and 35;

“(II) contains confidential business information, that could be withheld under section 552(b)(4) of title 5; or

“(III) is restricted by contract or other binding, written agreement;

“(vi) whether the holder of a right to such data asset has been consulted;

“(vii) the expectation that all data assets that would otherwise be made available under section 552 of title 5 be disclosed; and

“(viii) any other considerations that the Director determines to be relevant.

“(F) Criteria for the head of an agency to use in assessing the indication of a determination under subparagraph (A)(iii) and how to prioritize any such subsequent determinations in the strategic information management plan under section 3506, in consideration of the existing resources available to the agency.

“(3) REGULAR UPDATES REQUIRED.—With respect to each data asset created or identified by an agency, the head of the agency shall update the comprehensive data inventory of the agency not later than 90 days after the date of such creation or identification.

“(b) PUBLIC DATA ASSETS.—The head of each agency shall submit public data assets, or links to public data assets available online, as open Government data assets for inclusion in the Federal data catalogue maintained under subsection (c), in accordance with the guidance established under subsection (a)(2).

“(c) FEDERAL DATA CATALOGUE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services shall maintain a single public interface online as a point of entry dedicated to sharing agency data assets with the public, which shall be known as the ‘Federal data catalogue’. The Administrator and the Director shall ensure that agencies can submit public data assets, or links to public data assets, for publication and public availability on the interface.

“(2) REPOSITORY.—The Director shall collaborate with the Office of Government Information Services and the Administrator of General Services to develop and maintain an online repository of tools, best practices, and schema standards to facilitate the adoption of open data practices across the Federal Government, which shall—

“(A) include any definitions, regulations, policies, checklists, and case studies related to open data policy;

“(B) facilitate collaboration and the adoption of best practices across the Federal Government relating to the adoption of open data practices; and

“(C) be made available on the Federal data catalogue maintained under paragraph (1).

“(3) ACCESS TO OTHER DATA ASSETS.—The Director shall ensure the Federal data catalogue maintained under paragraph (1) provides information on how the public can access a data asset included in a comprehensive data inventory under subsection (a) that is not yet available on the Federal data catalogue, including information regarding the application process established under section 3583 of title 44.

“(d) DELEGATION.—The Director shall delegate to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government the authority to jointly issue guidance required under this section.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The item relating to section 3511 of the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“3511. Data inventory and Federal data catalogue.”.

(B) CROSS-REFERENCE.—Section 3504(b)(2)(A) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking “the use of the Government Information Locator Service” and inserting “the use of comprehensive data inventories and the Federal data catalogue under section 3511”.

(e) CHIEF DATA OFFICERS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 3520 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§3520. Chief Data Officers**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The head of each agency shall designate a career appointee (as defined in section 3132 of title 5) in the agency as the Chief Data Officer of the agency.

“(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Chief Data Officer of an agency shall be designated on the basis of demonstrated training and experience in data management, governance (including creation, application, and maintenance of data standards), collection, analysis, protection, use, and dissemination, including with respect to any statistical and related techniques to protect and de-identify confidential data.

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Chief Data Officer of an agency shall—

“(1) be responsible for lifecycle data management;

“(2) coordinate with any official in the agency responsible for using, protecting, disseminating, and generating data to ensure that the data needs of the agency are met;

“(3) manage data assets of the agency, including the standardization of data format, sharing of data assets, and publication of data assets in accordance with applicable law;

“(4) in carrying out the requirements under paragraphs (3) and (5), consult with any statistical official of the agency (as designated under section 314 of title 5);

“(5) carry out the requirements of the agency under subsections (b) through (d), (f), and (i) of section 3506, section 3507, and section 3511;

“(6) ensure that, to the extent practicable, agency data conforms with data management best practices;

“(7) engage agency employees, the public, and contractors in using public data assets and encourage collaborative approaches on improving data use;

“(8) support the Performance Improvement Officer of the agency in identifying and using data to carry out the functions described in section 1124(a)(2) of title 31;

“(9) support the Evaluation Officer of the agency in obtaining data to carry out the functions described in section 313(d) of title 5;

“(10) review the impact of the infrastructure of the agency on data asset accessibility and coordinate with the Chief Information Officer of the agency to improve such infrastructure to reduce barriers that inhibit data asset accessibility;

“(11) ensure that, to the extent practicable, the agency maximizes the use of data in the agency, including for the production of evidence (as defined in section 3561), cybersecurity, and the improvement of agency operations;

“(12) identify points of contact for roles and responsibilities related to open data use and implementation (as required by the Director);

“(13) serve as the agency liaison to other agencies and the Office of Management and Budget on the best way to use existing agency data for statistical purposes (as defined in section 3561); and

“(14) comply with any regulation and guidance issued under subchapter III, including the acquisition and maintenance of any required certification and training.

“(d) DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent necessary to comply with statistical laws, the Chief Data Officer of an agency shall delegate any responsibility under subsection (c) to the head of a statistical agency or unit (as defined in section 3561) within the agency.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—To the extent permissible under law, the individual to whom a responsibility has been delegated under paragraph (1) shall consult with the Chief Data Officer of the agency in carrying out such responsibility.

“(3) DEFERENCE.—The Chief Data Officer of the agency shall defer to the individual to whom a responsibility has been delegated under paragraph (1) regarding the necessary delegation of such responsibility with respect to any data acquired, maintained, or disseminated by the agency under applicable statistical law.

“(e) REPORTS.—The Chief Data Officer of an agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives an annual report on the compliance of the agency with the requirements of this subchapter, including information on each requirement that the agency could not carry out and, if applicable, what the agency needs to carry out such requirement.”

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 3520 of the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“3520. Chief Data Officers.”

(f) CHIEF DATA OFFICER COUNCIL.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting before section 3521 the following new section:

“§ 3520A. Chief Data Officer Council

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Office of Management and Budget a

Chief Data Officer Council (in this section referred to as the ‘Council’).

