

asking her to provide immediate assistance to these students who had borrowed money to go to these worthless schools. We were concerned that Dream Center was not providing students with information about closed school discharges and was pushing them into other bad options, like enrolling in another for-profit school. Among other things, we asked the Department to post an information page on its website to inform the students. Even weeks after the closure, we have yet to receive a response to this letter from the Department of Education.

Adding to the confusion for students in Illinois is the fact that for months Dream Center misrepresented that the Illinois Institute of Art campuses were accredited, even when its accreditor had made clear that was not the case. I have called on Secretary DeVos to investigate this misrepresentation, especially as it relates to these students' eligibility for borrower defense discharges. The National Student Loan Defense Network has filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of Illinois borrowers against the company for this misrepresentation, while the Department of Education and Washington remain silent.

Now, reports have surfaced of a new restructuring of these schools, with few details but major implications for students. The Department of Education must immediately inform students and the public about these changes.

Earlier this month, 48 State attorneys general, including our own Illinois attorney general, now retired, Lisa Madigan, and the District of Columbia reached a settlement with for-profit giant Career Education Corporation over consumer violations by the company. Under the settlement, Career Education Corporation agreed to forgo collecting \$493 million owed to it by 180,000 students nationally—\$48 million in relief for 17,000 students in Illinois who had been exploited by this for-profit school. I have long spoken out about these abuses and the misconduct of Career Education Corporation schools, especially their infamous and now defunct Le Cordon Bleu, Harrington College of Design, and Sanford-Brown brands. These fellows really dream up some wonderful names for worthless schools.

Just last week, for-profit college operator National American University Holdings announced “substantial doubt” that its finances would allow it to remain in business over the next year. The company, which has faced lawsuits related to deceptive practices, runs campuses in about a dozen States and online. Its closure would affect thousands of students.

How many more for-profit college collapses, closures, and State legal actions will it take before we get serious at the Federal level, both in Congress and at the Department of Education, about protecting students and taxpayers from this industry?

It just amazes me that so many people in this body stand back and watch

the so-called for-profit colleges and universities exploit students and their families, watch them run up debts they will never be able to pay back, wait until they default, and then threaten them with lawsuits and collection agencies, instead of realizing at the outset that these schools are not reputable. These students are lured with promises the schools can't keep, and they are also lured into debt they will never be able to repay. They will never end up with a job that allows them to pay back the debt.

Don't take my word for it; think of two simple numbers. Nine percent of all postsecondary students go to for-profit colleges and universities—9 percent. Thirty-four percent of all federal student loan defaults are students from for-profit colleges and universities. Nine percent of the students; 34 percent of the defaults. Why would that be happening? Well, because they overcharge the students, and they provide them with a worthless diploma if they stick it out and don't drop out.

These schools are a blight on higher education and an exploitation of innocent students and their families. Who are the ultimate losers when their debts are discharged? American taxpayers who subsidize these miserable, good-for-nothing schools and then watch as they are not repaying their debts because the students can't, and the taxpayers end up the losers again. If that is capitalism at work, save this country, because it is a terrible outcome for the students, for their families, and for American taxpayers.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the time and start the vote now.

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

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

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

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 12 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Alexander	Fischer	Risch
Barraso	Gardner	Roberts
Bennet	Graham	Romney
Blackburn	Grassley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hassan	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cardin	Jones	Sinema
Casey	Kennedy	Smith
Cassidy	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	Markey	Toomey
Cramer	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	McSally	Whitehouse
Cruz	Menendez	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murray	Young
Enzi	Perdue	
Ernst	Portman	

NAYS—22

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Udall
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Moran	Paul
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The motion is agreed to.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 65

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 65.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 65.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate that the United States faces continuing threats from terrorist groups operating in Syria and Afghanistan and that the precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from either country could put at risk hard-won gains and United States national security)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF SENATE ON WITHDRAWALS OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda, responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

(2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, better known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and Syria.

