



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

No. 70

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, we magnify Your Name. Lord, we sense that our battles are not simply with flesh and blood, but we war against principalities and powers. Thank You for providing us with spiritual weapons for our warfare. Forgive us when we chase the temporary and flee from the permanent. Inspire us to capture our thoughts and actions, making them subject to Your will.

Lord, give our lawmakers today an awareness of the complexity of the warfare between good and evil. Speak to our Senators when they call to You for guidance. Remind them that truth crushed to Earth will rise again.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Cooper, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate is in the midst of considering several more well-qualified nominees for service in the executive branch and on our Nation's Federal courts. We are doing so in a more reasonable, efficient manner—more in line with this body's tradition—thanks to the modest reform the Senate passed just a few weeks ago.

Until recently, our colleagues across the aisle had succeeded in subjecting even the least controversial nominees to day after day of so-called debate.

Countless hours of valuable floor time were spent on individuals who passed through committees of jurisdiction without any opposition and for individuals whose final confirmation votes frequently cleared 90 votes, but now the Senate has begun to clear the backlog and put more public servants to work on behalf of the American people.

Last evening we voted to advance the nomination of William Cooper of Maryland to serve as general counsel at the Department of Energy. Mr. Cooper's nomination first arrived in the Senate 9 months ago. It has twice been reported favorably by our colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Cooper of Florida has

waited even longer to begin his service as Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, and the story is not much different for the jurists waiting to finally be confirmed to Federal district courts either.

So I look forward to the swift consideration of this week's slate of nominees, and I would urge each of my colleagues to join me in voting for their confirmation.

#### HEALTHCARE

On another matter, lest there be any doubt that my Democratic colleagues here in the Congress are serious about their party's radical left turn, the House Rules Committee is actually holding a hearing today on their proposal to outlaw private health insurance and force every American into a new government-run system.

As I have said, this grand scheme ought to be called Medicare for None. Democrats want to drain the popular program that seniors have relied on for more than 50 years and slap its name on a brand-new, untried, untested government-run system, and this thing they have cooked up would become the only option—the only option—available to American families.

Democrats are so confident that Americans will love their one-size-fits-all government plan that they feel the need to ban the private sector from competing with it.

This is a fantasy pulled from the farthest corners of the left, but now leading Democrats are proudly embracing it.

Here is the chairman of the House Rules Committee: "It's a serious proposal that deserves serious consideration."

Well, it certainly is a serious proposal for more than 180 million Americans who would be unceremoniously kicked off of their private insurance plans. It certainly is a serious proposal for the tens of millions of Americans who paid into Medicare so it would actually be there now when they needed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2497

it—not distorted into something totally different.

This is a particularly important point, given the serious challenges that Medicare is already facing. The Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently explained that “the program’s main trust fund for hospital services can only pay full benefits for seven more years,” and she noted the particular irony that this “sobering dose of reality” is being delivered as “some are calling for a complete government takeover of the American healthcare system.”

On our current trajectory, as soon as 7 years from now, in 2026, “doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes would not receive their full compensation from the program and patients could face more of the financial burden.” That is from the New York Times.

In other words, this is a time for shoring up the existing health insurance that our seniors like and rely on, not a time to risk it—risk it all—by packing millions and millions more—the whole rest of the Nation—into that very system for the sake of a snappy campaign promise.

The last time Democrats had unified control of the House, the Senate, and the White House, of course, they implemented sweeping changes that the American people were assured would keep healthcare costs down. Lots of promises were made. Lots of promises were broken.

Many families are now saddled with sky-high premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs, not to mention dwindling choices, and now Democrats are back for another, even bigger bite of the apple.

The last thing American families need is even more top-down, one-size-fits-all social engineering. We need to take practical steps to address what really matters most to American families—healthcare costs. We need to preserve what works, fix what doesn’t, bring costs down, and preserve Medicare. That is the sensible approach that American families deserve. That is the practical solutions-oriented approach that Republicans are committed to.

But as we have already seen across the Capitol this week, our Democratic friends want to wheel out the drawing board yet again and take another big whack at the healthcare plans Americans already rely on.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ABEGG

Madam President, on one final matter, one of the most bittersweet subjects that Senators discuss on the floor is the departure of trusted staff. On one hand, I am certainly glad for any opportunity to highlight members of my all-star team, especially someone as diligent and tireless as the subject of my remarks today. The vast majority of the late-night hours and weekend projects that go on around here are repaid with much private gratitude but little to no public fanfare. So I am glad I can devote some time today to a long-

time adviser who has earned my complete trust and thrown himself heart, mind, and soul into serving Kentucky and our Nation for nearly two decades.

But I am very unhappy that the occasion for this is that John Abegg is taking leave of the Senate to pursue the next chapter for himself and his family. John, you see, is my chief counsel. He arrived on our team before I was whip and before I was leader. President Clinton was still in office, and it was one of the more fortunate days of my career when this bright, young lawyer walked into my office. He brought an outsized share of shrewd judgment, sharp wit, and an eagle eye for detail along with him.

Some 19 years later, nearly all of that is still the case. There might be a little more seasoning. The reading glasses might be a little thicker. But every ounce of the talent and dedication that were so evident back then have remained part of my operation ever since.

John has literally flourished. He has become an institution in his own right here in the Senate and in the legal community, and I feel so fortunate to have had him by my side.

Now, today, it may all sound quite impressive—the chief counsel who advises the Senate majority leader on judicial nominations and countless important policy matters. But John can attest that the original job description 19 years ago wasn’t so glamorous.

It was the beginning of the 107th Congress. I secured a temporary seat on the Judiciary Committee. It was an important assignment, but it came with some caveats. Namely, I would be last on the docket to speak at hearings. So most often, as a courtesy, I would yield my speaking time and avoid holding up the proceedings.

But this will give you a picture of how unbelievably industrious and meticulous John is, because my bright, young counsel saw this as a zero license to slack off or let up on the comprehensive briefing books he would prepare for me.

No matter how many times I opted only to listen and cast my vote, the painstaking, encyclopedic preparations came pouring in—just in case. I may have been the new guy on the block, but John made sure that every week I showed up loaded for bear, with extensive background information, potential amendments, and suggested questions, because, you see, John Abegg is never, ever caught flat-footed—not ever, and if you are around him, he will not let you be caught flat-footed either. For John, a job worth doing is a job worth doing to perfection—or as close to perfection as possible.

The man literally handled everything from nominations to policy matters to his own colleagues’ questions about Senate ethics. Now, all of that was in a half-day’s work, by the way, and yet every one of these subjects, every single time, was handled with total commitment, stunning professionalism,

and the utmost care. Zero stones were left unturned, zero angles left unconsidered—a true “lawyer’s lawyer” from dawn until well after dusk, and then all over again.

We are talking about a mindset that you would think even a top professional might reserve for one marquee project every couple of months. John brought that high standard to 14 different things before lunchtime, and he did it every day for almost 20 years.

Now, I realize that the picture I have painted so far may sound like an incredible team asset but not necessarily the most warm and fuzzy individual. It is true that John was never afraid to state his views directly to his peers or his chief of staff or to me. Now, I am not sure anyone on my staff has been able to deliver hard news, when necessary, with more clarity or greater courage, but he has been equally reliable for the best laugh line in most meetings, the perfectly timed joke. He literally lifts everyone up by bringing the house down.

And for all of the priorities he juggles, anybody who has seen John in the presence of his lovely wife and their three girls knows exactly what his real top priority is.

During his tenure, John has offered me peerless advice and analysis on countless judicial nominations. A majority of the sitting Supreme Court was confirmed while John has been on this job. He takes the judiciary as seriously as it deserves. The third branch and our Nation are better for his service.

Then, there is a lengthy catalog of legislative work that John has steered and helped me to shape. Some of his legacy is what you might expect from a no-nonsense lawyer for a Republican Member of this body—work on causes like class action reform or medical liability reform.

But anyone who spent time around John would be equally unsurprised by the long nights he put in to help bring about comprehensive legislation to address the opioid crisis or crack down on the scourge of human trafficking or to help local law enforcement care for fallen officers’ families and search for missing children. In every single case, John was on the case—rock-solid legal advice, keen strategy. Before an issue even popped up, he would have his finger on the pulse of the Senate.

Once we were in the thick of it, he was often our field general and backbone, and after our work was done, but only then, it was time for a well-earned smile.

But John’s smile is widest when he is talking about his beautiful wife Heidi and their three lovely daughters, Abigail, Ingrid, and Erika.

So while his friends and colleagues here in the Senate are sad to see John go, we know he does nothing rashly, and so we are confident that he has thought this calculus through as completely as he has everything else.

Fewer full-day hearings and more bedtime stories. Fewer dinners crackling up his colleagues over takeout food

during some all-night session and more times at his own kitchen table.

Well, after nearly two decades, I suppose we can let this slacker head for the hills, and we will know that he has made the right call because John Abegg is the one who made it.

So I really can't thank him enough for his loyal friendship, wise counsel, and exceptionally well done job.

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

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

#### MEDICARE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, shortly before Easter, the junior Senator from Vermont introduced a new version of his so-called Medicare for All plan. Given the staggering pricetag of his previous plan, it was reasonable to wonder if he would think about producing something that was at least a bit more modest and achievable. So what is the new plan like? Is it any more realistic? Did he figure out a way to actually pay for a government takeover of healthcare? Well, the answer is no. In fact, the new plan is even worse. It is more unrealistic, more costly, and even more likely to result in massive tax hikes on middle-class Americans.

Analysis of a previous version of the Vermont Senator's Medicare for All plan found that it would cost \$32 trillion over 10 years. Now, to put that number in perspective, that is more money than the Federal Government has spent combined in the last 8 years on everything—defense, law enforcement, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, the environment, agriculture, Foreign Affairs—everything.

Here is what the Washington Post had to say back in 2017 about the pricetag for government-run healthcare:

But the government's price tag would be astonishing. When Sen. Bernie Sanders . . . proposed a "Medicare for all" health plan in his presidential campaign, the nonpartisan Urban Institute figured that it would raise government spending by \$32 trillion over 10 years, requiring a tax increase so huge that even the democratic socialist Mr. Sanders did not propose anything close to it.

Fast-forward to today, and, once again, the Senator from Vermont has proposed a government-run health plan without even coming close to presenting a way to pay for it. The only difference this time is that the pricetag is likely to be even higher—much higher. Why? Because the Senator from Vermont's new plan also includes coverage for long-term care—an incredibly expensive part of the healthcare system.

The Democrats' last attempt to have the government run a long-term care program fell apart before it was even implemented because the program was

not financially viable. Thirty-two trillion dollars was a staggering enough figure, and now we are talking about having the Federal Government spend even more. Where do the Democrats think we are going to find the money? The list of proposed tax hikes that the Senator from Vermont released would not even come close to covering the estimated cost of his original plan, much less the cost of his new, expanded Medicare fantasy. This is not a plan that can be paid for by using the Democrats' favorite solution of taxing the rich. If Medicare for All ever became law, it would be paid for on the backs of middle-class families.

It is impossible to have a discussion of Medicare for All—or maybe we should call it Medicare for None given the fact that it would end Medicare as we know it—without focusing on the insane pricetag. Yet that is not the only unrealistic aspect of this bill. The Senator from Vermont is proposing to implement his plan in 4 years. That is right—in 4 years. The Obama administration had 3½ years to implement the ObamaCare exchanges, which were intended to cover a tiny fraction of the number of people who would be covered under Medicare for All. As I am sure most Americans remember, the government couldn't put together a working website in that time period. The idea that the government could successfully transition more than 180 million Americans into government-run healthcare in the space of 4 years is ludicrous, not to mention what that healthcare would be like when Americans would have made it into the system.

As a recent Vox article pointed out, the Senator from Vermont is proposing extremely generous benefits—benefits that are substantially more generous than those that are offered by other countries with government-run healthcare. Yet, again, he has no viable way of paying for any of this. The likelihood that Americans would actually see all of those benefits is slim.

When the government reaches a point where it can't pay for all of the benefits it promised, it has basically two options. It can raise taxes even further—and that would undoubtedly happen; I think that is a given—but the government would also inevitably have to turn to the other option: the kind of control over healthcare we have seen in other countries with socialized medicine. Americans would also undoubtedly soon find themselves facing that other hallmark of socialized medicine: long wait times for care.