“(b) PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall—

“(1) establish Governmentwide best practices for the use, protection, dissemination, and generation of data;

“(2) promote and encourage data sharing agreements between agencies;

“(3) identify ways in which agencies can improve upon the production of evidence for use in policymaking;

“(4) consult with the public and engage with private users of Government data and other stakeholders on how to improve access to data assets of the Federal Government; and

“(5) identify and evaluate new technology solutions for improving the collection and use of data.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Data Officer of each agency shall serve as a member of the Council.

“(2) CHAIR.—The Director shall select the Chair of the Council from among the members of the Council.

“(3) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government shall serve as a member of the Council.

“(4) EX OFFICIO MEMBER.—The Director shall appoint a representative for all Chief Information Officers and Evaluation Officers, and such representative shall serve as an ex officio member of the Council.

“(d) REPORTS.—The Council shall submit to the Director, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a biennial report on the work of the Council.

“(e) EVALUATION AND TERMINATION.—

“(1) GAO EVALUATION OF COUNCIL.—Not later than 4 years after date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on whether the additional duties of the Council improved the use of evidence and program evaluation in the Federal Government.

“(2) TERMINATION OF COUNCIL.—The Council shall terminate and this section shall be repealed upon the expiration of the 2-year period that begins on the date the Comptroller General submits the report under paragraph (1) to Congress.”

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 3521 the following new item:

“3520A. Chief Data Officer Council.”

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report that identifies, to the extent practicable—

(A) the value of information made available to the public as a result of this Act and the amendments made by this Act;

(B) whether the public availability of any information that has not yet been made so available would be valuable to the public; and

(C) the completeness of each comprehensive data inventory developed under section 3511 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by subsection (d).

(2) BIENNIAL OMB REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Director of the

Office of Management and Budget shall electronically publish a report on agency performance and compliance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

**TITLE III—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY**

**SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the ‘Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018’.

**SEC. 302. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER III—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY

“PART A—GENERAL

“§ 3561. Definitions

“In this subchapter:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ means any entity that falls within the definition of the term ‘executive agency’, as defined in section 102 of title 31, or ‘agency’, as defined in section 3502.

“(2) AGENT.—The term ‘agent’ means an individual—

“(A)(i) who is an employee of a private organization or a researcher affiliated with an institution of higher learning (including a person granted special sworn status by the Bureau of the Census under section 23(c) of title 13), and with whom a contract or other agreement is executed, on a temporary basis, by an executive agency to perform exclusively statistical activities under the control and supervision of an officer or employee of that agency;

“(ii) who is working under the authority of a government entity with which a contract or other agreement is executed by an executive agency to perform exclusively statistical activities under the control of an officer or employee of that agency;

“(iii) who is a self-employed researcher, a consultant, a contractor, or an employee of a contractor, and with whom a contract or other agreement is executed by an executive agency to perform a statistical activity under the control of an officer or employee of that agency; or

“(iv) who is a contractor or an employee of a contractor, and who is engaged by the agency to design or maintain the systems for handling or storage of data received under this subchapter; and

“(B) who agrees in writing to comply with all provisions of law that affect information acquired by that agency.

“(3) BUSINESS DATA.—The term ‘business data’ means operating and financial data and information about businesses, tax-exempt organizations, and government entities.

“(4) DATA ASSET.—The term ‘data asset’ has the meaning given that term in section 3502.

“(5) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(6) EVIDENCE.—The term ‘evidence’ means information produced as a result of statistical activities conducted for a statistical purpose.

“(7) IDENTIFIABLE FORM.—The term ‘identifiable form’ means any representation of information that permits the identity of the respondent to whom the information applies to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means.

“(8) NONSTATISTICAL PURPOSE.—The term ‘nonstatistical purpose’—

“(A) means the use of data in identifiable form for any purpose that is not a statistical purpose, including any administrative, regulatory, law enforcement, adjudicatory, or



other purpose that affects the rights, privileges, or benefits of a particular identifiable respondent; and

“(B) includes the disclosure under section 552 of title 5 of data that are acquired for exclusively statistical purposes under a pledge of confidentiality.

“(9) RESPONDENT.—The term ‘respondent’ means a person who, or organization that, is requested or required to supply information to an agency, is the subject of information requested or required to be supplied to an agency, or provides that information to an agency.

“(10) STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘statistical activities’—

“(A) means the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of data for the purpose of describing or making estimates concerning the whole, or relevant groups or components within, the economy, society, or the natural environment; and

“(B) includes the development of methods or resources that support those activities, such as measurement methods, models, statistical classifications, or sampling frames.

“(11) STATISTICAL AGENCY OR UNIT.—The term ‘statistical agency or unit’ means an agency or organizational unit of the executive branch whose activities are predominantly the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of information for statistical purposes, as designated by the Director under section 3562.

“(12) STATISTICAL PURPOSE.—The term ‘statistical purpose’—

“(A) means the description, estimation, or analysis of the characteristics of groups, without identifying the individuals or organizations that comprise such groups; and

“(B) includes the development, implementation, or maintenance of methods, technical or administrative procedures, or information resources that support the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

#### “§ 3562. Coordination and oversight of policies

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall coordinate and oversee the confidentiality and disclosure policies established by this subchapter. The Director may promulgate rules or provide other guidance to ensure consistent interpretation of this subchapter by the affected agencies. The Director shall develop a process by which the Director designates agencies or organizational units as statistical agencies and units. The Director shall promulgate guidance to implement such process, which shall include specific criteria for such designation and methods by which the Director will ensure transparency in the process.

“(b) AGENCY RULES.—Subject to subsection (c), agencies may promulgate rules to implement this subchapter. Rules governing disclosures of information that are authorized by this subchapter shall be promulgated by the agency that originally collected the information.

“(c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RULES.—The Director shall review any rules proposed by an agency pursuant to this subchapter for consistency with the provisions of this chapter and such rules shall be subject to the approval of the Director.