(3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

(4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have proven resilient and have regrouped when the United States and its partners have withdrawn from the fight against them.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—The Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the United States military and our partners have made significant progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and honors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have served on the front lines of this fight;

(2) recognizes the continuing threat to the homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda and ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria and Afghanistan;

(3) expresses concern that Iran has supported the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two countries;

(4) recognizes the positive role the United States and its partners have played in Syria and Afghanistan fighting terrorist groups, countering Iranian aggression, deterring the further use of chemical weapons, and protecting human rights;

(5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from the on-going fight against these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical regions, and create vacuums that could be filled by Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States interests and those of our allies;

(6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a global threat, which merits increased international contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic, and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Afghanistan;

(7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East and South Asia;

(8) acknowledges the progress made by Special Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan;

(9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a thorough review of the military and diplomatic strategies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assessment of the risk that withdrawal from those countries could strengthen the power and influence of Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated, peaceful solutions;

(10) requests that the Administration, as part of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

(11) reiterates support for international diplomatic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolutions to the on-going conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan on terms that respect the rights of innocent civilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

(12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protection of regional partners and allies, while ensuring that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten Israel;

(13) encourages close collaboration between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to ensure continuing strong, bipartisan support for United States military operations in Syria and Afghanistan; and

(14) calls upon the Administration to certify that conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any significant withdrawal of United States forces from Syria or Afghanistan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

HOUSTON SHOOTING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I would like to start by saying a few words about the horrific shooting that occurred in Houston, TX, at about 5 o'clock yesterday.

A team of narcotics patrol officers from the Houston Police Department were serving a warrant. As soon as they breached the door at the home in southeast Houston, the suspects opened fire. Four officers were hit; one critically, and one other was injured as a result of an unrelated mishap. Three of these officers were in good condition, and two remained in critical but stable condition in the hospital.

For the case agent, the most senior officer on the narcotics squad, this was the third time he had been shot in the line of duty—once in 1992 and again in 1997. He told Chief Art Acevedo: “I had to get in there because I knew my guys were down.”

I echo the Houston Police Union President Joe Gamaldi, who said last night that enough is enough. This type of attack against law enforcement is unconscionable and unacceptable. These are dedicated public servants who have taken an oath to serve and protect our communities and who potentially sacrifice their very lives every day to keep our families safe.

Today, with a heavy heart, I want to thank the Houston Police Department and law enforcement officers across the country who put on the uniform each morning, never knowing what the day might bring. We are incredibly grateful for their service and the tremendous sacrifices they make.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Houston Fire and EMS Department who moved Heaven and Earth to ensure these heroic, wounded officers got the medical care they needed as soon as possible.

I thank my friends Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Chief Acevedo for their leadership during this very difficult time for the city of Houston and our entire State.

My wife Sandy and I are praying for the officers, their families, and their brothers and sisters in blue.

S. 1

Madam President, on another matter, the Senate is, of course, considering S. 1, a package of four bills that

were considered in the 115th Congress, but the clock ran out before these bills could be voted on, on the Senate floor.

Each of these bills enjoys broad, bipartisan support, and I am glad we have the opportunity to push this legislation over the finish line this week.

The administration recently announced that U.S. troops will begin a conditions-based withdrawal from Syria. While we await additional details on the timeline and extent of this move, we must take action to ensure the stability of the region during the process and reassure our allies of our commitment.

My friend and colleague Senator RUBIO, the lead sponsor of this bill, once compared the threat of ISIS to a tumor. He said: If you treat a tumor with radiation, it will get smaller and smaller and smaller, but if you stop before it is completely gone, it will come back. So it is with ISIS.

First and foremost, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act supports our allies in the region, including Israel and Jordan. With Israel in particular, the bill authorizes the United States to provide military assistance to support funding cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure essential military equipment, such as defensive missiles and rockets. This will help Israel maintain its qualitative military edge against increasingly well-equipped, Iranian-backed forces.

This bill also provides U.S. State and local governments with greater flexibility to counter the boycott, divestment, and sanctions, or BDS, movement. This anti-Israel crusade has waged economic war against the Jewish State by pushing companies around the world to boycott any business with Israel or its entities.

This does not outlaw BDS activity but instead provides State and local governments with the same flexibility afforded to private companies. They can decide not to do business with companies that are boycotting or divesting from Israel.

To support our ally Jordan, this bill authorizes legislation to strengthen our defense cooperation. With an estimated 740,000 refugees in Jordan—a very small country—this legislation recognizes the immense impact the ongoing conflict in Syria continues to have on neighboring countries, including Jordan, and it supports that government's effort to provide ongoing humanitarian support.