The leader recently said on the floor that Republicans stand for "preserving what works and fixing what doesn't." That is exactly it. Republicans know that our healthcare system is not perfect. We are committed to finding solutions to make healthcare more affordable, but we don't think tearing down our entire system is the answer. We can address the healthcare challenges we face without ripping away Americans' health insurance and forcing

them into a government-run, one-size-fits-all plan and then raising their taxes to pay for it. We can make healthcare more affordable without destroying Medicare as we know it.

Democrats' socialist healthcare fantasy sounds nice in theory, but the reality would be anything but—huge new tax hikes for the middle class, long wait times and lower quality of care, government involvement in your healthcare decisions, and no choice at all when it comes to your insurance.

Let's hope the Democratic Party halts its mad rush to the extreme left before Americans are forced to live under the ugly reality of socialized medicine.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF R. CLARKE COOPER

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise in support of the nomination of R. Clarke Cooper to be an Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the Department of State.

The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs plays a critical role in the State Department and in broader diplomatic and national security efforts around the world. Every day, the Bureau works to ensure that our foreign policy goals are driving our security partnerships and security assistance around the world, including nearly \$100 billion annually in arms sales.

I am prepared to support Mr. Cooper's nomination as Assistant Secretary because I believe he brings experience, insight, and leadership that will benefit the Bureau and our foreign policy. I also expect Mr. Cooper to uphold the commitments he made during his confirmation hearing, including that he will not only be responsive to all inquiries from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and its staff about the Bureau's work but that he will also proactively keep us fully informed about issues under his jurisdiction.

#### 3D GUNS

Madam President, if confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Cooper will assume his position at a time when the Bureau is at the center of, quite frankly, some appalling decisions by the Trump administration that will undermine the safety and security of Americans abroad.

I cannot wrap my head around the administration's policies, for example, on the issue of 3D-printed firearms. The Trump administration apparently believes it is a good idea to indiscriminately distribute around the world—to foreign adversaries, terrorist organizations, and future mass shooters—the literal blueprints for using 3D printers

to make nearly undetectable firearms and components.

Apparently, the Trump administration believes this information should be readily available to anyone as it seeks to transfer the export control licensing of military-style firearms and ammunition from the Department of State to the less stringent Department of Commerce. Even the Commerce Department has admitted that its own regulations will not permit them to effectively stop the publication of these firearm blueprints online.

It is not difficult to imagine the devastating consequences of this reckless decision, which will make more lethal weapons available to more thuggish regimes and facilitate their illicit transfer to criminals and terrorists. We are talking about making it easier for a criminal to build his own weapons without having to get a background check. We are talking about making it easier for terrorists to board a plane with deadly guns, perhaps to hijack them and use the aircraft as weapons, just as the 9/11 terrorists did. We are talking about making it easier for armed militants to enter a U.S. Embassy undetected, endangering the lives of our diplomats abroad. Simply put, we are talking about preventable tragedies made possible by the thoughtless actions of this administration. These are undetectable. That is the big challenge here. Indeed, this decision could place all American citizens and officials—even the President himself—at greater security risk.

It is not too late to reverse this mistake. The Trump administration can halt its decision to transfer the export jurisdiction to the Commerce Department. At the very least, the administration could leave the blueprints for producing undetectable, 3D-printed firearms under the stronger regulatory controls of the Department of State.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

Madam President, on a separate note, I have made clear to Mr. Cooper that the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has a moral and strategic imperative to consider human rights and end-use monitoring when it comes to making decisions about arms sales, transfers, and security assistance to foreign countries.

Over the past 2 years, it has been troubling to see human rights considerations take a backseat. That includes the President's recent decision to revise the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy to disregard a country's human rights record. With Saudi Arabia, the Khashoggi murder, and the debacle of the Yemen war fresh on our minds, we need no reminder of the consequences of the President's impulse to put profit above all else, including respect for basic human rights. Human rights are not just a nice gesture; they are fundamental American values and critical to advancing peace, justice, democracy, and stability around the world.

We must ask ourselves what we as a nation want America to be. Are we a

beacon of hope for the oppressed or simply the biggest arms merchant to the world? Count me and many of my colleagues as standing firmly for the former, and I hope Mr. Cooper will stand with us.

#### NOMINATION PROCESS

Madam President, finally, for weeks, we have heard from the President, the majority leader, and other Republicans about vacancies at the State Department and why that contributed to the supposed need for Senator McConnell to exercise the nuclear option on nominees. As I recently explained on the floor, Republicans need to point the finger at their President. In many cases, the President has simply failed to put forward nominees for key national security positions. When he does put forward nominees, too often these individuals have not been thoroughly vetted, and issues that would be disqualifying for nominees in any other administration have simply been glossed over.

It turns out there is another issue that speaks directly to the flimsiness of the majority leader's rationale for invoking the nuclear option, and that is the fact that Republicans themselves are blocking State Department nominees, including career employees nominated to be Ambassadors to Ecuador and Cambodia. These nominees were reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee by voice vote and without any controversies several weeks ago.

They could have been confirmed and on the ground in their posts prior to Easter recess. Instead, their nominations are languishing because the majority leader has refused to move. So I now call on Senator McConnell to stop playing politics with the State Department and get these career nominees confirmed.

As I have said repeatedly, when presented with qualified, well-vetted nominees, my staff and I will work around the clock to advance the confirmation process. I would ask for the same from my Republican colleagues.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, over the weekend, Indiana lost a giant in Richard G. Lugar. Senator Lugar spent 36 years as a Member of this body, and I rise today to celebrate his life, which made the world a better, safer place to live.

I had the pleasure in the early 2000s to work on Senator Lugar's staff, and I had a front row seat to history, watching a true statesman at work. He stood by me as I took my oath right here in

this Chamber. I will never forget his support of me and of so many others throughout the years.

Senator Lugar's reserved and quiet demeanor sometimes might have led people to believe he was something less than competitive. In truth, he was one of the most competitive people I have ever encountered. Senator Lugar was a runner, and his office competed every year in the Capital Challenge, the competitive race between legislative staffs. Senator Lugar had a member of his staff actually track everyone's time and their improvement, or lack thereof, from year to year. I think that spreadsheet still exists somewhere today. When I was going through the hiring process to be a legislative assistant in the Senator's office, I went through the normal series of questions—my academic background, my professional experiences, my policy knowledge, my interest in working in the office. But at the very end of the interview, the Senator asked me a pointed question. He led into the question by indicating that he had seen listed some hobbies on my résumé, and one of those hobbies was running. So he asked me pointedly: How fast can you run 3 miles? I quickly told him I thought I could break 18 minutes. A half hour later, I got a phone call saying I was hired. Looking back, I am not so sure it was because of my policy chops.

I learned a lot working for this man. I fondly remember his penchant for ice cream and the stacks and stacks of books in his office. I believe he read every one.

Senator Lugar would from time to time invite staff members or interns to run with him on the Mall. There was one rule: Never ever run in front of the Senator. He was, after all, a leader, a Rhodes Scholar, a Navy veteran, mayor of Indianapolis where he spurred economic growth, which is still spoken of today, by consolidating the city and county governments into Univox.

As a U.S. Senator, he led on food security, energy independence, and free trade. At a time when nuclear proliferation was regarded as civilization's greatest threat, Senator Lugar helped save the world. The Nunn-Lugar Act, for which he is most well known, has led to the securing and destruction of thousands of weapons of mass destruction and delivery devices.

Dick Lugar was a very shrewd politician until his last days. His instincts were very good. I know this from personal experience. In fact, last year, he and I did a forum together at Indiana University. Present on the panel were a former World Food Prize winner, the leader of an international NGO, Senator Lugar, and I. After formal presentations were done and some questions were asked by the moderator, questions were opened up to the audience. Some particularly difficult questions were tendered initially, and whenever one of those questions was asked, Senator Lugar would put on that trademark smile of his—and everyone back

home knows what I am talking about. He would just look over at me and let the junior Senator from Indiana field that question. After about three or four times, I decided it was his turn, so I tried to use his method right back at him. He simply smiled back at me until I couldn't stand the silence anymore. I was the first to break. The man still had the gift. The entire audience laughed. He was not to be underestimated.

He was not to be underestimated as a boss in the impact he could have on a young, idealistic staffer looking for role models in public life. He was not to be underestimated as a mentor who understood that the most important thing a leader can do is to simply set a good example—comport yourself in a way that others might want to model. He was not to be underestimated as a human being. Richard Lugar had a heart. He ran for office not to be somebody, but to do things, important things to improve the lives of hundreds of millions—in the end, billions of people around the world.

Dick Lugar was the gold standard. He leaves a legacy as an exemplar of wisdom, civility, and bipartisanship. Always staying true to his temperament, he was a quiet man, a dignified statesman. He thought before he spoke. He emphasized substance over personality. In short, he set the bar for public leaders, and he set it high. I would go further and say that he set the bar high for leaders, more generally.

We should all look to Dick Lugar. We should all learn from his example.

I am not sure we will ever see another Richard Lugar. I sure pray we do. May God watch over him and his family during this difficult time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, you just heard the story from Senator YOUNG. He had the benefit of knowing Richard Lugar more recently.

My story is a little different. I am going to have to think back to 45 years ago. I was between my sophomore and junior years at Wabash College. I never knew I had an interest in politics, let alone that someday I would be serving in the Lugar seat. How life drives you in certain directions.

I remember that Richard Lugar took on Senator Birch Bayh, who I think had served several terms—he recently passed away himself, another icon of Hoosier politics—and I said that I wanted to get involved. When you have a man like Richard Lugar, who took a risk, stuck his neck out to run for mayor after he had been on a school board—ironically, I was on a school board for 10 years when I decided to stick my neck out to run for State legislator—you think back about how life drives you in certain directions.

With Richard Lugar, most notably, during his entire life, he lived with character and integrity.

I think back to when I first met him. I was dressed in a white turtleneck

with a blue blazer and plaid pants. Wow, I can't believe we even dressed that way back in the seventies. I found those pictures stored away in a box about 4 or 5 years ago. I pulled them out, and my high school sweetheart, my wife now—she and I were looking at Dick as he was preparing to run for Senate. The look on our faces, looking into the face of someone with his stature, really stood out.

When you get this far down the trail, I get asked: Who were your mentors who got you to run for school board, State rep, and then the Senate? Mostly, it would have been my parents and my community. I say that often. But if there was one politician I would have looked up to, even when I wasn't certain I ever wanted to get involved in politics at all, I would look back to that year, back in the midseventies, when I decided to do it.

He was in the Senate for a long time. During the entirety of his terms, he always did it to where, as a Hoosier and as an American, you were proud of him. The thing he did as well as anyone is that he was able to look across the aisle in times when we were less polarized. Now, I think that trait, more than ever, would be something we need to pay attention to.

When you close the chapter on one individual's life, one whose life was as exemplary as Richard Lugar's, it should mostly be inspiration for others to follow in his footsteps.

I know in the State of Indiana—in an op-ed that was just put out by an individual, it cites Richard Lugar as the most important public servant ever to come from our State. Gosh, I think you would have to say there was a lot of credibility to push that point of view.

All I can tell you is that for the time I am here in the Lugar seat, I intend to do what he did. On things he knew a little something about, he stuck his neck out, made a statement, and he led. In the entirety of his career here in the Senate, he was impeccable in his integrity and character. Gosh, we could sure use a good dose of that in this day and age.

It is an honor for me to be serving in his seat, and I hope to do even half as good a job in my stint here as he did over many, many years.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cooper nomination?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the upcoming vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Ex.]

#### YEAS—68

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Jones	Shaheen
Collins	Kaine	Shelby
Coons	Kennedy	Sinema
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Tester
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	McSally	Van Hollen
Enzi	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	Young
Fischer	Paul	

#### NAYS—31

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Booker	Leahy	Smith
Brown	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Warren
Cortez Masto	Murray	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Peters	Wyden
Durbin	Reed	
Gillibrand	Rosen	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked, the postcloture time on the R. Clarke Cooper nomination expire at 2:15 p.m. today. I further ask that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. Finally, I ask that following the cloture vote on the R. Clarke Cooper nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 nomination of R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson,

John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 91, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 80 Ex.]