“(d) REPORTS.—

“(1) The head of each agency shall provide to the Director such reports and other information as the Director requests.

“(2) Each Designated Statistical Agency (as defined in section 3576(e)) shall report annually to the Director, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the actions it has taken to implement section 3576. The

report shall include copies of each written agreement entered into pursuant to section 3576(c)(1) for the applicable year.

“(3) The Director shall include a summary of reports submitted to the Director under this subsection and actions taken by the Director to advance the purposes of this subchapter in the annual report to Congress on statistical programs prepared under section 3504(e)(2).

#### “§ 3563. Statistical agencies

“(a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each statistical agency or unit shall—

“(A) produce and disseminate relevant and timely statistical information;

“(B) conduct credible and accurate statistical activities;

“(C) conduct objective statistical activities; and

“(D) protect the trust of information providers by ensuring the confidentiality and exclusive statistical use of their responses.

“(2) POLICIES, BEST PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES.—Each statistical agency or unit shall adopt policies, best practices, and appropriate procedures to implement the responsibilities described in paragraph (1).

“(b) SUPPORT FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—The head of each agency shall enable, support, and facilitate statistical agencies or units in carrying out the responsibilities described in subsection (a)(1).

“(c) REGULATIONS.—The Director shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ACCURATE.—The term ‘accurate’, when used with respect to statistical activities, means statistics that consistently match the events and trends being measured.

“(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The term ‘confidentiality’ means a quality or condition accorded to information as an obligation not to disclose that information to an unauthorized party.

“(3) OBJECTIVE.—The term ‘objective’, when used with respect to statistical activities, means accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased.

“(4) RELEVANT.—The term ‘relevant’, when used with respect to statistical information, means processes, activities, and other such matters likely to be useful to policymakers and public and private sector data users.

#### “§ 3564. Effect on other laws

“(a) TITLE 44, UNITED STATES CODE.—This subchapter does not diminish the authority under section 3510 of the Director to direct, and of an agency to make, disclosures that are not inconsistent with any applicable law.

“(b) TITLE 13 AND TITLE 44, UNITED STATES CODE.—This subchapter does not diminish the authority of the Bureau of the Census to provide information in accordance with sections 8, 16, 301, and 401 of title 13 and section 2108 of this title.

“(c) TITLE 13, UNITED STATES CODE.—This subchapter shall not be construed as authorizing the disclosure for nonstatistical purposes of demographic data or information collected by the Bureau of the Census pursuant to section 9 of title 13.

“(d) VARIOUS ENERGY STATUTES.—Data or information acquired by the Energy Information Administration under a pledge of confidentiality and designated by the Energy Information Administration to be used for exclusively statistical purposes shall not be disclosed in identifiable form for nonstatistical purposes under—

“(1) section 12, 20, or 59 of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 771, 779, 790h);

“(2) section 11 of the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 796); or

“(3) section 205 or 407 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7135, 7177).

“(e) SECTION 201 OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974.—This subchapter shall not be construed to limit any authorities of the Congressional Budget Office to work (consistent with laws governing the confidentiality of information the disclosure of which would be a violation of law) with databases of Designated Statistical Agencies (as defined in section 3576(e)), either separately or, for data that may be shared pursuant to section 3576(c) or other authority, jointly in order to improve the general utility of these databases for the statistical purpose of analyzing pension and health care financing issues.

“(f) PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW.—Nothing in this subchapter shall preempt applicable State law regarding the confidentiality of data collected by the States.

“(g) STATUTES REGARDING FALSE STATEMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 3572, information collected by an agency for exclusively statistical purposes under a pledge of confidentiality may be provided by the collecting agency to a law enforcement agency for the prosecution of submissions to the collecting agency of false statistical information under statutes that authorize criminal penalties (such as section 221 of title 13) or civil penalties for the provision of false statistical information, unless such disclosure or use would otherwise be prohibited under Federal law.

“(h) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as restricting or diminishing any confidentiality protections or penalties for unauthorized disclosure that otherwise apply to data or information collected for statistical purposes or nonstatistical purposes, including, but not limited to, section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(i) AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to affect the authority of the Congress, including its committees, members, or agents, to obtain data or information for a statistical purpose, including for oversight of an agency’s statistical activities.

#### “PART B—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION

##### “§ 3571. Findings

“The Congress finds the following:

“(1) Individuals, businesses, and other organizations have varying degrees of legal protection when providing information to the agencies for strictly statistical purposes.

“(2) Pledges of confidentiality by agencies provide assurances to the public that information about individuals or organizations or provided by individuals or organizations for exclusively statistical purposes will be held in confidence and will not be used against such individuals or organizations in any agency action.

“(3) Protecting the confidentiality interests of individuals or organizations who provide information under a pledge of confidentiality for Federal statistical programs serves both the interests of the public and the needs of society.

“(4) Declining trust of the public in the protection of information provided under a pledge of confidentiality to the agencies adversely affects both the accuracy and completeness of statistical analyses.

“(5) Ensuring that information provided under a pledge of confidentiality for statistical purposes receives protection is essential in continuing public cooperation in statistical programs.

##### “§ 3572. Confidential information protection

“(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are the following:

“(1) To ensure that information supplied by individuals or organizations to an agency for statistical purposes under a pledge of confidentiality is used exclusively for statistical purposes.

“(2) To ensure that individuals or organizations who supply information under a pledge of confidentiality to agencies for statistical purposes will neither have that information disclosed in identifiable form to anyone not authorized by this subchapter nor have that information used for any purpose other than a statistical purpose.

“(3) To safeguard the confidentiality of individually identifiable information acquired under a pledge of confidentiality for statistical purposes by controlling access to, and uses made of, such information.

“(b) USE OF STATISTICAL DATA OR INFORMATION.—Data or information acquired by an agency under a pledge of confidentiality and for exclusively statistical purposes shall be used by officers, employees, or agents of the agency exclusively for statistical purposes and protected in accordance with such pledge.