The final piece of the bill speaks to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Syria, which has claimed the lives of some 400,000 people—400,000 people. It provides aid to impacted communities and condemns the heinous human rights violations committed by the Assad regime. Notably, it imposes new sanctions on anyone who does business with or otherwise financially supports the Syrian regime.

This is certainly not an effort to put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

Unfortunately, Syria has been broken by the civil war and the fact that Iran, Russia, and terrorist organizations are all vying for space and influence, but it is an important step to protect U.S. interests in the region. That is what this bill represents.

Notably absent are strong measures focused on addressing the region's primary antagonist, the nation of Iran—the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC, is a branch of Iran's Armed Forces with an unconventional role. Unlike military operations that promote national security, the IRGC tries to squash democracy movements both at home and abroad by pushing its extreme ideology beyond Iran's borders. This branch wields vast power and influence, and it uses its capabilities to spark turmoil throughout the Middle East.

What I find particularly concerning is that the IRGC, the primary military appendage of the Ayatollah, is the one in control of Iran's ballistic missile system. That is the same program which, unfortunately, only accelerated under the previous Presidential administration of President Obama.

The primary enemy of the IRGC is Israel, which it threatens both directly through its land bridge across Iraq and Syria and indirectly through its support of terrorist groups, such as Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas, and other Palestinian militant groups. The IRGC funds terrorist proxies by providing heavy weapons, training, and funds to advance the Iranian regime's goal of regional domination. It has helped Hezbollah alone to amass more than 100,000 missiles capable of striking virtually anywhere in the State of Israel.

The financial machines that keep these operations afloat consist of a clandestine network of front companies, including energy, construction, telecommunications, banking, and financial sectors. We are not talking about just a handful of small businesses here. It is estimated that the IRGC alone controls one-quarter of Iran's economy.

So, yes, this legislation does take important steps to promote U.S. interests in the Middle East, but actions against the IRGC are desperately needed.

In addition to the threat already posed by this group, we cannot allow our withdrawal from Syria to open up the window to Iran and its terrorist proxies. Today, I am offering an amendment to this legislation that will address the actions of the IRGC. This amendment enjoyed bipartisan support last Congress with 8 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and more than 220 cosponsors in the House. This amendment is entitled the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, and it will take steps to increase economic pressure on the aggressive actions taken by Iran and executed by the IRGC.

The bill will impose additional sanctions on the IRGC by lowering the

threshold to sanction entities supporting these activities. That means the front companies that are bankrolling the IRGC's attacks against our allies can now be sanctioned, effectively cutting off their cash flow. In addition, it penalizes any other person or company that supports the IRGC, including a complete ban on transactions with U.S. businesses or individuals.

Of course, in order to sanction any entity, we first have to know that they are associated with the IRGC. This bill would require that entities for which there is a reasonable basis to believe IRGC owns at least 33 percent be reported and included. It also requires a report analyzing foreign and domestic supply chains that in some way support or aid the IRGC and its activities.

I hope my colleagues will support this amendment, which takes a strong stand against Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism, and its military arm, the IRGC. This group has supported the genocidal Assad regime and has the blood of countless innocent civilians on its hands.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am very happy to be joined by my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that she be recognized to speak at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, we are here to talk about the risks to our New England coastal communities from the climate changes coming our way.

Despite the really dirty efforts of the fossil fuel industry to keep the truth at bay, the tide of public understanding is turning. A recent survey by Yale and George Mason Universities found that 73 percent of Americans now see global warming happening. That number is up 10 percentage points since 2015. Similarly, the percentage of Americans who consider global warming an important issue rose from 63 percent to 72 percent in the past 10 years. In just the past year, the number of Americans who say they are worried about global warming jumped from 61 to 69 percent. One author of this research explained the results to the New York Times this way:

People are beginning to understand that climate change is here in the United States, here in my state, in my community, affecting the people and places I care about, and now. This isn't happening in 50 years, 100 years from now.

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University echoed these sentiments, saying: "Today, nearly everyone can point to a way that they are personally witnessing and are being personally affected by the impacts of a changing climate in the places where they live."