#### YEAS—91

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Baldwin	Gardner	Reed
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Bennet	Grassley	Roberts
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeben	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Burr	Isakson	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	McConnell	Toomey
Cramer	McSally	Udall
Crapo	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cruz	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Moran	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Enzi	Murray	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Feinstein	Perdue	

#### NAYS—8

Booker	Markey	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Peters	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 91, the nays are 8.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

#### TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the information of the Senate, pursuant to the order of April 11, 2019, the Senate

having received from the House H.R. 1222, and its being identical to S. 94, H.R. 1222 is considered read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The passage of S. 94 is thus vitiated, and the bill is indefinitely postponed.

The bill (H.R. 1222) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate at 12:58 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 81 Ex.]

#### YEAS—90

Alexander	Feinstein	Perdue
Baldwin	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Reed
Bennet	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rosen
Boozman	Heinrich	Rounds
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Isakson	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Jones	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	King	Sinema
Collins	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Leahy	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	McConnell	Tillis
Cramer	McSally	Toomey
Crapo	Menendez	Udall
Cruz	Merkley	Van Hollen
Daines	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Enzi	Murray	Wyden
Ernst	Paul	Young

#### NAYS—8

Booker	Markey	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Peters	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Harris Lee

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant bill 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 nomination of Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 82 Ex.]

#### YEAS—72

Alexander	Cornyn	Hawley
Barrasso	Cortez Masto	Hoeben
Bennet	Cotton	Hyde-Smith
Blackburn	Cramer	Inhofe
Blumenthal	Crapo	Isakson
Blunt	Cruz	Johnson
Boozman	Daines	Jones
Braun	Durbin	Kennedy
Brown	Enzi	King
Burr	Ernst	Lankford
Cantwell	Feinstein	Lee
Capito	Fischer	Manchin
Carper	Gardner	McConnell
Casey	Graham	McSally
Cassidy	Grassley	Moran
Collins	Hassan	Murkowski

Murphy	Rounds	Sullivan
Paul	Rubio	Thune
Perdue	Sasse	Tillis
Portman	Scott (FL)	Toomey
Risch	Scott (SC)	Warner
Roberts	Shaheen	Wicker
Romney	Shelby	Wyden
Rosen	Sinema	Young

## NAYS—27

Baldwin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Booker	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Markey	Smith
Coons	Menendez	Stabenow
Duckworth	Merkley	Tester
Gillibrand	Murray	Udall
Heinrich	Peters	Van Hollen
Hirono	Reed	Warren
Kaine	Sanders	Whitehouse

## NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 27.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Hartogensis nomination expire at 5 p.m. today. I further ask that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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

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

## RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

## MUELLER REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Mueller report, released earlier this month, was divided into two sections. One is detailing the concerted and coordinated effort by President Putin to interfere in our Presidential election, an effort the Trump campaign welcomed and at times amplified. It also included a second section, which laid out a pattern of dishonesty and interference with a Federal investigation by the President and his team.

Now, today I want to focus the Senate's attention on the first half of the report: the coordinated effort by President Putin to interfere in our elections, which is an unbelievable thing, a threat to our democracy, and some-

thing every American should be concerned about.

Though we have long known about President Putin's interference in the 2016 elections—we have all known about that—the conclusions of the Mueller report demand a vigorous response by this Congress to ensure that Putin pays a significant price for his actions and that Putin and other adversaries will not consider a similar action in the 2020 election cycle. What occurred in 2016 was nothing short of an assault on our democracy and an attack on our most revered traditions. It was the kind of foreign influence feared by the Framers and warned about in the Federalist Papers. It is the very reason we have an emoluments clause in our Constitution.

Even so, President Trump and his administration met these attacks with apathy. The President has routinely sought to undermine and weaken efforts by this Chamber to sanction Russia. The Treasury Department recently cut a deal to reduce sanctions on the Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

Just last week, the Times reported that then-Homeland Security Secretary Nielsen was told to not even mention election security in front of the President, even though she reportedly considered it one of America's highest priorities as we head into 2020.

In the face of the administration's disturbing indifference, it is clear the Senate must act. In the past, this body has proudly come together, bipartisan, to pass sanctions on Russia. We have not done enough yet to hold the guilty parties of 2016 accountable, and we must do more to ensure that a foreign power cannot meddle in our elections ever again. With that in mind, I have three proposals for my colleagues to consider.

First, we should pass additional sanctions against President Putin, his cronies, and other adversaries considering similar malign activities. There are multiple bipartisan sanctions bills awaiting action, including the Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act, called DASKA, and the Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines Act, the DETER Act. I would urge the chairmen of those committees to take up those bills and send them to the floor, where Leader MCCONNELL should bring them up for serious consideration.

Second, we should commit serious—and I mean serious—resources to election security. FBI Director Wray and other intelligence officials have testified that 2016 was not an isolated incident. Foreign powers will try again to interfere in our elections, they posited, in 2020 and beyond. Director Wray—and this should trouble every American—called 2018 a dress rehearsal for our adversaries. It might not just be Moscow next time. It could be Beijing, Tehran, or Pyongyang. If our elections are susceptible to foreign influence, our democracy is at risk.

We know—we know right now—that another foreign influence campaign is

coming, and if we don't take steps to secure our elections, it would be astonishingly irresponsible. In fiscal year 2018, we were able to allocate \$380 million in funding through the appropriations process for States to harden their election infrastructure and help improve election administration. I thought this was very important and pushed hard to get it in that budget, that appropriation. Unfortunately, though, in fiscal year 2019, our Republican colleagues blocked us from allocating more funding to the States, despite overwhelming demand. Why? Why would Republicans want to not stop Russia or someone else from interfering in our elections? It is befuddling. Make no mistake, though, Democrats will push for more election security money in the upcoming appropriations process.

We should also take up the bipartisan Secure Elections Act. Ranking Member LEAHY and Ranking Member KLOBUCHAR are the leaders on this issue, and I hope their diligence will pay off once again.

Third, we must hear from the intelligence and defense community about the coming threats of 2020. So today I would like to request that Leader MCCONNELL—I am officially requesting him to schedule an all-Senators classified briefing with the leaders of the Departments of Homeland Security, FBI, and the Cyber Command to inform Senators about the threat of foreign interference in the 2020 election cycle. We must be very aware of these threats and take immediate steps to avoid the repeat of 2016.

The Senate can do these three things quickly, and each one of them should be bipartisan and noncontroversial. There are no doubt other ideas and legislation along these lines we should consider, but this is a place to get started. I look forward to having discussions with my colleagues about these items in the coming days.

## SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Madam President, Leg Graveyard. Now, on another and related matter, the three items I just mentioned are examples of the things that the Senate could—could—be doing in a bipartisan way to address a serious challenge. I hope the Republican leader sees the value in pursuing them because so far this year the Republican leader has shown little interest in pursuing meaningful bipartisan legislation.

With over a year and a half left in Congress, Leader MCCONNELL has turned this Chamber into a legislative graveyard, and without a shred of irony, he has proudly bragged that he is the Senate's Grim Reaper. Is that what the American people want? They urge us to work together in a bipartisan way, but Leader MCCONNELL takes all the bills that have passed the House, puts them in his drawer, and spends his time simply doing nominations.

We are one-quarter of the way through the year, so let's do a quick



quarterly review. Our colleagues in the House have been busy. In 4 months, over 100 pieces of legislation passed their Chamber. Here are some of them: Legislation to oppose the lawsuit that would eliminate protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. Who is opposed to that? Leader McConnell is. Legislation to reform our democracy and improve elections, restore voting rights, and get the money out of politics; legislation on paycheck fairness so women are treated equally to men; commonsense background checks for which 98 percent of Americans support; upgrades to the Violence Against Women Act; legislation to restore net neutrality; and despite the fact that the President shut down the government for over a month, these bills have passed the House, most every one of them, with bipartisan support. These aren't partisan bills. They are commonsense proposals to help the middle class solve our country's basic problems.

The Republican leader told the American people that under his leadership, the Senate would debate and vote on issues of the day no matter if his party supported them. Yet not one, not one of these bills has come to the floor of the Senate—not one. Not one has been debated in the Chamber. These are the bills. If the Republican leader doesn't love every aspect of one of these House bills, fine, we are not saying take them or leave them. Let's have a debate. Let's have amendments. At least let's try to compromise on language that can get through both Chambers.

What has the Senate been doing instead? Leader McConnell has wasted precious time on basically two issues, "gotcha" votes like a stunt on climate change and Republicans' cynical attempts to limit women's reproductive health choices. The remainder has been spent on approval of alarmingly unqualified nominees to executive agencies in the judiciary.

What are we doing this week on the calendar? Not one piece of legislation, just nominees. Next week could probably be more of the same. So over the next 2 years, the Republican Senate is in danger of becoming little more than a staffing agency to the administration's radical nominees. That is a tragedy because at the start of this Congress, the American people sent a clear message. They wanted us to work together on legislation in a bipartisan way. The American people voted for action: action on healthcare, action on prescription drugs, action on climate change, and gun safety. Poll after poll shows that these issues are on the minds of Americans. Substantial majorities, Democrats and Republicans, supported them. We cannot, simply because we have a divided government, allow this entire Congress to go by without making meaningful progress on these issues. This is not good for the country, certainly not good for the Senate or the Republican Party and the incumbents in those Chambers. The

American people cannot afford to have Leader McConnell turn one Chamber of their government into a legislative graveyard for 2 full years. We hope he will realize the folly of this both substantively and politically, and maybe we will start doing some real work.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Madam President, finally, on the economy, that is one area that deserves our attention, although you wouldn't guess it if you were listening to President Trump. President Trump repeatedly brags about low unemployment numbers and a rising stock market—two trends that actually began long before he took office. President Trump should say "Thanks, Obama" for handing him an economy that was well into recovery from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. But what the President has done since taking office has been to tilt the playing field to allow most of the benefits of this recovery to flow to those at the very top. He can brag about GDP numbers, but when most of the wealth is going more and more to the highest level of people, it doesn't benefit enough people.

President Trump has consistently weakened programs that help middle-class Americans afford healthcare. He has rolled back critical worker and consumer protections and rammed through a tax bill that gave egregious giveaways to big corporations. Instead of the wealth trickling down, corporations have spent the lion's share of their new profits on corporate stock buybacks, which benefit shareholders and the CEOs—most of them very wealthy—not average Americans or workers.

If the economy is so strong, why is it that 4 out of 10 Americans can't afford a \$400 emergency expense? Why is it that income disparity grows, with the middle class left holding the bag? Recent polls confirm—and this should be a watch word, Mr. President—Americans don't believe the Trump economy is working for them. In a recent ABC poll, most Americans see the Trump economy as primarily benefiting those who are already in power, those who are already wealthy. According to Monmouth, most Americans say the economy hasn't benefited them much, if at all.

To simply brag about large macro numbers but not look at the effect on the average person who is making \$40-, \$50-, \$60,000 a year—that is wrong. That is not helping them. The group who believes the economy is benefiting them the most is making over \$100,000 a year. God bless them, but we ought to be working to spread economic benefits to the middle class.

Despite the President's trumpeting of self-selected economic data, the bottom line is this: The Trump economy is working OK if you are already doing quite well, but it is not doing enough—not close to enough—for working America and the middle class.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF GORDON HARTOGENSIS

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor to oppose the nomination of Mr. Gordon Hartogensis to serve as Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and, really, to express my continued frustration with the Republicans' efforts to weaponize the nomination process for partisan gain, including their unprecedented refusal to move Democratic nominees for important Agencies, like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board, in order to tilt them in favor of corporations, and including their continued attacks on women's healthcare and reproductive rights by stacking our courts with far-right judges.

The Director of the PBGC is responsible for protecting the retirement security of almost 40 million people. We owe it to workers and retirees to make absolutely sure a nominee for this position has the relevant pension-related experience and knowledge to handle that challenge. One needs to have the determination to fight for workers and retirees and to have the willingness to work with Members on both sides of the aisle.

When it comes to Mr. Hartogensis, I am simply not convinced that this is the case. It is unclear to me why he was nominated to replace Director Reeder, who is doing a commendable job, well before Director Reeder's term was completed. What makes this even worse is that the Senate HELP Committee didn't have a hearing at which members could question Mr. Hartogensis.

I have asked the Trump administration why it decided to replace Mr. Reeder. No response. My Democratic colleagues on the committee asked the chairman for a hearing with Mr. Hartogensis. No hearing. We should be giving Mr. Hartogensis' nomination serious scrutiny, including having a hearing with the Senate HELP Committee, especially considering the complex challenges that the PBGC Director must help the Agency navigate amid our country's multiemployer pension crisis. Millions of workers and retirees across the country are at risk of seeing the pensions they were promised—that they earned and planned their financial futures around—thrown into jeopardy through absolutely no fault of their own.