“(c) DISCLOSURE OF STATISTICAL DATA OR INFORMATION.—

“(1) Data or information acquired by an agency under a pledge of confidentiality for exclusively statistical purposes shall not be disclosed by an agency in identifiable form, for any use other than an exclusively statistical purpose, except with the informed consent of the respondent.

“(2) A disclosure pursuant to paragraph (1) is authorized only when the head of the agency approves such disclosure and the disclosure is not prohibited by any other law.

“(3) This section does not restrict or diminish any confidentiality protections in law that otherwise apply to data or information acquired by an agency under a pledge of confidentiality for exclusively statistical purposes.

“(d) RULE FOR USE OF DATA OR INFORMATION FOR NONSTATISTICAL PURPOSES.—A statistical agency or unit shall clearly distinguish any data or information it collects for nonstatistical purposes (as authorized by law) and provide notice to the public, before the data or information is collected, that the data or information could be used for nonstatistical purposes.

“(e) DESIGNATION OF AGENTS.—A statistical agency or unit may designate agents, by contract or by entering into a special agreement containing the provisions required under section 3561(2) for treatment as an agent under that section, who may perform exclusively statistical activities, subject to the limitations and penalties described in this subchapter.

“(f) FINES AND PENALTIES.—Whoever, being an officer, employee, or agent of an agency acquiring information for exclusively statistical purposes, having taken and subscribed the oath of office, or having sworn to observe the limitations imposed by this section, comes into possession of such information by reason of his or her being an officer, employee, or agent and, knowing that the disclosure of the specific information is prohibited under the provisions of this subchapter, willfully discloses the information in any manner to a person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a class E felony and imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or fined not more than \$250,000, or both.

#### “PART C—STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY

##### “§ 3575. Findings

“The Congress finds the following:

“(1) Federal statistics are an important source of information for public and private decision-makers such as policymakers, consumers, businesses, investors, and workers.

“(2) Federal statistical agencies should continuously seek to improve their effi-

ciency. Statutory constraints limit the ability of these agencies to share data and thus to achieve higher efficiency for Federal statistical programs.

“(3) The quality of Federal statistics depends on the willingness of businesses to respond to statistical surveys. Reducing reporting burdens will increase response rates, and therefore lead to more accurate characterizations of the economy.

“(4) Enhanced sharing of business data among the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for exclusively statistical purposes will improve their ability to track more accurately the large and rapidly changing nature of United States business. In particular, the statistical agencies will be able to better ensure that businesses are consistently classified in appropriate industries, resolve data anomalies, produce statistical samples that are consistently adjusted for the entry and exit of new businesses in a timely manner, and correct faulty reporting errors quickly and efficiently.

“(5) Congress enacted the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (Public Law 94-472), which allowed the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to share data on foreign-owned companies. The Act not only expanded detailed industry coverage from 135 industries to over 800 industries with no increase in the data collected from respondents but also demonstrated how data sharing can result in the creation of valuable data products.

“(6) With part B of this subchapter, the sharing of business data among the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics continues to ensure the highest level of confidentiality for respondents to statistical surveys.

##### “§ 3576. Designated statistical agencies

“(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are the following:

“(1) To authorize the sharing of business data among the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for exclusively statistical purposes.

“(2) To reduce the paperwork burdens imposed on businesses that provide requested information to the Federal Government.

“(3) To improve the comparability and accuracy of Federal economic statistics by allowing the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to update sample frames, develop consistent classifications of establishments and companies into industries, improve coverage, and reconcile significant differences in data produced by the three agencies.

“(4) To increase understanding of the United States economy, especially for key industry and regional statistics, to develop more accurate measures of the impact of technology on productivity growth, and to enhance the reliability of the Nation's most important economic indicators, such as the National Income and Product Accounts.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF DESIGNATED STATISTICAL AGENCIES.—The head of each of the Designated Statistical Agencies shall—

“(1) identify opportunities to eliminate duplication and otherwise reduce reporting burden and cost imposed on the public in providing information for statistical purposes;

“(2) enter into joint statistical projects to improve the quality and reduce the cost of statistical programs; and

“(3) protect the confidentiality of individually identifiable information acquired for statistical purposes by adhering to safeguard principles, including—

“(A) emphasizing to their officers, employees, and agents the importance of protecting the confidentiality of information in cases where the identity of individual respondents can reasonably be inferred by either direct or indirect means;

“(B) training their officers, employees, and agents in their legal obligations to protect the confidentiality of individually identifiable information and in the procedures that must be followed to provide access to such information;

“(C) implementing appropriate measures to assure the physical and electronic security of confidential data;

“(D) establishing a system of records that identifies individuals accessing confidential data and the project for which the data were required; and

“(E) being prepared to document their compliance with safeguard principles to other agencies authorized by law to monitor such compliance.

“(c) SHARING OF BUSINESS DATA AMONG DESIGNATED STATISTICAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Designated Statistical Agency may provide business data in an identifiable form to another Designated Statistical Agency under the terms of a written agreement among the agencies sharing the business data that specifies—

“(A) the business data to be shared;

“(B) the statistical purposes for which the business data are to be used;

“(C) the officers, employees, and agents authorized to examine the business data to be shared; and

“(D) appropriate security procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of the business data.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCIES UNDER OTHER LAWS.—The provision of business data by an agency to a Designated Statistical Agency under this section shall in no way alter the responsibility of the agency providing the data under other statutes (including sections 552 and 552b of title 5) with respect to the provision or withholding of such information by the agency providing the data.

“(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AND AGENTS.—Examination of business data in identifiable form shall be limited to the officers, employees, and agents authorized to examine the individual reports in accordance with written agreements pursuant to this section. Officers, employees, and agents of a Designated Statistical Agency who receive data pursuant to this section shall be subject to all provisions of law, including penalties, that relate—

“(A) to the unlawful provision of the business data that would apply to the officers, employees, and agents of the agency that originally obtained the information; and

“(B) to the unlawful disclosure of the business data that would apply to officers, employees, and agents of the agency that originally obtained the information.