Perhaps nowhere is this more true than along our coasts, where manmade climate change is already flooding towns, driving fisheries away from tra-

ditional fishing grounds, and bringing ashore stronger storms riding on higher seas.

Last Tuesday, I picked up my home State paper, the Providence Journal, and I saw this headline splashed across the front page regarding climate change: "Washed Away. . . . Home values lost to rising sea levels."

This is a study I have mentioned before. It was done by the First Street Foundation and researchers at Columbia University and looks at what escalating flood risk is doing to coastal housing markets. That study started in Florida—peer-reviewed work in Florida—and they took that methodology and have been working their way up the gulf coast and the New England coast since then. They just reached my State and Senator HASSAN's State, and the report is not pleasant. They found that Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island lost a total of \$403 million in expected property value between 2005 and 2017 due to increased tidal flooding risks. Just between 2005 and 2017, Rhode Island coastal properties lost nearly \$45 million in expected value. The study called out these particular properties in Warren, RI, that lost over one-third of their value during that timeframe. Rhode Islanders in the town of Warwick lost over \$4 million in home values due to the threat of climate change-driven sea level rise.

Several studies warned how climate change will affect coastal property values. The First Street Foundation study is the first to demonstrate value loss that has already occurred, as the study itself says. A Columbia University researcher who worked on the First Street study said this:

Each time we analyze a new state we see the same phenomenon. Increased tidal flooding leads to a loss in home value appreciation. As sea level rise accelerates, we expect the corresponding loss in relative home value to accelerate as well.

That hits home indeed. The latest scientific evidence shows sea levels rising at a faster pace than expected. NOAA data shows that Greenland lost around 280 billion tons of ice per year from 2002 to 2016. A National Geographic article covering this study noted: "The Greenland ice sheet is 10,000 feet thick in places and contains enough ice to raise sea levels 23 feet."

Another study shows that the Antarctic ice sheet has lost around 252 billion tons of ice per year over the last 10 years. Again, according to National Geographic, full melting of the Antarctic ice sheet could mean nearly 187 feet of sea level rise.

In Rhode Island, our Coastal Resources Management Council has been a longtime leader in modeling flooding and sea level rise risks for Rhode Island's coastal businesses, communities, and decision makers. Earlier this month, CRMC partnered with the University of Rhode Island to release a series of highly detailed risk maps for several coastal Rhode Island towns.

These maps provide a damage assessment for individual structures due to flooding and storm waves for homes and businesses and critical infrastructure, like the Warren wastewater treatment plant, which is right there on the coast of Warren, RI; the facility will be almost totally wiped out. CRMC's maps turn these general risks facing our communities from a hazy sketch to a vivid, living-color, 3-D picture, and that picture is grim for these coastal communities.

Rhode Island officials are currently preparing for a worst case scenario of more than 9 feet of sea level rise overtaking our 400 miles of coastline by the end of the century. This map is from Rhode Island's CRMC's interactive STORMTOOLS application, which overlays the sea level rise projections over our current topography. The blue all through here is currently land that is flooded when 10 feet of sea level rise come. This extra little rim of green on some of the edges is when you push it up to 12 feet. As we see all of the blue here, think of homes and businesses and properties that are owned by people and that are going to literally disappear into the ocean if we don't pay attention. These are the homes and businesses of my constituents.

A 2017 report from the real estate database company Zillow identified over 4,800 homes in Rhode Island, valued at near \$3 billion, that would be underwater by 2100, using an optimistic estimate of only 6 feet of sea level rise.

In this snapshot from Upper Narragansett Bay, you can see some of Rhode Island's larger coastal communities stranded as a scattered series of new islands, a Rhode Island archipelago. Today's map of Rhode Island—the map that we have known since our founding—will become unrecognizable as Warwick Neck here breaks off to become its own island, Newport south of this map splits, and Bristol through here comes apart.

A recent report from Climate Central and Zillow looked at new homes being built in risky coastal areas—ones expected to suffer from annual floods by 2050 under a moderate greenhouse gas emissions model—and they show Rhode Island has seen more growth in risk areas than in safe areas. Obviously, if emissions don't meet these moderate goals, things are going to get a good deal worse, and well before water actually overtakes your home, well before the water is coming through the front door will come the economic effects of rising oceans, and they will be big.