I am hopeful we can focus on this issue more going forward, and I look forward to taking bipartisan steps to address this crisis, but I am disappointed that our committee, which



should be most focused on this critical issue, was not even able to have a hearing with Mr. Hartogensis in order to dive into this crisis more deeply. So, given my doubts about his credentials for this position and my frustration with this nomination process, I will be voting against this nomination.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hartogensis is just one example of a broader effort by the Republicans to play political games with the nomination process in ways that, ultimately, harm workers and families nationwide.

#### NOMINATIONS

Madam President, I remain deeply disturbed by the Republicans' continued partisanship, particularly their obstruction of highly qualified Democratic nominees for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board.

It has been a longstanding practice to respect the minority party's selection of nominees and to move majority and minority nominees together to independent Agencies. Yet my colleagues across the aisle have jammed through Republican nominees to the NLRB and have hampered the EEOC's work by allowing one Republican Senator to essentially veto the Democratic nominee to the Agency, effectively tilting the playing field even more in favor of corporations and against workers' rights.

In this moment, as so many brave women and men have come forward to share their stories of workplace harassment and brought this issue to the forefront and as the Trump administration continues to undermine workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain for higher wages and better working conditions, the EEOC and the NLRB have very critical roles to play in protecting workers' rights. They have to be able to function fully and with balanced voices. I am going to keep fighting for workers across the country and keep pushing to get Democratic nominees confirmed to this Commission and this Board.

#### NOMINATION OF J. CAMPBELL BARKER

Madam President, the Republicans' nomination antics, of course, go far beyond those important Agencies. The Republicans are also continuing to work with President Trump to veer our courts far right by stacking them with ideological judges, especially when it comes to women's health and reproductive rights, which brings me to another nominee before us whom I strongly oppose—Mr. John Campbell Barker. As we have seen with Justice Kavanaugh and with so many other nominees, President Trump is seizing every opportunity he gets to appoint judges who will be willing to chip away at the right to safe, legal abortion. Unfortunately, Mr. Barker fits that pattern to a tee.

As deputy solicitor general of Texas, in the Whole Woman's Health case, he defended a law that imposed medically unnecessary requirements on physi-

cians and clinics that were meant to make it harder for women to access safe, legal care. He has also made it clear that he believes employers should be able to decide whether the women who work for them can get birth control through their insurance coverage. These alarming positions are just a few of the reasons I oppose Mr. Barker's nomination. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

The Republicans may be determined to continue their crusade of tipping the judiciary against women's health and reproductive rights, but they should know that the Democrats and women and men across the country are just as determined to stand up, call them out, and fight back.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yes, there is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 27, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 83 Ex.]

##### YEAS—72

Alexander	Enzi	Murphy
Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Bennet	Feinstein	Perdue
Blackburn	Fischer	Portman
Blumenthal	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hassan	Rosen
Brown	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Carper	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Casey	Johnson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Jones	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sinema
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Warner
Cruz	McSally	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Wyden
Durbin	Murkowski	Young

#### NAYS—27

Baldwin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Booker	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Markey	Smith
Coons	Menendez	Stabenow
Duckworth	Merkley	Tester
Gillibrand	Murray	Udall
Heinrich	Peters	Van Hollen
Hirono	Reed	Warren
Kaine	Sanders	Whitehouse

#### NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 84 Ex.]

##### YEAS—52

Alexander	Cornyn	Gardner
Barrasso	Cotton	Graham
Blackburn	Cramer	Grassley
Blunt	Crapo	Hawley
Boozman	Cruz	Hoeven
Braun	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Burr	Enzi	Inhofe
Cassidy	Ernst	Isakson
Collins	Fischer	Johnson

Kennedy	Portman	Shelby
Lankford	Risch	Sullivan
Lee	Roberts	Thune
McConnell	Romney	Tillis
McSally	Rounds	Toomey
Moran	Rubio	Wicker
Murkowski	Sasse	Young
Paul	Scott (FL)	
Perdue	Scott (SC)	

#### NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Capito	Harris
--------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am joined on the floor by my colleague Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, who has recently visited coastal Louisiana and will share his observations following my remarks. He will speak objectively about that which we in Louisiana see not only objectively but emotionally.

We see our coastline melting away, and with the loss of that coastline, increasing vulnerability to hurricanes coming off the gulf, as well as a loss of villages, beautiful oak trees as salinity kills their roots, whole communities, and ways of life. I shall elaborate because Louisiana's coastal erosion impacts local businesses, communities, and I would say even our entire Nation.

Some of the Nation's most important trade, energy, and commercial fishing assets are associated with South Louisiana. Now, every Senator gets up and is proud of his or her State, and they will make statements such as that, but these statements are objectively true.

By tonnage, 5 of the 25 largest ports in the country are located in South Louisiana and along the Mississippi River. Twenty percent of the Nation's waterborne commerce moves through Louisiana. Approximately, 11,000 vessels use the lower Mississippi annually. If you think of a map of our country, from Wyoming to Pennsylvania, that is the territory of our country drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries. If you are shipping goods from Ohio to South America, most likely you are sending it down the Mississippi. The

prosperity of the farmer along the Missouri River can depend upon the navigation of the lower Mississippi. It is truly a nation-impacting resource, but coastal erosion threatens the flow of commerce that is essential and vital to all of these areas.

Approximately, 20 percent of the Nation's oil supply originates off the coast of Louisiana, and countless oil-field service companies are located in South Louisiana to process that energy. Companies like Cheniere, Tellurian, Sempra, and others are investing billions in liquefied natural gas facilities, demonstrating the value of the United States but of Louisiana, in particular, in the global LNG market.

By the way, the workers who work in these rigs or work in these industries may live in Louisiana, but sometimes they will live far inland. I saw a map where somebody commuted from Montana, coming down by airplane, working for a month, and then going back to Montana. So the folks who work in our energy industry may come from any part of our country. Coastal erosion puts this energy infrastructure in jeopardy, threatening our Nation's energy security.

Louisiana has the largest commercial fishing industry in the lower 48, harvesting and selling shrimp, crawfish, crabs, and oysters to restaurants and grocery stores around the country. Coastal erosion puts this industry and the livelihoods of the workers who depend upon it in jeopardy.

For these reasons, among many more, I fight in Congress to protect the Louisiana coastline. Senator WHITEHOUSE frequently has a floor chart when speaking on the environmental issues and says: "Time to wake up." Everyone in Louisiana is very awakened to this crisis.

Our State has developed its Coastal Master Plan to help restore and maintain our coast. I think Senator WHITEHOUSE will refer to that. We may not be able to save every parcel of land, but it is imperative that we work to protect the vulnerable marshland, as we can, and, in turn, the businesses and communities from the effects that we see today.

By the way, oftentimes we only hear about industry and environmental organizations attacking one another, but in Louisiana, we found that without one, the other cannot survive. We have found that the environmentalists and the energy industry have a way to co-exist and to work for the betterment of the other. One example is that the State receives revenues from offshore energy production and other grant programs to protect and restore our coastline. Louisiana's constitution mandates that these dollars go to coastal restoration, creating a unique partnership where the royalty payments from the energy industry fund the environmental restoration upon which my State's future depends.

Projects funded with this revenue include the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Bret-

on diversion projects, designed to direct more sediment from the Mississippi River to rebuild marshland lost due to coastal erosion, in part because the Mississippi River was previously leveed. Other projects seek to protect vulnerable marshland from further losses by controlling saltwater intrusion in the Houma Navigation Canal or the Calcasieu River ship channel. However, more needs to be done to protect Louisiana's coastline and the impact upon the United States' economic and energy security.

In a previous Congress, I introduced legislation in the House and now in the Senate to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to provide more offshore energy revenue to energy-producing States in the gulf to fund coastal restoration and other environmental protection projects. Most recently, in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act bill and in another bill, there was an increase to the current cap on GOMESA dollars for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. I am currently working on another version of revenue-sharing legislation for the Gulf States, which I plan to introduce later this spring.

As part of that effort, working with Senator WHITEHOUSE's staff, we have been working on legislation to create a revenue-sharing program with the Federal and State governments for offshore wind to fund coastal resiliency efforts, an issue important to us and probably about 80 percent of America's population that I roughly judge lives within 100 miles of the coastline.

I look forward to working with Senator WHITEHOUSE and other colleagues to ensure that the coastal restoration needs important to Louisiana and to the United States are met. Again, I so appreciate Senator WHITEHOUSE's coming to visit and learn more about coastal Louisiana. I look forward to working with him on our mutual interests to protect our environment and our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am very grateful to be joined by the senior Senator from Louisiana on the floor today. I think this is about 240 in my series of "Time to Wake Up" speeches, and this is the first time we have a bipartisan presentation on the floor, which is significant to me.

I had the great pleasure of visiting Louisiana last month to see firsthand how a combination of decreased sedimentation, erosion, subsidence, habitat degradation, and rising seas are threatening Louisiana's coastline. I was joined by Congressman GARRET GRAVES, former Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority chairman, and I thank the Congressman for sharing his time and expertise of Louisiana's coastal issues. I have also enjoyed working with Louisiana's junior Senator on coastal resiliency efforts, and I look forward to continuing that work.

Senator CASSIDY and I share home States that are lively, diverse, coastal, proud, and a little bit eccentric and that have great food. There is a lot in common between Louisiana and Rhode Island. Like Rhode Island, Louisiana's coast drives the State's economy and has shaped the State's history and culture. Coastal Louisiana is home to around 2 million people and is responsible for over a quarter of the continental United States' fisheries landings. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Louisiana's wetlands today represent about 40 percent of the wetlands of the continental United States and about 80 percent of the losses.

Coastal wetlands are critical habitat and nurseries for commercially important fisheries and other wildlife. They also improve coastal water quality and buffer against storm surge, flooding, and other storm effects. Across the United States, we have lost ground. About half of our original wetlands in the past 200 years are gone. That is significant, and the scale and speed of wetland loss in coastal Louisiana is almost impossible to comprehend. From 1932 until 2010, the State lost nearly 1,900 square miles, or 25 percent, of its coastal land. All the red is land lost from 1932 to 2010. Between 1985 and 2010, the State was losing ground, about a football field's worth, every hour. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike caused the loss of more than 300 square miles of wetlands.

I saw firsthand what Louisiana's shredded coastline looks like from the air. The Mississippi River is one of the most heavily managed rivers in the world and is certainly one of the most important rivers in the world. A combination of flood prevention and irrigation interventions upriver have cut off the tap of sediment that used to flow naturally to Louisiana's wetlands. Now erosion outpaces natural rebuilding.

Though erosion is a natural phenomenon, oil and gas development exacerbates the problem. The dredged tracks left in the marsh by exploration and pipelines accelerate erosion, and here you see photos we took from our little airplane of some of those dredged channels. Strong storms, ratcheting up in strength on warmer ocean waters, thanks to climate change, also take a heavy toll on these vulnerable marshes, and you can see how these have been just washed out by the sea down here as well, again, looking out from our little aircraft.

Thank you, by the way, to SouthWings for sharing their aircraft with us so we could fly and see this.

On top of sediment loss, the Louisiana coastline is also sinking at around one-third of an inch each year due to the natural movement of the Earth's surface, and oil and gas development probably accelerates that process.

Then, there is sea level rise. Louisiana's Coastal Planning and Restoration Authority estimates as much as 2.7 feet of sea level rise by 2050. Tulane

University researchers concluded that current sea level rise estimates for Louisiana are actually probably too conservative, as the tide gauges used to track sea level rise don't accurately account for the fact that coastal marshes are sinking at the same time. So these current sea level rise projections don't fully express what the relative sea level rise is expected to be.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana undertook the daunting task of assembling a Coastal Master Plan. This 50-year, \$50 billion plan identifies 124 projects aimed at maintaining 800 square miles of land over time. Experts there hope to reduce over \$150 billion in damage by 2067 through a combination of hard infrastructure, restoring shoreline and barrier islands, diverting sediment, and protecting structures by doing things like flood-proofing and elevating them.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, which led the development of this master plan, looked at three potential scenarios for the next 50 years. It considered changes in precipitation, sea level rise, subsidence, and storm frequency and intensity.