“(4) NOTICE.—Whenever a written agreement concerns data that respondents were required by law to report and the respondents were not informed that the data could be shared among the Designated Statistical Agencies, for exclusively statistical purposes, the terms of such agreement shall be described in a public notice issued by the agency that intends to provide the data. Such notice shall allow a minimum of 60 days for public comment.

“(d) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF BUSINESS DATA PROVIDED BY DESIGNATED STATISTICAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) GENERAL USE.—Business data provided by a Designated Statistical Agency pursuant to this section shall be used exclusively for statistical purposes.

“(2) PUBLICATION.—Publication of business data acquired by a Designated Statistical Agency shall occur in a manner whereby the data furnished by any particular respondent are not in identifiable form.

“(e) DESIGNATED STATISTICAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Designated Statistical Agency’ means each of the following:

“(1) The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce.

“(2) The Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce.

“(3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER III—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY

“PART A—GENERAL

“3561. Definitions.

“3562. Coordination and oversight of policies.

“3563. Statistical agencies.

“3564. Effect on other laws.

“PART B—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION

“3571. Findings.

“3572. Confidential information protection.

“PART C—STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY

“3575. Findings.

“3576. Designated statistical agencies.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REPEAL OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND STATISTICAL EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2002.—Title V of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is repealed (and the table of contents of such Act shall be conformed accordingly).

(2) TITLE 13, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 402 of title 13, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002” and inserting “section 3576(e) of title 44”.

(3) TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 6302(d)(4), by striking “the Confidential Information” and all that follows through the period and inserting “section 3572 of title 44.”; and

(B) in section 6314(d)(2), by striking “the Confidential Information” and all that follows through the period and inserting “section 3572 of title 44.”

(4) ACT OF JANUARY 27, 1938.—The first section of the Act of January 27, 1938, entitled “An Act to make confidential certain information furnished to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and for other purposes” (52 Stat. 8, chapter 11; 15 U.S.C. 176a), is amended by striking “the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002” and inserting “subchapter III of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code”.

(5) FIXING AMERICA’S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT.—Section 7308(e)(2) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (Public Law 114-94; 49 U.S.C. 20155 note) is amended by striking “the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note)” and inserting “section 3572 of title 44, United States Code”.

(d) TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

(1) CUTOFF DATE.—This title replaces certain provisions of law enacted on December 17, 2002. If a law enacted after that date amends or repeals a provision replaced by this title, that law is deemed to amend or repeal, as the case may be, the corresponding provision enacted by this title. If a law enacted after that date is otherwise incon-

sistent with this title, it supersedes this title to the extent of the inconsistency.

(2) ORIGINAL DATE OF ENACTMENT UNCHANGED.—For purposes of determining whether one provision of law supersedes another based on enactment later in time, the date of the enactment of a provision enacted by this title is deemed to be the date of the enactment of the provision it replaced.

(3) REFERENCES TO PROVISIONS REPLACED.—A reference to a provision of law replaced by this title, including a reference in a regulation, order, or other law, is deemed to refer to the corresponding provision enacted by this title.

(4) REGULATIONS, ORDERS, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—A regulation, order, or other administrative action in effect under a provision of law replaced by this title continues in effect under the corresponding provision enacted by this title.

(5) ACTIONS TAKEN AND OFFENSES COMMITTED.—An action taken or an offense committed under a provision of law replaced by this title is deemed to have been taken or committed under the corresponding provision enacted by this title.

**SEC. 303. INCREASING ACCESS TO DATA FOR EVIDENCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as added by section 302, is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

**“PART D—ACCESS TO DATA FOR EVIDENCE**

**“§ 3581. Presumption of accessibility for statistical agencies and units**

“(a) ACCESSIBILITY OF DATA ASSETS.—The head of an agency shall, to the extent practicable, make any data asset maintained by the agency available, upon request, to any statistical agency or unit for purposes of developing evidence.

“(b) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to any data asset that is subject to a statute that—

“(1) prohibits the sharing or intended use of such asset in a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue; or

“(2) if enacted after the date of the enactment of this section, specifically cites to this paragraph.

“(c) REGULATIONS.—The Director shall prescribe regulations for agencies to carry out this section. Such regulations shall—

“(1) require the timely provision of data assets under subsection (a);

“(2) provide a list of statutes that exempt agencies from the requirement under subsection (a) pursuant to subsection (b)(1);

“(3) establish clear and consistent standards, to the extent possible, for complying with section 552a of title 5 (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’) and any other applicable law requiring the protection and confidentiality of individually identifiable information; and

“(4) require a transparent process for statistical agencies and units to request data assets from agencies and for agencies to respond to such requests.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as altering existing intellectual property rights or the terms of any contract or other binding, written agreement.

**“§ 3582. Expanding secure access to CIPSEA data assets**

“(a) STATISTICAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—To the extent practicable, each statistical agency or unit shall expand access to data assets of such agency or unit acquired or accessed under this subchapter to develop evidence while protecting such assets from inappropriate access and use, in accordance with the regulations promulgated under subsection (b).

“(b) REGULATIONS FOR ACCESSIBILITY OF NONPUBLIC DATA ASSETS.—The Director shall promulgate regulations, in accordance with applicable law, for statistical agencies and units to carry out the requirement under subsection (a). Such regulations shall include the following:

“(1) Standards for each statistical agency or unit to assess each data asset owned or accessed by the statistical agency or unit for purposes of categorizing the sensitivity level of each such asset and identifying the corresponding level of accessibility to each such asset. Such standards shall include—

“(A) common sensitivity levels and corresponding levels of accessibility that may be assigned to a data asset, including a requisite minimum and maximum number of sensitivity levels for each statistical agency or unit to use;

“(B) criteria for determining the sensitivity level and corresponding level of accessibility of each data asset; and

“(C) criteria for determining whether a less sensitive and more accessible version of a data asset can be produced.