In 2017, GAO reported that coastal areas face particularly high financial risks and that annual coastal property losses from sea level rise and increased storms will run into the billions of dollars every year in the short run and over \$50 billion every year by late century. EPA has estimated “\$5.0 trillion in economic costs to coastal property from climate change through 2100”—\$5 trillion, and that is the Rhode Island part of that. The Union of Concerned

Scientists reports that sea level rise will double the number of coastal communities facing what they call “chronic inundation and possible retreat”—meaning you are out of there—by 2035.

The market is awakening to these risks. Moody's evaluates municipal bonds. It has begun evaluating the bonds of coastal communities with an eye to this flooding risk. Banks, mortgageors, insurance companies, and appraisers are starting to incorporate these risks into their work for coastal properties.

A recent issue of the Appraisal Institute's Valuation magazine quoted Rhode Island appraiser Brad Hevenor, warning that homes that receive a 30-year mortgage this year “might be completely different types of property [by the end of their mortgage] than they are today.” Good luck getting a 30-year mortgage on a property that the bank believes will be “completely different” by the end of the mortgage.

The coastal housing market is on the precipice of a dangerous financial cliff. First Street, Zillow, NOAA, GAO, EPA, Climate Central, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and others all make the same warning.

Federal home mortgage giant Freddie Mac said it this way: “The economic losses and social disruption may happen gradually, but they are likely to be greater in total than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession.”

The editor of the insurance industry trade publication Risk & Insurance said this: “Continually rising seas will damage coastal residential and commercial property values to the point that property owners will flee those markets in droves, thus precipitating a mortgage value collapse that could equal or exceed the mortgage crisis that rocked the global economy in 2008.”

These are serious warnings, and they are deadly serious warnings for our coastal States. Here in Congress, these warnings fall on deaf ears—ears plugged deaf by the fossil fuel industry's persistent mischief.

We have to get serious about our duty to our constituents. Polling shows that millions of Americans want us to face up to this threat, to safeguard their coastal property, and to curb the carbon pollution that is distorting our Earth's climate and raising our Earth's oceans. It is seriously time for us to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I want to start by thanking my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island, not only for his remarks today but for his leadership on this issue. I rise today to join him in highlighting the toll climate change is taking on coastal communities throughout New England. Senator WHITEHOUSE has been a fierce advocate, and he is dedicated to and continues to push our col-

leagues to address the dire reality of climate change. I am here to join him in that effort.

In New Hampshire's Seacoast region, our State's beautiful coastline helps propel our economy forward, supporting industries such as tourism and commercial fishing and contributing to our high quality of life. Just as proximity to the ocean provides vital opportunities, our communities are finding that as climate change intensifies, these communities are increasingly at risk.

As you can see from this photo that was taken last year in Rye, NH, stronger storms and rising sea levels are leading to increased flooding in our coastal areas. As Senator WHITEHOUSE mentioned, our communities are already feeling the direct economic impacts of rising sea levels.

According to the First Street Foundation and Columbia University, the increased risk of flooding and damage is hurting property values throughout New England. That report states that New Hampshire has already seen a \$15 million loss in property value, particularly in areas such as Hampton, Exeter, Dover, and Portsmouth. Combined with the rest of the New England States, coastal properties have experienced approximately \$400 million in property value losses just between 2005 and 2017.

The extent of those losses is just the beginning of the damage. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association has estimated that New Hampshire's sea levels are expected to rise between 0.6 and 2 feet by 2050 and between 1.6 and 6.6 feet by 2100. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, rising seas could threaten more than 5,000 homes on the seacoast of New Hampshire by the end of the century.

Our climate is changing. Sea levels are rising. This is undebatable. Climate change and sea level rise are not threats to some distant time in the future; these threats—this damage—are here. These threats are taking their toll now. The people of New Hampshire know this. We are witnessing climate change in our communities in real time as storms get more intense and the floodwaters go higher.

It is our responsibility to help our communities adapt to these changes. This starts with focusing on planning for resiliency to help vulnerable communities prepare and on improving our infrastructure and developing strategies to help plan ahead for storms and extreme weather events.