We will look at the medium scenario. Under the medium scenario, the Coastal Authority expects more precipitation, over 2 feet of sea level rise, stronger though less frequent storms, and a continued slowing of subsidence. The agency then modeled what the coastline would look like 50 years out under these medium conditions with and without this \$50 billion investment. Without the \$50 billion investment, all that is red is lost to the sea. With the investment, there is still a lot of red lost, but these green areas show areas that are saved, and if you live in one of these green areas, hunt in one of these green areas, and have a business in one of these green areas, it is pretty darn important to you to see that they are saved.

Louisiana is at a point of no return, where the forward march of sea level rise and stronger storms will continue to erode the State's shore. Although Louisianians are faced with this discouraging future, I was very impressed by the optimism of the Louisianians I met. I spoke with Governor John Bel Edwards, with CPRA Chairman Chip Kline, CPRA Director Bren Haase, and Deputy for Coastal Activities Megan Terrell and had dinner together with many of them and Senator CASSIDY to discuss implementation of this Coastal Master Plan.

The Governor, who has said that "climate change is real; I do not deny it," is committed to implementing the Coastal Master Plan. The price tag is hefty, but the potential losses to Louisiana are much greater. I also went to Baton Rouge and met with Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome. While I was there in Baton Rouge, the Mississippi was steadily climbing the levees that protect the city. These are the handrails for the steps down to the Mississippi River, and, as you can see,

it was high enough that it was not only over the steps but over the handrails.

By March 21 of this year, the number of days at or above flood stage in Baton Rouge was on track to set new records. The mayor pointed out that getting the help communities need to prepare for severe but unnamed storms can be difficult, which is why I so appreciate working with Senator CASSIDY on ways to improve our response to coastal resilience, both of ours being Coastal States.

Following the release of the fifth National Climate Assessment back in November, Mayor-President Broome said:

After the 1,000-year rain event of 2016 in my city, I have been paying close attention to credible projections for future events. . . . the combined impacts of sea level rise and storm surge in the southeast have the potential to cost up to \$60 billion each year in 2050 and up to \$99 billion in 2090; that level of impact cannot be dismissed or put off for the next generation to deal with.

Baton Rouge is home to Louisiana State University, the LSU Tigers, and the impressive Center for River Studies. This is the main room at the Center for River Studies. This is an enormous physical model of the Mississippi River through which actual water runs and through which they can put small, sort of simulated sediment to model sediment flow, and these projectors on the roof can project down onto the surface to show various models and to provide all this color. So that is actually like a flat movie screen with projectors on the surface, which is three-dimensional in the sense that they built a model of the Mississippi River through it. It is an amazing educational tool, and it lets researchers at LSU and at the Army Corps of Engineers and others better understand the sediment dynamics in the Mississippi River.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a terrific article by the legendary Louisiana Pulitzer prize-winning outdoor columnist Bob Marshall.

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

[Apr. 7, 2019]

OUR COAST ISN'T DISAPPEARING OR  
VANISHING; IT'S BEING VIOLENTLY DESTROYED  
(By Bob Marshall)

Today's tip for Louisiana's coastal survival: Ban the terms "vanishing" and "disappearing" from being used in connection with the words "Louisiana coast."

You see, in the world of addiction recovery, practitioners know words are important. Until the addict admits to having a problem, they will never find a cure.

For example, the abuser who says, "I just get a little high now and then" will never kick the habit until he says, "I am an addict."

So it has occurred to me one of the reasons for the inability of Louisiana residents and politicians to take some necessary steps to save what's left of our coast is that we've been taught to use gentle euphemisms for a major cause of our demise: We say our wetlands and coast have been "vanishing" or "disappearing."

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Those descriptions evoke a gentle passage, a slow, almost comforting process of fading into history. And the term “lost coast” is equally off target. It’s like saying we misplaced a treasured item, or it was taken by an act of God.

None of those gentle things caused 2,000 square miles of marsh, swamp and uplands to become open water since the 1930s.

They were destroyed. By us.

And anyone who has spent time on the wet side of our levees—or has driven across the wetlands on elevated roadways—could see it wasn’t a gentle act.

This was a brutal assault, a battery, a vicious mugging. We used machines to dig up and toss aside marshes and cypress tupelo swamps to turn more than 10,000 miles (at last count) of our coastal zone into canals for barges to float drilling rigs, to lay tens of thousands of miles of pipelines for oil and gas, and to carve out shipping channels to make it easier and faster for boats to assist in the destruction. This was no gentle, whispering vanishing act; it was a noisy, diesel-fumed mauling of a pristine ecosystem we claim to love.

It was as violent and ugly to our homeland as the way companies eviscerated Western desert landscapes to strip mine for copper, or the way others dynamited entire Appalachian mountaintops—throwing their waste into adjacent streams—to make it easiest to harvest coal profits.

No one in Nevada or West Virginia says those deserts and mountains “disappeared” or “vanished.” They admit they were willfully destroyed.

Our ongoing embrace of these misleading euphemisms for what we did hides an even uglier aspect of this disaster: our silence. In many ways, this has been the Kitty Genovese of environmental crimes—because most of us stood by and did nothing even as the crime was being committed in front of us, then just walked silently away. We chose not to get involved because we were told it could cost us money.

Yes, levees on the rivers presaged the crimes, but those were unavoidable if we intended to live here. And 36 to 60 percent of what was destroyed—the portion researchers tie to oil and gas work—might still be here today if we had chosen another way.

Maybe we didn’t truly understand the systemic damage we were doing until the 1960s. But even then—even when the crime reports came out and the perpetrators were identified—we chose to look the other way.

Worse, we have taught the rest of the nation to join us in that deception. Google “Louisiana coast and disappearing,” and you’ll get 3.1 million hits. We have been so successful in this dissembling that our denial is now repeated regularly by journalists. The latest example is an in-depth New Yorker piece entitled “Louisiana’s Disappearing Coast”—which gave one sentence to the impact of those 10,000 miles of canals.

Indeed, our penchant for avoiding responsibility for our self-destruction extends to other another crime against our landscape and our children’s futures. Many of our politicians and residents now are ignoring or denying the mugging of the atmosphere by the emissions many of us help produce, emissions that are pushing the sea level rise acceleration that will send us to even earlier watery grave.

The only way to kick this deadly habit is to finally admit we have a problem.

So, let’s take the first step. Let’s look in the mirror and say to the people we see staring back that our coast isn’t disappearing or vanishing. It has been, and continues to be, willfully destroyed by our inaction—and we have no future here unless we kick that habit.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, after Baton Rouge, I went to the legendary city of New Orleans where I met with Mayor LaToya Cantrell. Around half of that city lives below sea level. Strong partnerships between the public and private sectors help make the city a national leader in resiliency planning.

In 2017, the city’s “Climate Action for a Resilient New Orleans” plan pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030. In March, New Orleans sued 11 oil, gas, and pipeline companies for damage to the wetlands that protect the city from storm surge and flooding.

Mayor Cantrell spoke to me about “learning to live with water” in the post-Katrina city. I visited community leaders in the recovering Lower Ninth Ward who are turning wetlands restoration projects in the area into education, community engagement, tourism, and other opportunities to rebuild a healthy connection between the city and the water that surrounds it.

I also met with a number of community leaders to discuss how businesses, nonprofits, researchers, and government agencies work together to save Louisiana’s working coastline. I heard from a business owner about a property he was having difficulty insuring due to anticipated flood risks.

I learned about the changes fishermen see in the gulf and how some of them have switched to nontraditional fisheries or changed careers completely. Hunters and recreational fishermen also notice worrying changes in their sportsmen’s paradise.

Though the evidence of climate change is everywhere in Louisiana and is reshaping the lives of Louisianans, the phrase “climate change” still brings apprehension in some circles.

Let me go back. This is us in the Ninth Ward, and here we are with some of the boats down at the fishing pier off of the Mississippi. I will describe a little bit more. This is the inlet that flows to Davis Pond, and it has brought water and sediment to the Davis Pond area.

You can’t see this very clearly, but these are white pelicans. I had never seen so many together in my life. It is rare for a Rhode Islander to see a white pelican. Here they pile in thick because the fish get drawn in coming off the river, and it makes a wonderful chow line. So there is a big population of white pelicans that have learned to show up this time of year and enjoy the chow line at this particular entry point.

I do want to say that although there is some hesitancy in talking about climate change in some quarters, some people are not hesitant, and I refer to the legendary Bob Marshall, who has described this as the “mugging of the atmosphere” by our emissions.

Having spoken with resiliency experts and seen Louisiana by both sky and in that terrific LSU model, I then took to the water to visit this restora-

tion work in action. This is Davis Pond here, and it was conceived as a freshwater diversion to push back saltwater intrusion into the marshes with counterpressure from added saltwater, but it turned out that it grew marshland, and it is now teaming with coastal wildlife and dozens of different bird species.

Here we are. We traveled in an airboat to get down there. I also visited hunter and fisherman Ryan Lambert at his lodge in Buras. He showed me some of his personal efforts to restore the delta and its wetlands. I am out here on his boat driving around the area that he has been working, pointing out how quickly, if you give nature a chance, she can rebound. A scientist with the National Wildlife Federation counted over 30 species of birds just while we were waiting to board the boat, and he spotted over 40 species while we were out on the water.

The sights and sounds of a healthy marsh were encouraging and a reminder of nature’s God-blessed ability to find a way to not only survive but flourish, given the chance.

Louisiana faces challenges ahead, but Louisianans are united in a David versus Goliath-scale battle to protect their State. To achieve that goal, I believe Louisiana must urge its fossil fuel tenants to accept responsibility for the climate crisis and commit to being part of the solution. Louisiana can be the crucible of compromise between the environment and the industry.

So thank you to all the wonderful advocates, researchers and community and State leaders I met in my visit to Louisiana. Thank you to Senator CASSIDY for his hospitality to me while I was down there. The dedication of the Louisianans I met to their coast is admirable and inspiring, and Louisiana’s coastal plan is a model for other coastal States.

I would also like to thank the senior Senator from Louisiana for welcoming me the way he did and for joining me here today. This is a big moment for me to have this be the first bipartisan “Time to Wake Up.” We share a commitment to giving our coast the respect, attention, and support they are due. I look forward to working together with Senator CASSIDY to find opportunities for our government to play its role in supporting our coastal resiliency and restoration.

Thank you, my friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Barker nomination expire at 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, May 1; I further ask that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and 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.

## TRIBUTE TO SANDY HART

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, every American has the solemn responsibility to show our gratitude to the brave men and women who have answered the call to serve our Nation in uniform. We have an obligation to honor the values for which they fought and praise their efforts to preserve the freedom of this great country and the world.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Allied invasion of the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. With every step onto the European continent, the forces of freedom moved closer to ending the reign of tyranny. Kentucky's World War II veteran community also marks another important milestone this year. Fifteen years ago, Sandy Hart, of Wickliffe, organized a groundbreaking project to honor the service of Kentucky's veterans. Because of Sandy's remarkable leadership, more than 500 World War II veterans traveled to our Nation's Capital in 2004 to visit the new memorial dedicated in their honor.

It is my privilege to recognize Sandy for her many years of dedicated service to American veterans, whom she calls true heroes. For many of the members of the Greatest Generation, a visit to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, simply wouldn't have been possible without her. Through more than a year and a half of hard work, Sandy, the daughter of a World War II veteran, collected the necessary donations to fill 17 busloads and give every veteran the chance to visit their memorial free of charge. Although shy by nature, she is animated by her passion for honoring veterans.

To foster greater understanding and appreciation of the sacrifice veterans made for this country, Sandy and her husband Ray established the Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum. With donations of both funds and memorabilia, Sandy hopes the museum can be a meaningful place of engagement and remembrance both for current veterans and for future generations. With focuses on each of the modern American military engagements, Sandy's museum pays tribute to the heroes who defended our Nation.

I am not the only one who admires Sandy for her tireless work in Kentucky. In his series of books entitled "Kentucky's Everyday Heroes: Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things," Steve Flairty profiled inspira-

tional men and women throughout the Commonwealth who, in his words, "go quietly about their daily living, making others' lives better, with little or no thoughts of personal benefit." Sandy's remarkable servant leadership clearly belongs among the ranks of these Kentuckians. Her inclusion in the book is a well-earned tribute to her lifetime spent in service to others.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary, the Wickliffe community will host a parade and a ceremony. They will also unveil new memorials to brave American veterans. This anniversary gathering is the latest opportunity for Kentuckians to honor our heroes that would be impossible without Sandy's committed vision. I am sure she would try to avoid the praise I am offering, but she deserves this and so much more. Sandy is an inspirational woman who has dedicated her life to the benefit of those around her, especially our veterans. So I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in marking this important anniversary and in thanking Sandy Hart for her extraordinary leadership honoring America's heroes.

