

(Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive co-insurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 673

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 673, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 673, *supra*.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 703

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 703, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to address health, safety, and environmental hazards at private military housing units, to prohibit the payment by members of the Armed Forces of deposits or other fees relating to such housing units, and for other purposes.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to include in the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices a section on reproductive rights, and for other purposes.

S. 708

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 708, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to limit experimentation on cats.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 727, a bill to combat international ex-

tremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 775, a bill to amend the America COMPETES Act to require certain agencies to develop scientific integrity policies, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes.

S. 861

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 100

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 100, a resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and

Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

S. RES. 118

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 118, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2019, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 868. A bill to address the disparate impact of climate change on women and support the efforts of women globally to address climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to denounce the majority leader's sham debate on the Green New Deal.

Let's be clear. The majority leader did not call up this resolution for a vote because he thinks climate change is an urgent threat to our country. In fact, he has opposed nearly every congressional effort to combat the climate crisis.

The Republican Party's political and financial ties to the fossil fuel industry are well known. This latest effort to attack Senators demanding action on climate change with cries of socialism is reminiscent of the Red Scare, in my view.

Give me a break. The Green New Deal is an aspirational plan to combat climate change, create high-paying jobs, and develop a more sustainable

economy that allows communities, families, and individuals to thrive. This isn't radical. This isn't socialism. This is basic common sense. The truly radical position is the majority leader's insistence that we stick our heads in the sand, follow the lead of corporate-backed interests funding Republican campaigns, and do nothing to tackle climate change.

The status quo might benefit the majority leader, the Republican Party, and their allies in the fossil fuel industry, but it is deeply dangerous for our country. Climate change is already impacting our lives and damaging our economy.

Annual weather-related natural disasters have more than tripled worldwide since the 1960s, when scientists at the Mauna Loa Observatory on the big island of Hawaii first confirmed that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were steadily rising due to the burning of fossil fuels. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, the United States has sustained 139 weather and climate disasters—beginning with Hurricane Katrina in 2005—where damages exceeded \$1 billion. The total cost of these 139 disasters? Nearly \$1.1 trillion.

Last year, in 2018, the United States experienced the fourth highest number of weather disasters in our history at the tremendous costs of 247 lives lost and \$91 billion in damages. In Hawaii last year, we registered recordbreaking flooding on Kauai and Oahu that resulted in more than \$125 million in damages. That storm generated the largest 24-hour rainfall accumulation in American history at nearly 50 inches on Kauai's North Shore in a very short period of rainfall time.

Residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands also felt the devastating impact of Typhoon Yutu—the worst storm to hit any part of the United States since 1935. It certainly isn't a coincidence that 2018 was also the fourth hottest year on record, surpassed only by 2016, 2015, and 2017.

We have already seen the devastating cost of climate-driven disasters in the first 3 months of 2019. Eleven days ago, Tropical Cyclone Idai devastated Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, killing hundreds of people. It is already being called one of the worst weather-related disasters ever in the southern hemisphere.

Closer to home, the Missouri River has already set record levels of flooding in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. Under current estimates, this historic flooding in the Midwest will cost at least \$3 billion in damages to roads, farms, homes, and businesses. According to Texas A&M University climate scientist Andrew Dessler, climate change is exacerbating the flooding. He said: "You can think of climate change as steroids for these rain events."

More is on the way. According to the spring weather outlook NOAA released last Thursday, more than 200 million

Americans are at risk for some kind of flooding, with 13 million of them at risk of major inundation.

Given the increasing intensity and frequency of severe weather events, many more States and communities will need disaster relief, something we are about to vote on later this week. Disaster relief is something we cannot, and should not, play politics with. Every community impacted by natural disasters should receive assistance in the upcoming supplemental appropriations bill, including Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and other territories.

While these extreme weather events will continue to impact local communities and the American economy, climate change also threatens our national security. Like a large majority of the American people, senior national security and Department of Defense officials understand we can't just follow the majority leader's example and stick our heads in the sand to avoid the painful truth of climate change.

In 2017, for example, then-Secretary of Defense James Mattis told the Senate Armed Services Committee: "Climate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where our troops are operating." He also stated that "climate change is a challenge that requires a broader, whole-of-government response."