“(2) Standards for each statistical agency or unit to improve access to a data asset pursuant to paragraph (1) or (3) by removing or obscuring information in such a manner that the identity of the data subject is less likely to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means.

“(3) A requirement for each statistical agency or unit to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment of any data asset acquired or accessed under this subchapter prior to any public release of such asset, including standards for such comprehensive risk assessment and criteria for making a determination of whether to release the data.

“(4) Requirements for each statistical agency or unit to make any process or assessment established, produced, or conducted pursuant to this section transparent and easy to understand, including the following:

“(A) A requirement to make information on the assessment of the sensitivity level of each data asset conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) available on the Federal data catalogue established under section 3511(c)(1).

“(B) A requirement to make any comprehensive risk assessment, and associated determinations, conducted under paragraph (3) available on the Federal data catalogue established under section 3511(c)(1).

“(C) A requirement to make any standard or policy established by the statistical agency or unit to carry out this section and any assessment conducted under this section easily accessible on the public website of such agency or unit.

“(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director shall—

“(1) make public all standards and policies established under this section; and

“(2) ensure that statistical agencies and units have the ability to make information public on the Federal data catalogue established under section 3511(c)(1), in accordance with requirements established pursuant to subsection (b).

**“§ 3583. Application to access data assets for developing evidence**

“(a) STANDARD APPLICATION PROCESS.—The Director shall establish a process through which agencies, the Congressional Budget Office, State, local, and Tribal governments, researchers, and other individuals, as appropriate, may apply to access the data assets accessed or acquired under this subchapter by a statistical agency or unit for purposes of developing evidence. The process shall include the following:

“(1) Sufficient detail to ensure that each statistical agency or unit establishes an identical process.

“(2) A common application form.

“(3) Criteria for statistical agencies and units to determine whether to grant an applicant access to a data asset.

“(4) Timeframes for prompt determinations by each statistical agency or unit.

“(5) An appeals process for adverse decisions and noncompliance with the process established under this subsection.

“(6) Standards for transparency, including requirements to make the following information publicly available:

“(A) Each application received.

“(B) The status of each application.

“(C) The determination made for each application.

“(D) Any other information, as appropriate, to ensure full transparency of the process established under this subsection.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the process required under subsection (a), the Director shall consult with stakeholders, including the public, agencies, State and local governments, and representatives of non-governmental researchers.

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The head of each statistical agency or unit shall implement the process established under subsection (a).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART D—ACCESS TO DATA FOR EVIDENCE

“3581. Presumption of accessibility for statistical agencies and units.

“3582. Expanding secure access to CIPSEA data assets.

“3583. Application to access data assets for developing evidence.”.

(c) DEADLINE FOR GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall promulgate or issue any regulation or guidance required by subchapter III of title 44, United States Code, as amended by this section, with a requirement for such regulation or guidance to be implemented not later than 1 year after the date on which such regulation or guidance has been promulgated or issued.

#### TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### SEC. 401. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed—

(1) to require the disclosure of information or records that are exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”);

(2) to create or expand an exemption from disclosure under such section;

(3) to override, limit, or otherwise affect intellectual property rights, including rights under titles 17 and 35, United States Code;

(4) to affect the authority of a Federal agency regarding the use, disclosure, or licensing of—

(A) confidential business information that could be withheld under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code; or

(B) data assets restricted from disclosure under a contract or other binding, written agreement; or

(5) to affect the independence, responsibilities, or work products of an Inspector General of any agency.

##### SEC. 402. USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.

To the extent practicable, the head of each agency shall use existing procedures and systems to carry out agency requirements and shall select existing employees for appointments under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

##### SEC. 403. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided, this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 4172.** Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5509, to direct the National Science Foundation to provide grants for research about STEM education approaches and the STEM-related workforce, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act”.

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) To remain competitive in the global economy, foster greater innovation, and provide a foundation for shared prosperity, the United States needs a workforce with the right mix of skills to meet the diverse needs of the economy.

(2) Evidence indicates that the returns on investments in technical skills in the labor market are strong when students successfully complete their education and gain credentials sought by employers.

(3) The responsibility for developing and sustaining a skilled technical workforce is fragmented across many groups, including educators, students, workers, employers, Federal, State, and local governments, civic associations, and other stakeholders. Such groups need to be able to coordinate and cooperate successfully with each other.

(4) Coordination among students, community colleges, secondary and post-secondary institutions, and employers would improve educational outcomes.

(5) Promising experiments currently underway may guide innovation and reform, but scalability of some of those experiments has not yet been tested.

(6) Evidence suggests that integration of academic education, technical skills development, and hands-on work experience improves outcomes and return on investment for students in secondary and post-secondary education and for skilled technical workers in different career stages.

(7) Outcomes show that mentoring can increase STEM student engagement and the rate of completion of STEM post-secondary degrees.

##### SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION STEM INNOVATION AND APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS.

Section 3 of the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 1862i) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (g) through (j), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) GRANTS FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN STEM FIELDS.—

“(1) IN-DEMAND WORKFORCE GRANTS.—The Director shall award grants to junior or community colleges to develop or improve associate degree or certificate programs in STEM fields, with respect to the region in which the respective college is located, and an in-demand industry sector or occupation.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—In considering applications for grants under paragraph (1), the Director shall prioritize—

“(A) applications that consist of a partnership between the applying junior or community college and individual employers or an

employer consortia, or industry or sector partnerships, and may include a university or other organization with demonstrated expertise in academic program development;

“(B) applications that demonstrate current and future workforce demand in occupations directly related to the proposed associate degree or certificate program;

“(C) applications that include commitments by the partnering employers or employer consortia, or industry or sector partnerships, to offer apprenticeships, internships, or other applied learning opportunities to students enrolled in the proposed associate degree or certificate program;

“(D) applications that include outreach plans and goals for recruiting and enrolling women and other underrepresented populations in STEM fields in the proposed associate degree or certificate program; and

“(E) applications that describe how the applying junior or community college will support the collection of information and data for purposes of evaluation of the proposed associate degree or certificate program.