## VACCINES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

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

## VACCINES SAVE LIVES

Mr. ALEXANDER. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will please come to order.

Senator Murray and I will each have an opening statement, and then we will introduce the witnesses. After the witnesses' testimony, senators will each have 5 minutes of questions.

It was not that long ago that, as a boy, I remember the terror in the hearts of parents that their children might contract polio and my classmates in iron lungs.

The Majority Leader, Senator McConnell, contracted polio when he was young. His mother took him to Warm Springs, because that is where President Roosevelt received treatment for polio. Fortunately, because of her dedication, Leader McConnell is able to walk today, but thousands of others were not as lucky.

Following the introduction of a vaccine in 1955, polio was eliminated in the United States in 1979, and since then, from every country in the world except for three. Polio is just one of the diseases we have eradicated in the United States thanks to vaccines.

Before the vaccine for measles was developed, up to four million Americans each year contracted the highly contagious, airborne virus.

In 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declared measles eliminated from the United States. And in 1980, smallpox was declared eradicated from the world by the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO).

This is a remarkable demonstration of modern medicine.

Four years ago, this Committee held a hearing on vaccines, following the 2014 outbreak of measles—the worst outbreak since the disease was declared eliminated in 2000.

And even though 91.1 percent of Americans had been vaccinated for measles in 2017, according to the CDC, we continue to see outbreaks of this preventable disease because there are pockets in the United States that have low vaccination rates.

Last year, there were 372 cases of measles—the second highest number since 2000. And so far this year, there have been 159 cases reported and outbreaks confirmed in Washington State, New York, Texas, and Illinois.

We know that some Americans are hesitant about vaccines, so today I want to stress the importance of vaccines: not only has the Food and Drug Administration found them to be safe, but vaccines also save lives.

Vaccines have been so successful that, until recently, Americans have lived without fear of getting measles, polio, or rubella. We have made significant strides in improving vaccination rates.

In 2009, about 44 percent of Americans had received vaccines for seven preventable diseases: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, Haemophilus influenza type b, Hepatitis B, Chickenpox, and Pneumococcal, according to the CDC.

Today, over 70 percent of Americans are vaccinated against all seven of these diseases.

Vaccines protect not only those who have been vaccinated, but the larger community. This is called herd immunity.

There are some people who cannot be vaccinated—they are too young, or have a weak immune system because of a genetic disorder or are taking medicine that compromises their immune system, like cancer treatment.

Vaccines protect those who cannot be vaccinated by preventing the spread of diseases. However, low immunization rates can destroy a community's herd immunity.

While the overall vaccination rate nationwide is high enough to create this herd immunity, certain areas—the pockets of the country where vaccination rates are low—are vulnerable to outbreaks. There is a lot of misleading and incorrect information about vaccines that circulates online, including through social media.

Here is what I want parents in Tennessee, in Washington, in Texas, everywhere in our country to know: Vaccines are approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and meet the FDA's gold standard of safety. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes recommendations on the use of vaccines in the United States and annual child and adult vaccine schedules. This Advisory Committee is made up of medical doctors and public health professionals from medical schools, hospitals, and professional medical organizations from around the country. They are among the best our country has to offer and they have dedicated their lives to helping others. These recommendations are reviewed and approved by the CDC director, and are available on the CDC's website.

There is nothing secret about any of this science. Countless studies have been done to show that vaccines are safe. Charlatans and internet fraudsters who claim that vaccines aren't safe are preying on the unfounded fears and daily struggles of parents, and they are creating a public health hazard that is entirely preventable.

It is important for those who have questions about vaccines, especially parents, to speak with a reputable health care provider. As with many topics, just because you found it on the internet doesn't make it true.

The science is sound: Vaccines save lives—the lives of those who receive vaccines and the lives of those who are too young or vulnerable to be immunized.

Before I turn this over to Senator Murray, I want to add that the National Childhood

Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 required the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress within 2 years after the legislation was signed into law.

The HELP Committee has two reports from the Department submitted to Congress dated May 4, 1988, and July 21, 1989.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent that the reports be submitted into the committee record so that they can be more accessible to the public.

### THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### MANAGING PAIN DURING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will please come to order. Senator Murray and I will each have an opening statement, and then we will introduce the witnesses. After the witnesses' testimony, senators will each have 5 minutes of questions.

Dan, a constituent of mine who lives in Maryville, Tennessee, recently wrote me about his wife, who has a rare disease that causes her chronic pain. Dan is concerned because it has become more difficult for her to access painkillers. Dan wrote, "She is not an abuser, and is doing everything right. Now it's harder for her to get the medicine she needs."

Dan's wife is one out of 100 million Americans who, according to a 2011 report by what was then the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine, are living with some pain—that is about 30 percent of Americans. 25 million of those have moderate or severe pain.

A new report released in 2018, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says that about 50 million Americans have chronic pain, and nearly 20 million of those Americans have high-impact chronic pain.

Here is the reality: we are engaged in a massive effort to make dramatic reductions in the supply and use of opioids—the most effective painkiller we have. But on the theory that every action has an unintended consequence, we want to make sure that as we deal with the opioid crisis, we keep in mind those people that are hurting.

We are holding this hearing to better understand the causes of pain, how we can improve care for patients with pain, and where we are on developing new medicines and ways to treat pain.

We know that pain is one of the most frequent reasons people see a doctor, and, according to the Mayo Clinic, the number of adults in the United States with pain is higher than the number of people with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer combined. These Americans need more effective ways than opioids or other addictive painkillers to manage pain. Opioids, which are commonly used to treat pain, can lead to addiction and overdose. More than 70,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year, including prescription opioids, making it the biggest public health crisis in our country.

Last year, Congress passed comprehensive opioid legislation to combat this crisis, which President Trump called "the single largest bill to combat a drug crisis in the history of our country."

Our legislation included more than 70 ideas from 72 Senators, and eight committees in the House and five Committees in the Senate that included: Reauthorizing training pro-

grams for doctors and nurses who prescribe treatments for pain; increasing access to behavioral and mental health providers; and encouraging the use of blister packs for opioids, such as a 3 or 7-day supply, and safe ways of disposing unused drugs.

We also took steps to ensure our new law wouldn't make life harder for patients with pain, but now we need to take the next step to try to find new ways to help them: first—we gave the National Institutes of Health more flexibility and authority to spur research and development of new non-addictive painkillers. We also asked the Food and Drug Administration to provide guidance for those developing new non-addictive painkillers to help get them to patients more quickly. I'm pleased to see Commissioner Gottlieb's announcement this morning that the agency is developing new guidances on how FDA evaluates the risks and the benefits of new opioid treatments for patients with pain and to help the development of non-opioid treatments for pain.

Sam Quinones, a witness at one of our hearings, called new non-addictive painkillers the "holy grail" to solving the opioid crisis. We have backed up those new authorities with substantial funding—most recently \$500 million to help the National Institutes of Health find a new nonaddictive painkiller.

Second, we included provisions to encourage new pain management strategies, such as physical therapy. Third, the new law requires experts to study chronic pain and report to the Director of the NIH how patients can better manage their pain. And fourth, the new law requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report the impact on pain patients that Federal and State laws and regulations that limit the length, quantity, or dosage of opioid prescriptions.

Now that we have started to turn the train around and head in a different direction on the use of opioids, everyone—doctors, nurses, insurers, and patients—will need to think about the different ways we should treat and manage pain. There are other things the federal government is doing to better understand what causes pain and how we treat and manage it.

For example, the National Pain Strategy, developed by the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee, which develops recommendations to prevent, treat, manage, and research pain. Through the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institutes of Health's HEAL Initiative, researchers are working to better understand pain and why some people experience it differently than others. This will help us find more ways to more effectively treat pain and help get people the treatment they need.

For example—physical therapy or exercise may be the best course of treatment for some kinds of back pain. It may also help us understand why some people can take opioids to manage their pain for years without becoming addicted, while others more easily become addicted.

Today, I hope to hear about how close are we to having a non-addictive painkiller, and how doctors and nurses can better treat people with pain.

### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today I wish to honor Mr. William "Bill" Armstrong of Mount Ayr, IA. Bill is a lifelong Iowan and outgoing president of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association.

Bill Armstrong has served as one of the most effective advocates for both Iowa morticians and morticians across the country for almost 40 years. He graduated from Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science in 1984 and soon after moved to his current hometown of Mount Ayr, where he accepted a position as a funeral director at Wilson-Watson Funeral Home. His journey was only just beginning.

In remarkably short order, he achieved partnership at the funeral home and ultimately acquired the business from Jay and Donna Watson in 2009, officially making the funeral home, Armstrong Funeral Homes.

This prompted Bill to become an outspoken leader for current and future funeral professionals. He proudly represented morticians on both the local and national level by pioneering annual trips to both Des Moines and to Washington, DC, in order to raise awareness about the profession.

Bill was always forward looking, with a singular objective of training the next generation of funeral home leaders. He worked with the University of Northern Iowa to establish a 4-year degree program for mortuary studies.

These are all amazing accomplishments, and I want to thank Bill again for his service and for helping Iowans through their most difficult life moments. I wish him success in his new endeavors.●

### RECOGNIZING BBQGUYS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, as a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to recognize a veteran-owned Louisiana small business that has not only grown and succeeded but has also steadfastly remained dedicated to their customers, employees, and community. This week, it is my honor to name BBQGuys of Baton Rouge, LA as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1998, Mike Hackley began what has been an American entrepreneurial success story. After serving over 10 years in the U.S. Air Force and working in the real estate and retail sectors, Mike followed his passion of outdoor living and started his own business, opening a retail location called The Grill Store & More. Recognizing the potential that e-commerce had early on, he founded bbqguys.com in 2001. He started out with single-digit employees. Today, BBQGuys has grown to become one of the largest outdoor living online retailers in the world, employing nearly 300.

With the success of the retail operations, Mike continued growing his business, founding Blaze Grill, and began to design and manufacture premium barbecue grills with manufacturing operations in the United States. In just a few years, Blaze is already one of the top grill manufacturers in the market.

Even with BBQGuys' growth and success, Mike continues to prioritize his



employees, making an effort to say good morning every day to team members and maintaining an open-door policy for all. Mike believes in treating his employees like family—a belief he extends to his customers. This culture of hospitality has ultimately resulted in high employee retention and a reputation for outstanding customer service. BBQGuys has been named as one of the Best Places to Work several times by the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report and achieved an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. BBQGuys has also been named one of the 5,000 Fastest Growing Businesses in the U.S. by Inc. Magazine for 11 consecutive years. BBQGuys is also involved in the Baton Rouge community, participating in several local community activities including Toys for Tots, the Youth Oasis Children's Center, LifeShare Blood Center, and Friends of the Animals of Baton Rouge.

BBQGuys is a true representation of the American dream—following a passion, committing to hard work, treating people—customers and employees—with the utmost respect, and growing a very small business of single-digit employees into a leading global business that is constantly innovating. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Mike and the entire team at BBQGuys as the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week. I commend them for their service to the Baton Rouge community and look forward to watching their continued growth and success. BBQGuys, you make Louisiana proud.●

#### 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLIVET COLLEGE

● Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, today I wish to pay special tribute to Olivet College in Eaton County, which this year is celebrating 175 years of educating the people of Michigan.

Let's think back to 1844. Michigan had been a State for only 7 years. The very first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in New York was still 4 years away, and it would be another 19 years before President Lincoln would sign the Emancipation Proclamation.

It was an era marked by gender and racial inequality; yet a group of leaders led by "Father" John J. Shipherd had a different vision: a college founded on the values of inclusion, mutual respect, honesty, and integrity, a Christian institution where neither gender, nor race, nor lack of financial resources would prevent people from attaining an education.

This was a radical idea. Coeducation—women and men learning alongside one another in the same classrooms—was rare at the time, so was admitting Black students alongside White students and poor students alongside the affluent.