In February, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats issued a new worldwide threat assessment that concluded that climate hazards like extreme weather, wildfires, droughts, and acidifying oceans are "threatening infrastructure, health, and water and food security" around the world. This means there will be more threats to our national security in an increasingly unstable world environment.

Faced with a global problem that threatens our national security, President Trump, with the support of Republicans in Congress, announced he would withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accord. He has, in effect, abdicated America's global leadership role in the climate crisis, alienated our allies, and created new opportunities for near-peer competitors like China. At the same time as the United States embraced climate denial on the international stage under Donald Trump, China has stepped up to fill the diplomatic void.

After the latest round of international climate talks in November, Canada's Minister of Environment, Catherine McKenna said:

When the U.S. stepped back, China decided to step up. The role China plays around the negotiating table can't be underestimated.

In addition to its diplomatic efforts, China has made significant policy changes to reduce its coal use from its 2013 peak and to scale up low carbon alternatives. China is now the world's leading producer, exporter, and installer of solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and electric vehicles.

China isn't the only country on the global stage acknowledging the reality

of climate change and taking steps to combat it. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, for example, has said: "Climate action is a matter of both ecological necessity and economic rationality."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said:

The effects of climate change are everywhere, and they are a constant reminder of the need to act now. While climate change is the biggest challenge of this generation, it also provides the opportunity to do better while growing the economy.

Under the previous 2 years of their unified control of the White House and Congress, Republicans have repeatedly blocked any efforts to combat climate change. With Democrats now in control in the House, I am looking forward to working with like-minded colleagues to demonstrate there are those of us ready and willing to act.

Today, I am joining Representative BARBARA LEE of California to introduce the Women and Climate Change Act of 2019. This bill recognizes that while the negative impacts of climate change often impact women the most, they too often don't have a seat at the table when it comes to developing policy.

Our bill creates a Federal inter-agency working group that will collect data and develop policies and strategies to address the effects of climate change on women both at home and abroad. We need to empower women to tackle climate change. They need seats at the table.

So long as Donald Trump and his Republican allies in Congress obstruct meaningful debate and action, States and local communities are taking their own decisive steps to combat climate change.

Almost every State in the country has begun to experience the impact of climate change. But as an island State, Hawaii is poised to experience some of the harshest consequences of climate change. Rising sea levels, combined with increased storm runoff, will increase coastal flooding and erosion, damaging sensitive ecosystems, infrastructure, and agriculture.

According to research from the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program, 70 percent of beaches in Hawaii are eroding and 13 miles of public beaches that once were present no longer exist. Waikiki Beach alone generates \$2.2 billion of Hawaii's economy every year and could be completely submerged by the end of the century. A warming ocean will increase bleaching and disease outbreaks on coral reefs, which currently support \$360 million in economic activity each year.

For Hawaii, a sea level rise of 3.2 feet—which could happen as early as 2060—will result in \$20 billion in damage, the chronic flooding of 38 miles of major roads, 25,000 acres of land, 6,500 structures rendered unusable or lost, and 20,000 residents displaced.

The prospect of such widespread climate change-driven devastation has spurred the State of Hawaii to action.

We have made a commitment to become carbon-neutral and generate 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2045, and we became the first State to separately ratify the Paris climate agreement. Eighteen States and Puerto Rico have since followed suit.

In addition to efforts at the State level, local communities, families, and landowners are taking their own steps to cope with the threat of climate change and adapt as necessary. Last week, I met with National Park Service officials, members of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, local government representatives, nongovernment organizations, and community partners, including Native Hawaiian lineal descendants, to learn what they are doing to lead community-based approaches to trail management and how the issue of climate change is threatening national treasures on our coasts in Hawaii.

During my visit, members of the Kailapa Community Association created a plan to cope with decreased rainfall, coastal erosion, and other impacts on the ahupua'a—or division of land—that they have lived on for more than 12 generations. Families and communities in Hawaii who understand the threat of climate change are demanding that we take divisive action to combat it.

Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress should muster the political courage to do the same, but that is not happening anytime soon—quite the contrary. Instead, as with so many ideas they oppose, Republicans have resorted to mocking and distorting what the Green New Deal does. They are doing it by their tried-and-true method—by scaring people.

Donald Trump and the majority leader have invested a lot of time in attempting to justify their claim that the Green New Deal is going to ban air travel. What?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. HIRONO. Let me conclude by saying that the Green New Deal is aspirational. To say that it is going to result in forcing everyone to stop eating meat—it is like, what the heck? What these so-called facts opponents and the climate change deniers are saying about the Green New Deal is laughable, coming from the very people who deny the scientific fact of climate change.

I could go on, but obviously my time is up. I will have more to say as we continue this so-called sham debate. But let's not continue to stick our heads in the sand.

I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter written by an 11-year-old girl in Hawaii who spoke at a climate change rally in Hawaii. She was so articulate. She said: You know, this is like experiencing world war III for the young people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. HIRONO. They demand that the adults in the Senate to do something

about it and address climate change in an appropriate way.

Thank you.

On Sunday, I received a letter from Mesina—an 11-year-old girl—who spoke at a March 15th climate action protest in Hawaii, and she wrote:

"I hope that all of our eyes are open now. Floods are demolishing people's homes, forest fires are killing people and singeing acres of land. Sea creatures are dying. Oceans are rising. How can we deny climate change and the science that supports its human cause?"

"We are experiencing World War III, except in this war, we are all on the same side. We can all agree on clean air, clean water, and a clean earth. As a child that is going to inherit our Earth, I beg you please do everything in your power to protect my generation's future and the generations to follow."

Mesina is asking us to step up. It's past time to take urgent action to combat climate change.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 201. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 268, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 202. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 201 submitted by Mr. SHELBY and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 201. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 268, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief, 2019".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

DIVISION A—ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF, 2019

- Title I—Department of Agriculture
- Title II—Department of Commerce
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- Title V—Department of Homeland Security
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- Title VII—Department of Labor
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- Title XI—General Provisions

DIVISION B—OTHER MATTERS

- Title I—Violence Against Women Act Extension
- Title II—Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

DIVISION A—ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF, 2019

The following sums in this division are appropriated, out of any money in the Treas-

ury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
PROCESSING, RESEARCH AND MARKETING
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For an additional amount for the "Office of the Secretary", \$3,005,442,000, which shall remain available until December 31, 2020, for necessary expenses related to losses of crops (including milk and harvested adulterated wine grapes), trees, bushes, and vines, as a consequence of Hurricanes Michael and Florence, other hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, and wildfires occurring in calendar years 2018 and 2019 under such terms and conditions as determined by the Secretary: *Provided*, That the Secretary may provide assistance for such losses in the form of block grants to eligible states and territories and such assistance may include compensation to producers, as determined by the Secretary, for forest restoration and poultry and livestock losses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, tree assistance payments may be made under section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) to eligible orchardists or nursery tree growers (as defined in such section) of pecan trees with a tree mortality rate that exceeds 7.5 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) and is less than 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality), to be available until expended, for losses incurred during the period beginning January 1, 2018, and ending December 31, 2018: *Provided further*, That in the case of producers impacted by volcanic activity that resulted in the loss of crop land, or access to crop land, the Secretary shall consider all measures available, as appropriate, to bring replacement land into production: *Provided further*, That the total amount of payments received under this heading and applicable policies of crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) shall not exceed 90 percent of the loss as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the total amount of payments received under this heading for producers who did not obtain a policy or plan of insurance for an insurable commodity for the applicable crop year under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) for the crop incurring the losses or did not file the required paperwork and pay the service fee by the applicable State filing deadline for a noninsurable commodity for the applicable crop year under NAP for the crop incurring the losses shall not exceed 70 percent of the loss as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That producers receiving payments under this heading, as determined by the Secretary, shall be required to purchase crop insurance where crop insurance is available for the next two available crop years, excluding tree insurance policies, and producers receiving payments under this heading shall be required to purchase coverage under NAP where crop insurance is not available in the next two available crop years, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That, not later than 120 days after the end of fiscal year 2019, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress specifying the type, amount, and method of such assistance by state and territory: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.