“(e) GRANTS FOR STEM DEGREE APPLIED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award grants to institutions of higher education partnering with private sector employers or private sector employer consortia, or industry or sector partnerships, that commit to offering apprenticeships, internships, research opportunities, or applied learning experiences to enrolled students in identified STEM baccalaureate degree programs.

“(2) PURPOSES.—Awards under this subsection may be used—

“(A) to develop curricula and programs for apprenticeship, internships, research opportunities, or applied learning experiences; or

“(B) to provide matching funds to incentivize partnership and participation by private sector employers and industry.

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—In considering applications for grants under paragraph (1), the Director shall prioritize—

“(A) applicants that consist of a partnership between—

“(i) the applying institution of higher education; and

“(ii) individual employers or an employer consortia, or industry or sector partnerships;

“(B) applications that demonstrate current and future workforce demand in occupations directly related to the identified STEM fields;

“(C) applications that include outreach plans and goals for recruiting and enrolling women and other underrepresented populations in STEM fields; and

“(D) applications that describe how the institution of higher education will support the collection and information of data for purposes of the evaluation of identified STEM degree programs.

“(f) GRANTS FOR COMPUTER-BASED AND ONLINE STEM EDUCATION COURSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall award competitive grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations to conduct research on student outcomes and determine best practices for STEM education and technical skills education through distance learning or in a simulated work environment.

“(2) RESEARCH AREAS.—The research areas eligible for funding under this subsection may include—

“(A) post-secondary courses for technical skills development for STEM occupations;

“(B) improving high-school level career and technical education in STEM subjects;

“(C) encouraging and sustaining interest and achievement levels in STEM subjects

among women and other populations historically underrepresented in STEM studies and careers; and

“(D) combining computer-based and online STEM education and skills development with traditional mentoring and other mentoring arrangements, apprenticeships, internships, and other applied learning opportunities.”;

(3) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by striking the comma and inserting a semicolon;

(4) in subsection (c)(1)(B)(iv), by striking “subsection (f)(3)” and inserting “subsection (i)(3)”;

(5) in subsection (h), as redesignated—

(A) in the heading, by striking “LIMITATION ON FUNDING” and inserting “FUNDING”;

(B) by inserting “(3) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—” before “To qualify” and indenting appropriately; and

(C) by inserting before paragraph (3), as redesignated, the following:

“(1) FUNDING.—The Director shall allocate out of amounts made available for the Education and Human Resources Directorate—

“(A) up to \$5,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (d) for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022, subject to the availability of appropriations;

“(B) up to \$2,500,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (e) for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022, subject to the availability of appropriations; and

“(C) up to \$2,500,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (f) for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2022, subject to the availability of appropriations.

“(2) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—Amounts made available to carry out subsections (d), (e), and (f) shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the National Science Foundation.”; and

(6) in subsection (j), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) the term ‘in-demand industry sector or occupation’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102);

“(6) the term ‘junior or community college’ has the meaning given the term in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) the term ‘region’ means a labor market area, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102); and

“(9) the terms ‘mathematics, science, engineering, or technology’ or ‘STEM’ mean science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.”.

#### SEC. 4. RESEARCH ON EFFICIENCY OF SKILLED TECHNICAL LABOR MARKETS.

(a) EFFICIENCY OF SKILLED TECHNICAL LABOR MARKETS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, working through the Directorate of Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, shall support research on labor market analysis innovations, data and information sciences, electronic information tools and methodologies, and metrics.

(b) SKILLED TECHNICAL WORKFORCE.—

(1) REVIEW.—The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics of the National Science Foundation shall consult and coordinate with other relevant Federal statistical agencies, including the Institute of Education Sciences of the Department of Education, and the Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education of the National Science and Technology Council established under section 101

of the America COMPETES Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-358), to explore the feasibility of expanding its surveys to include the collection of objective data on the skilled technical workforce.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall submit to Congress a report on the progress made in expanding the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics surveys to include the skilled technical workforce, including a plan for multi-agency collaboration to improve data collection and reporting of data on the skilled technical workforce.

(3) DEFINITION OF SKILLED TECHNICAL WORKFORCE.—The term “skilled technical workforce” means workers with high school diplomas and two-year technical training or certifications who employ significant levels of STEM knowledge in their jobs.

#### SEC. 5. EVALUATION AND REPORT.

(a) EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall evaluate the grant programs established under subsections (d), (e), and (f) of section 3 of the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 1862i), as amended by this Act.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and assessment tools to identify best practices and materials developed or demonstrated by the research conducted pursuant to such grants and programs under subsection (f) of that section;

(B) include an assessment of the effectiveness of the grant programs in expanding apprenticeships, internships, and other applied learning opportunities offered by employers in conjunction with junior or community colleges, or institutions of higher education, as applicable;

(C) assess the number of students who participated in the grant programs; and

(D) assess the percentage of students participating in the grant programs who successfully complete their education programs.

(b) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date the evaluation under subsection (a) is complete, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall submit to Congress and the Secretary of Education, and make widely available to the public, a report on the results of the evaluation, including any recommendations for legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grant programs.

**SA 4173.** Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 767, to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Act of 2018” or the “SOAR to Health and Wellness Act of 2018”.

#### SEC. 2. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.

Part E of title XII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-51 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 1254. STOP, OBSERVE, ASK, AND RESPOND TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRAINING PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the Stop,

Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program or the SOAR to Health and Wellness Training Program (in this section referred to as the ‘Program’) to provide training to health care and social service providers on human trafficking in accordance with this section.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall include the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program’s activities existing on the day before the date of enactment of this section and the authorized initiatives described in paragraph (2).