At the local level, Granite Staters on the seacoast are already being proactive on this front. Community members have formed advocacy groups, and local governments have focused on addressing these challenges head-on and developing resilient strategies. We have to support their efforts.

We also must do more. We need to redouble efforts to cut carbon emissions, conserve and protect our natural resources, and build a stronger, clean energy future. People are calling on us to

act. Study after study has shown that as more Americans see the direct threats from climate change in their own communities and in the lives of their fellow citizens, they are becoming increasingly worried. It is time for us to start dealing with reality and to address their concerns.

I will keep working to address climate change and to achieve a cleaner environment and stronger energy future that will help our citizens, our economy, and our businesses thrive. I urge my colleagues to join us in those efforts.

Again, I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for being a leader in those efforts.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The Senator from Tennessee.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE DANIEL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, late in December, I announced that I would not be a candidate for reelection to the U.S. Senate in 2020, and that prompted this cartoon in the Knoxville News Sentinel by Charlie Daniel:

He says his name is Alexander. He says he is going to walk across the State. Wonder how far he will go.

Here is some character wandering across the State in a red and black shirt, which is what I did 40 years ago when I walked across the State running for Governor.

I would like to return the favor to Charlie Daniel because he announced last week that he is retiring from drawing cartoons in the Knoxville News Sentinel, which is a much more significant event than anything I might do because Charlie Daniel has been a fixture in Tennessee for a long time with his gentle skewering of politicians in the Knoxville newspapers.

Charlie's cartoons have been the first things I have looked for in the Knoxville newspapers since the year I graduated from Maryville High School in 1958. That is when Charlie first began drawing for the Knoxville Journal.

Charlie is a self-taught artist who says he has been drawing ever since he "picked up a pencil." After a stint in the Marine Corps, Charlie studied political science at the University of North Carolina, and he started drawing for the school newspaper. He moved to Knoxville, where he started drawing at what was known as the Knoxville Journal in 1958. That is when I first saw Charlie Daniel's cartoons. He worked at the Journal until it closed in 1992 and then moved to the Knoxville News Sentinel, where he has been ever since. Some of his main subjects for his cartoons have been sports, social causes, and, of course, politics.

Over the years, Charlie has had plenty of opportunity to skewer me, and he has done it with vigor. Actually, it has been honest, usually gentle, and always effective. For example, as I was working on legislation, which became law this past year, to ban the use of cell phones on airplane flights, Charlie drew a cartoon characterizing cell phone yappers on long flights as the

"perfect hell," with the Devil asking why he didn't think of that.

Charlie's drawings are well known not just in Tennessee but all across our country. In 2016, the National Cartoonists Society honored Charlie with a proclamation recognizing his career. He was inducted to the sixth class of the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame last year, and the University of Tennessee library has a special collections department with more than 20,000 of these drawings. There are about a dozen that the University of Tennessee doesn't have because I have them in my office or in my home.

Charlie's contributions have been recognized by Tennesseans for decades. Our former Governor, Bill Haslam, said: "For as long as I can remember, Charlie has been making us laugh and think." Former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, Jr., also from Knoxville, as is Governor Haslam, said Charlie was "the personification of civilized relevant political humor." Former Knoxville mayor and Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe, said: "Charlie Daniel has been an icon and institution across the country."

East Tennesseans have been fortunate that Charlie and his family have called our region home. For over six decades, Charlie's drawings have been the first thing that I and many others have looked for in the newspaper, and it is going to be harder to start each day without the humor and the touch of Charlie Daniel.

Thank you, Charlie. Congratulations to you on your retirement. I wish you and Patsy and your family the best on behalf of grateful Tennesseans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for Senate amendment No. 65.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Senate amendment No. 65 to Calendar No. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Josh Hawley, Rick Scott, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Cory Gardner, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Todd Young.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-08, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.150 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-08

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$.375 billion.

Other \$1.775 billion.

Total \$2.150 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two (2) AEGIS Weapon Systems (AWS).

Two (2) Multi-Mission Signal Processors (MMSP).

Two (2) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Refreshes.

Non-MDE: Also included is radio navigation equipment, naval ordnance, two (2) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Systems, Global Command and Control System-Maritime (GCCS-M) hardware, and two (2) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS), U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical, engineering and logistics support services, installation support material, training,