“(2) AUTHORIZED INITIATIVES.—The authorized initiatives of the Program shall include—

“(A) engaging stakeholders, including victims of human trafficking and Federal, State, local, and tribal partners, to develop a flexible training module—

“(i) for supporting activities under subsection (c); and

“(ii) that adapts to changing needs, settings, health care providers, and social service providers;

“(B) providing technical assistance to grantees related to implementing activities described in subsection (c) and reporting on any best practices identified by the grantees;

“(C) developing a reliable methodology for collecting data, and reporting such data, on the number of human trafficking victims identified and served by grantees in a manner that, at a minimum, prevents disclosure of individually identifiable information consistent with all applicable privacy laws and regulations; and

“(D) integrating, as appropriate, the training described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (c) with training programs, in effect on the date of enactment of this section, for health care and social service providers for victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, child neglect, child maltreatment, and child sexual exploitation.

“(c) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants to appropriate entities to train health care and social service providers to—

“(1) identify potential human trafficking victims;

“(2) implement best practices for working with law enforcement to report and facilitate communication with human trafficking victims, in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, local, and tribal laws, including legal confidentiality requirements for patients and health care and social service providers;

“(3) implement best practices for referring such victims to appropriate health care, social, or victims service agencies or organizations; and

“(4) provide such victims with coordinated, age-appropriate, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, patient-centered, and evidence-based care.

“(d) CONSIDERATION IN AWARDING GRANTS.—The Secretary, in making awards under this section, shall give consideration to—

“(1) geography;

“(2) the demographics of the population to be served;

“(3) the predominant types of human trafficking cases involved; and

“(4) health care and social service provider profiles.

“(e) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect data and report on the following:

“(A) The total number of entities that received a grant under this section.

“(B) The total number and geographic distribution of health care and social service providers trained through the Program.

“(2) INITIAL REPORT.—In addition to the data required to be collected under paragraph (1), for purposes of the initial report to be submitted under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall collect data on the total number of facilities and health care professional organizations that were operating under, and the total number of health care and social service providers trained through, the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program existing prior to the establishment of the Program under this section.

“(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress on the data collected under this subsection in a manner that, at a minimum, prevents the disclosure of individually identifiable information consistent with all applicable privacy laws and regulations.

“(f) SHARING BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall make available, on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a description of the best practices and procedures used by entities that receive a grant for carrying out activities under this section.

“(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘human trafficking’ has the meaning given the term ‘severe forms of trafficking in persons’ as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”

**SA 4174.** Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. PORTMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1023, to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 25, strike line 19 and all that follows through the period on line 20.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Matt Wells and Tom Sullivan, fellows in Senator GRASSLEY’s office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the week.

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

Mr. GARDNER. I ask unanimous consent that Sean McClintock, a congressional fellow in Senator COTTON’s office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 115th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Thomas Dotstry, a fellow in my office, be given floor privileges for the remainder of the 115th Congress.

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

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lauren Vernon and Tom Schaff on the staff of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be granted floor privileges for the duration of the 115th Congress.

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

#### FASTER ACCESS TO FEDERAL STUDENT AID ACT OF 2018

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 3611 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3611) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to facilitate the disclosure of tax return information to carry out the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3611) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3611

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Faster Access to Federal Student Aid Act of 2018”.

##### SEC. 2. SECURE DISCLOSURE OF TAX-RETURN INFORMATION TO CARRY OUT THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (13) of section 6103(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(13) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION TO CARRY OUT THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—

“(A) INCOME-CONTINGENT OR INCOME-BASED REPAYMENT AND TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY DISCHARGE.—The Secretary shall, upon written request from the Secretary of Education, disclose to officers, employees, and contractors of the Department of Education, as specifically authorized and designated by the Secretary of Education, only for the purpose of (and to the extent necessary in) establishing, renewing, administering, and conducting analyses and forecasts for estimating costs related to income-contingent or income-based repayment programs, and the discharge of loans based on a total and permanent disability (within the meaning of section 437(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965), under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the following return information (as defined in subsection (b)(2)) with respect to taxpayers identified by the Secretary of Education as participating in the loan programs under title IV of such Act, for taxable years specified by such Secretary:

“(i) Taxpayer identity information with respect to such taxpayer.

“(ii) The filing status of such taxpayer.

“(iii) Type of tax return from which the return information is provided.

“(iv) The adjusted gross income of such taxpayer.

“(v) Total number of exemptions claimed, or total number of individuals and dependents claimed, as applicable, on the return.

“(vi) Number of children with respect to which tax credits under section 24 are claimed on the return.

“(vii) Other information determined to be necessary by agreement between the Secretary and the Secretary of Education to administer the Federal financial aid programs as required by the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(B) FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.—The Secretary shall, upon written request from the Secretary of Education, disclose to officers, employees, and contractors of the Department of Education, as specifically authorized and designated by the Secretary of Education, only for the purpose of (and to the extent necessary in) determining eligibility for, and amount of, Federal student financial aid under programs authorized by title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and conducting analyses and forecasts for estimating costs related to such programs, the following return information (as defined in subsection (b)(2)) with respect to taxpayers identified by the Secretary of Education as applicants for Federal student financial aid under title IV of such Act, for taxable years specified by such Secretary:

“(i) Taxpayer identity information with respect to such taxpayer.

“(ii) The filing status of such taxpayer.

“(iii) Type of tax return from which the return information is provided.

“(iv) The adjusted gross income of such taxpayer.

“(v) The amount of any net earnings from self-employment (as defined in section 1402), wages (as defined in section 3121(a) or 3401(a)), and taxable income from a farming business (as defined in section 236A(e)(4)) for the period reported on the return.

“(vi) The total income tax of such taxpayer.

“(vii) Total number of exemptions claimed, or total number of individuals and dependents claimed, as applicable, on the return.

“(viii) Number of children with respect to which tax credits under section 24 are claimed on the return.

“(ix) Amount of any credit claimed under section 25A for the taxable year.