It was so controversial, in fact, that Olivet College wasn't formally chartered by the State until 1859. Then in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, the college honored its first graduating

class: Mary N. Barber, Sara Benedict, and Sophia A. Keys.

One hundred seventy-five years later, a lot has changed, but Olivet College's core values remain the same.

Those values include diversity. Comets come from all across Michigan and the United States and nine other nations around the world. Half are the first person in their families to go to college, and half come from low-income families. About 1 in 3 Comets are students of color.

Those values include inclusivity. That is a special focus of the Olivet College Women's Leadership Institute, which helps young women from middle school through college recognize and cultivate their unique strengths and abilities and become Michigan's and America's next generation of leaders.

Those values include community. Comets aren't just responsible for their own education. Whether they are sharing perspectives in the classroom, working together to score a goal on the soccer field, or combining their voices in the Olivet College Gospel Choir, students are committed to the growth of others.

Those values include service; 100 percent of Comets take part in service learning, where students use what they have learned in the classroom to solve real-life problems both in the community and around the world. Just as it did in 1844, Olivet College understands that the future of humanity rests in the hands, hearts, and minds of those who will accept responsibility for themselves and others.

The founders of Olivet College once wrote this: "We wish simply to do good to our students, by placing in their hands the means of intellectual, moral and spiritual improvement, and to teach them the divine art and science of doing good to others."

Doing good to others—since 1844, Olivet College has been doing just that. Congratulations to students, faculty, staff, and alumni on your first 175 years.

Thank you.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 91. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 317. An act to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1222. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 451 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Mr. James T. Brett of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Mr. Wittman of Virginia.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2020: Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of La Quinta, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7002, the Minority Leader appoints the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Andreas Borgeas of Fresno, California.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 91. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 317. An act to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for



other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-998. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the Department of Defense's intent to commence chemical agent destruction operations at the Blue Grass Army Depot chemical demilitarization site in Richmond, Kentucky; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-999. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine (9) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bentazon; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9991-75-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1001. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1002. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1003. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1004. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1005. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Implementation and Transition of the Current Expected Credit Losses Methodology for Allowances and Related Adjustments to the Regulatory Capital Rule and Conforming Amendments to Other Regulations" (RIN1557-AE32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1006. A communication from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National

Credit Union Administration's 2018 annual report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1007. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 Annual Performance Report and fiscal year 2020 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1008. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2019-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1009. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility; Alabama: Baldwin County, Unincorporated Areas, et al." ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2019-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1010. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL)" (RIN0694-AH73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1011. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Acquisition Regulation" (RIN2501-AD85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1012. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation that would clarify that the Department of Energy has fulfilled the requirements of Section 631(b) (1) (B) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1013. A communication from the Chairman of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Status of Addressing and Implementing the Recommendations Contained in 'Tasking in Response to the Assessment of the Considerations Identified in a 'Study of Reprisal and Chilling Effect for Raising Mission-Related Concerns and Differing Views at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission''"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1014. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; GA: Non-Interference Demonstration and Maintenance Plan Revision for Federal Low-Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement in the Atlanta Area" (FRL No. 9992-54-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1015. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alabama: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 9992-49-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1016. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Diammonium Phosphate Fertilizer Units" (FRL No. 9992-09-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1017. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Redesignation Request for the Wisconsin Portion of the Chicago-Naperville, Illinois-Indiana-Wisconsin Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9992-43-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1018. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Approval of Operating Permits Program; Nebraska; Adoption of the 2015 Ozone Standard and Revisions to Definitions" (FRL No. 9991-55-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Ohio Less Than 10 TPY BAT Exemption" (FRL No. 9992-18-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1020. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Redesignation of the Cleveland Area to Attainment of the 2012 Annual Standard for Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9992-21-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1021. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Removal of Obsolete Gasoline Volatility Regulations" (FRL No. 9992-20-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1022. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Colorado: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Codification" (FRL No. 9991-41-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “State of North Dakota Underground Injection Control Program: Class 1, 3, 4, and 5 Primary Revisions” (FRL No. 9992-26-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 9992-14-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Maine; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide NAAQS” (FRL No. 9992-50-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Revisions; California; Correcting Amendments” (FRL No. 9992-71-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1027. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Arizona: Approval and Conditional Approval of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Maricopa County Air Quality Department: Stationary Source Permits; Correction” (FRL No. 9992-61-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1028. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 9993-02-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1029. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Commercial Fuel Oil Sulfur Limits for Combustion Units in Allegheny County” (FRL No. 9993-01-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Avail-

able Control Technology in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 9992-51-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1031. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Evaluation for Tennessee Valley Authority Topical Report ‘TVA Overall Basin Probable Maximum Precipitation and Local Intense Precipitation Analysis’” (EPID-L-2016-TOP-0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1032. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List Two Guitarfishes as Threatened Under the Endangered Species Act” (RIN0648-XD771) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1033. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species: Removal of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin District Population Segment of Canary Rockfish From the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species and Removal of Designated Critical Habitat, and Update and Amendment to the Listing Descriptions for the Yelloweye Rockfish DPS and Bocaccio DPS” (RIN0648-XE657) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1034. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species; Designation for Critical Habitat for the Endangered New York Bight, Chesapeake Bay, Carolina and South Atlantic District Population Segments of Atlantic Sturgeon and the Threatened Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Sturgeon” (RIN0648-BF28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1035. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1036. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation: 2018 Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1037. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Medicare Secondary Payer Commercial Reimbursement Center in Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1038. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “United States-Mex-

ico-Canada Agreement: Likely Impact on the United States Economy and Specific Industry Sectors”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1039. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure: General Public Use under Section 142(d)” (Rev. Proc. 2019-17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1040. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulations to Prescribe Return and Time for Filing Payment of Section 4960, 4966, 4967, and 4968 Taxes” (RIN1545-B080) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1041. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Arbitrage Investment Restrictions on Tax-Exempt Bonds” (RIN1545-B077) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1042. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Treasury Decision (TD): Disclosures of Return Information Reflected on Returns to Officers and Employees of the Department of Commerce for Certain Statistical Purposes and Related Activities” (RIN1545-BN63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1043. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula” (Rev. Rul. 2019-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1044. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Update of Revenue Procedure 2018-52 (EPCRS)” (Rev. Proc. 2019-19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1045. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicaid; Revisions to State Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Rules” (RIN0936-AA07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1046. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), Medicaid Fee-For-Service, and Medicaid Managed Care Programs for

Years 2020 and 2021" (RIN0938-AT59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1047. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS-2019-0364); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1048. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Technical Collection for the New START Treaty (OSS-2019-0365); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1049. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Direct Commercial Sales Authorizations to Foreign Countries and International Organizations for Fiscal Year 2018 as Required by Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1050. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2019-0021 - 2019-0031); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1051. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Taiwan to support the manufacture, development, integration, and support for F100 engine parts and components for end-use by the United States in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-082); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1052. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Denmark to support the manufacture, development, integration, and support for Air-to-Ground Pylons for the F-35 Lightning II Aircraft for end-use by the United States in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-089); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1053. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to the United Kingdom to support the manufacture of Harpoon missile canisters, capsules, certification and training vehicles, inert test vehicles, and discharge verification rounds for the Harpoon Weapon System in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1054. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of 5.56mm automatic rifles, barrels, and upper receivers to Jamaica for use by the Jamaican Defense Forces in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-106); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1055. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of rifles and rifle conversion kits to Denmark and Sweden for commercial resale in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-075); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1056. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment in the form of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of various calibers of centerfire shot, bolt-action, semi-automatic, lever-action rifles, and center fire pistols to Belgium, Canada, and Japan for commercial resale in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-045); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1057. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment and the export of technical data and defense services, to the Republic of Korea and Thailand to support the manufacture, integration, installation, operation, training, testing, maintenance, and repair of the T-50TH aircraft in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1058. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment and the export of technical data and defense services, to Australia, the United Kingdom, and India to support the manufacture, integration, installation, operation, training, testing, maintenance, and repair of Unmanned Aerial Systems in India in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1059. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Performance Evaluation of Accreditation Bodies under the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 as Amended by the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorizations Acts of 1998 and 2004"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1060. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1061. A communication from the Director, White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel of the Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1062. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Compliance Deadline for Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators and Clarification of Post-Approval Testing Standards for Closed-Circuit Escape Respirators" (RIN0920-AA66 and RIN0920-AA67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1063. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements" (RIN0937-AA07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1064. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Agency's fiscal year 2017 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1065. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1066. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1067. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Housing Administration's fiscal year 2018 Annual Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1068. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's FY18 Annual Performance Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1069. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Peace Corps' fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1070. A communication from the Director, Office of Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's 2017 list of Government activities determined to be inherently governmental and those determined to be not inherently governmental in nature and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1071. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland

Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1072. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 24, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1073. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled, "Seventy-Seven Percent of District of Columbia Auditor Recommendations Implemented or In Progress," "Poor Conditions Persist at Aging D.C. Jail; New Facility Needed to Mitigate Risks," and "Certification of Fiscal Year 2019 Total Local Source General Fund Revenue Estimate (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Series 2019A)"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1074. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-38, "Randall School Museum and Housing Development Real Property Tax Abatement Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1075. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-39, "Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRAMHAM, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1231. A bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1232. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian Tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1233. A bill to provide relief to community banks, to promote access to capital for community banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1234. A bill to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a con-

sensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1235. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 1236. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to clarify the composition of the membership of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1237. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to modify the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) to include a specific block explicitly identified as the location in which a member of the Armed Forces may provide one or more email addresses by which the member may be contacted; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 1238. A bill to provide requirements for Executive agency spending at the end of a fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1239. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish within the Enforcement Bureau of the Commission a division that specifically addresses the issue of robocalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1240. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count resident time spent in a critical access hospital as resident time spent in a nonprovider setting for purposes of making Medicare direct and indirect graduate medical education payments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1241. A bill to expand the private right of action under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act for calls in violation of the Do Not Call rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that bonds used to finance professional stadiums are not treated as tax-exempt bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1243. A bill to provide standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1244. A bill to promote the provision of exercise or fitness equipment, and exercise

or fitness classes and instruction, that are accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1245. A bill to improve energy performance in Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1246. A bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1247. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reporting to the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of offers by foreign nationals to make prohibited contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1248. A bill to exclude the discharge of certain Federal student loans from the calculation of gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1249. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1250. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1251. A bill to improve coordinate inter-agency Federal actions and provide assistance to States for responding to public health challenges posed by emerging contaminants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1252. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to review the termination characterization of former members of the Department of State who were fired by reason of the sexual orientation of the official, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1253. A bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1254. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to review and report on certain laws, safety measures, and technologies relating to the illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TESTER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1255. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify provisions relating to hours of service requirements with respect to transportation of livestock and insects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1256. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts to include rollovers for charitable life-income plans for charitable purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 1258. A bill to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 174. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of June 1, 2019, through June 9, 2019, as "National Fishing and Boating Week"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 175. A resolution supporting increased awareness of sepsis and the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate intervention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 176. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks on Christian worshippers in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, and standing with the Government of Sri Lanka to encourage the protection and preservation of religious liberties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 177. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 30, 2019, as "National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 178. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration.

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 69

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 69, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 75

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 83

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to amend section 203 of Public Law 94-305 to ensure proper authority for the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 84

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that consumer reporting agencies and other credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 99

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 99, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the negotiation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formula by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, and for other purposes.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 164

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to transform their business and program models, to support individuals with disabilities to transition to competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, *supra*.

S. 331

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to modify the exemptions from certain disclosure requirements.

S. 336

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 336, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on the response of law enforcement agencies to reports of missing or murdered Indians.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 436

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 436, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to publicly justify unnecessary price increases.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the

benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 531

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 531, a bill to permit disabled law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, nuclear materials couriers, members of the Capitol Police, members of the Supreme Court Police, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency performing intelligence activities abroad or having specialized security requirements, and diplomatic security special agents of the Department of State to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligi-

ble scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 649

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 649, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to obtain the consent of affected State and local governments before making an expenditure from the Nuclear Waste Fund for a nuclear waste repository, and for other purposes.

S. 665

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by override crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. 679

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 679, a bill to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefit paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

S. 683

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 683, a bill to establish a voluntary program in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to encourage consumers to purchase or lease new automobiles made in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) 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. 693

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.



DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to combat international extremism by addressing global fragility and violence and stabilizing conflict-affected areas, and for other purposes.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 818, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) 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. 839

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 861

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors 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. 867

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 867, a bill to protect students of institutions of higher education and the taxpayer investment in institutions of higher education by improving oversight and accountability of institutions of higher education, particularly for-profit colleges, improving protections for students and borrowers, and ensuring the integrity of postsecondary education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 875

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 875, a bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1004

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1004, a bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.



At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, *supra*.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1035, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit dismemberment abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception, medication related to contraception, and for other purposes.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1136

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize concurrent use of Department of Defense Tuition Assistance and Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1151

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1151, a bill to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1186

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1186, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 1195

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Illinois

(Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1195, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumption relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to amend the fossil energy research and development provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to enhance fossil fuel technology, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller identification information and to require providers of telephone service to offer technology to subscribers to reduce the incidence of unwanted telephone calls and text messages, and for other purposes.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1218, a bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

S. RES. 102

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 102, a resolution designating April 2019 as "Second Chance Month".

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia

(Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) 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.

S. RES. 128

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 128, a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Conservation Association.

S. RES. 143

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 143, a resolution recognizing Israeli-American culture and heritage and the contributions of the Israeli-American community to the United States.

S. RES. 160

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 160, a resolution recognizing the contributions of defense laboratories to the technological dominance of the United States Armed Forces and supporting the designation of April 25, 2019, as "Department of Defense Laboratory Day 2019".

S. RES. 170

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 170, a resolution recognizing the Fifth Anniversary of the Chibok Girls Kidnapping by the Boko Haram Terrorist Organization and calling on the Government of Nigeria to redouble efforts to bring an end to the conflict in northeast and central Nigeria and to provide assistance to the victims.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1246. A bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to re-introduce the Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2019, legislation to ensure equal housing opportunities for all Americans. This bipartisan bill would protect Americans from housing discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. No American should be turned away from a home they love because of who they love.

I began my career as a civil rights attorney. My initial focus was on fair housing, and I learned early on that a home is more than just structure or a shelter. A home plays an integral role in one's identity, and it is central to the life of every American.

Housing discrimination nevertheless continues to plague many Americans. And it is a reality for LGBT Americans because of incomplete protections in the Fair Housing Act (FHA), the landmark Federal housing law.

The FHA prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability. It does not, however, protect against discrimination based upon sexual orientation or gender. More than 20 states and over 200 localities safeguard sexual orientation and gender identity in their housing discrimination laws. That's telling. It's time for the federal government to do the same.

A study released this month analyzed national mortgage data from 1990 to 2015. It found that same-sex applicants were 73 percent more likely to be denied approval for a mortgage than opposite-sex couples.

The study also found that same-sex couples often pay more for their loans in interest and fees. This despite the fact that the study found no evidence that same-sex couples carried a higher default risk. In fact, the study's findings suggest that same-sex borrowers may perform better. The analysis indicated that, on average, same-sex couples paid 0.2 percent more in interest and fees, which adds up to as much as \$86 million per year.

These findings confirm the need to include gender identity and sexual orientation as protected classes under federal housing laws. Loan decisions should be based on fundamental economic considerations, not race, religion, sexual orientation or gender.

The job of perfecting our Union is an ongoing quest requiring continued stewardship. Our history is replete with examples of manifest action from the Bill of Rights, to the 14th Amendment, to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2019 is one more step in our longer journey to perfect our Union and to extinguish discrimination in places which call for our leadership. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1249. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1249

*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 "American Innovation Act".

#### SEC. 2. CAP ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following:

“(D) BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH.—

“(i) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the National Science Foundation, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$565,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,170,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,820,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,510,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$3,250,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF SCIENCE.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Office of Science at the Department of Energy, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$461,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$954,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,480,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,050,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$2,650,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(iii) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Department of Defense science and technology programs, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$1,120,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$2,310,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$3,590,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$4,960,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$6,430,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(iv) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Department of Commerce, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$51,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$105,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$163,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$225,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$292,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(v) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$483,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,000,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,500,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,150,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$2,780,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(vi) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph:

“(I) ADDITIONAL NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—The term ‘additional new budget authority’ means—

“(aa) with respect to the National Science Foundation, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Science Foundation;

“(bb) with respect to the Department of Energy Office of Science, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Department of Energy Office of Science;

“(cc) with respect to the Department of Defense science and technology programs, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Department of Defense science and technology programs;

“(dd) with respect to the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research services, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research services; and

“(ee) with respect to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate.

“(II) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The term ‘Department of Defense science and technology programs’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Defense science and technology programs.

“(III) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF SCIENCE.—The term ‘Department of Energy Office of Science’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Energy Office of Science.

“(IV) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE.—The term ‘National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes,

offices, and centers that make up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate.

“(V) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.—The term ‘National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services.

“(VI) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The term ‘National Science Foundation’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Science Foundation.”.

(b) FUNDING.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for the National Science Foundation, the amounts provided for under clause (i) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(2) for the Department of Energy Office of Science, the amounts provided for under clause (ii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(3) for the Department of Defense science and technology programs, the amounts provided for under clause (iii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(4) for the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services, the amounts provided for under clause (iv) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year; and

(5) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate, the amounts provided for under clause (v) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

(c) MINIMUM CONTINUED FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts appropriated for each of the programs and agencies described in section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as added by subsection (a)) for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and each subsequent fiscal year, shall not be less than the amounts appropriated for such programs and agencies for fiscal year 2019.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16-0327-0-1-600).” the following:

“Appropriations under the American Innovation Act.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1250. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national in-

vestment in biomedical research; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1250

*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 “American Cures Act”.

## SEC. 2. CAP ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C), the following:

“(D) BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.—

“(i) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the National Institutes of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$2,737,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$5,666,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$8,800,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$12,153,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$15,741,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the Department of Health and Human Services, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$511,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,057,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$1,642,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,268,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$2,938,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(iii) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the Department of Defense health program, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$167,510,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$346,745,700 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$538,527,899 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$743,734,852 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$963,306,292 in additional new budget authority.

“(iv) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies amounts for the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such programs for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2020, \$54,530,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2021, \$58,350,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2022, \$62,440,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2023, \$66,810,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, \$71,490,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(v) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph:

“(I) ADDITIONAL NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—The term ‘additional new budget authority’ means—

“(aa) with respect to the National Institutes of Health, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the National Institutes of Health;

“(bb) with respect to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

“(cc) with respect to the Department of Defense health program, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the Department of Defense health program; and

“(dd) with respect to the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of the amount provided in fiscal year 2019, in an appropriation Act and specified to support the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(II) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—The term ‘Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(III) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term ‘Department of Defense health program’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Defense health program.

“(IV) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The term ‘medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(V) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—The term ‘National Institutes of Health’ means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health.”.

(b) FUNDING.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for the National Institutes of Health, the amounts provided for under clause (i) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(2) for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the amounts provided for under clause (ii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year;

(3) for the Department of Defense health program, the amounts provided for under clause (iii) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year; and

(4) for the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the amounts provided for under clause (iv) of such section 251(b)(2)(D) in each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

(c) MINIMUM CONTINUED FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts appropriated for each of the programs and agencies described in section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as added by subsection (a)) for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and each subsequent fiscal year, shall not be less than the amounts appropriated for such programs and agencies for fiscal year 2019.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16–0327–0–1–600).” the following:

“Appropriations under the American Cures Act.”

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1253. A bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the “Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act,” which would help address the concerning rise of electronic cigarette use among America’s youth.

This common-sense bill would protect children by requiring online retailers of e-cigarettes to meet the same standards as those that sell regular cigarettes and other tobacco products online.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has increased dramatically over the past few years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 20 percent of high school students used electronic cigarettes in 2018. In comparison, only about 1.5 percent of high school students reportedly used e-cigarettes in 2011.

Even more disturbing, the rise of teenage use of e-cigarettes appears to be accelerating. Between 2017 and 2018, e-cigarettes use among high school-

aged children jumped 78%. Today, e-cigarettes have become the most commonly used tobacco product among America’s youth. These severe levels of e-cigarette use by middle and high school-aged children are staggering.

According to a U.S. Surgeon General report on e-cigarette use among youth and young adults, the developing adolescent brain is uniquely sensitive to nicotine. Studies have also shown that the development of the brain during adolescence can be permanently altered by nicotine. As a result, children exposed to nicotine may be at greater risk for acting out drug-seeking behaviors, experiencing deficits in attention and cognition, and suffering from mood disorders. These effects may continue into adulthood, long after e-cigarette use has stopped.

Given the effects of nicotine on children, it is critical that we close any legal loopholes that have allowed underage youth to gain access to tobacco, particularly through e-cigarettes.

Among underage e-cigarette users, 86 percent reported that they obtained the product from somewhere other than a retail store. And a recent survey of adolescent e-cigarette users showed that 32 percent of them reported purchasing their products online, making online sales the single largest source of underage purchases.

Our legislation would build off the “Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act,” which has been a tremendous success in preventing underage use of cigarettes. Since it passed, the number of middle and high school students who use cigarettes has been nearly cut in half. We should expand on this success by requiring e-cigarette retailers to meet the same requirements as those that sell regular cigarettes online.

By applying the same safeguards that have worked with online sales of regular cigarettes, our bill would ensure that online e-cigarette sellers are verifying the age of their customers, properly labeling packages, and checking identification at delivery.

In addition, our bill requires deliveries of e-cigarettes to comply with relevant State tobacco taxes and reporting requirements, as is currently required of online sales of regular cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products. E-cigarette retailers will also need to register and maintain a record of their online sales, which will be accessible to State and Federal law officials. Law enforcement will be able to identify and shut down online vendors that are systematically breaking the law by marketing their e-cigarette products to children.

This bill complements efforts by the Food and Drug Administration, which has recognized the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use and proposed a number of policies meant to prevent underage retail purchases, limit flavors that appeal to children, and enforce age verifications.

Over the last 50 years, the United States has made remarkable progress

in reducing the number of Americans that use tobacco products. However, the dramatic recent rise of e-cigarette use among our youth threatens that progress and requires a strong response.

I want to thank Senator CORNYN for joining me in introducing legislation on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill to address the epidemic of e-cigarette use among America’s youth. Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1256. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the PCAOB Enforcement Transparency Act, which I reintroduce today with Senator GRASSLEY, will permit the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) to make public the disciplinary proceedings it has brought against auditors and audit firms earlier in the process.

More than fifteen years ago, our markets were victimized by a series of massive financial reporting frauds, including those involving Enron and WorldCom. In response to this crisis, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs conducted multiple hearings, which produced consensus on a number of underlying causes, including weak corporate governance, a lack of accountability, and inadequate oversight of accountants charged with auditing public companies’ financial statements.

In a 99 to 0 vote, the Senate passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to address the structural weaknesses and faults revealed by the hearings. Among its many provisions, this law called for the creation of a strong and independent board, the PCAOB, responsible for overseeing auditors of public companies in order to protect investors who rely on independent audit reports on the financial statements of public companies.

To conduct its duties, the PCAOB, under the oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), oversees more than 1,800 registered accounting firms, as well as the audit partners and staff who contribute to a firm’s work on each audit. The Board’s ability to begin proceedings that can determine whether there have been violations of its auditing standards or rules of professional practice is an important component of its oversight.

However, unlike the SEC, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and other oversight bodies, the Board’s disciplinary proceedings cannot be made public without consent from the parties involved.

Of course, parties subject to disciplinary proceedings have no incentive to consent to publicizing their alleged wrongdoing and thus these proceedings typically remain cloaked behind a veil of secrecy. In addition, the Board cannot publicize the results of its disciplinary proceedings until after the appeals process has been completely exhausted, which can often take several years.

Concealing PCAOB disciplinary proceedings from the public creates a lack of transparency that invites abuse and undermines the Congressional intent behind the PCAOB, which was to shine a bright light on auditing firms and practices, and to bolster the accountability of auditors of public companies to the investing public.

Over the years, some bad actors have used this loophole to shield themselves from public scrutiny and accountability. Former PCAOB Chairman James Doty repeatedly stated in testimony provided to both the Senate and House of Representatives that the secrecy of the proceedings “has a variety of unfortunate consequences” and that such secrecy is harmful to investors, the auditing profession, and the public at large.

For example, an accounting firm continued to issue no fewer than 29 additional audit reports on public companies without those companies knowing that it was subject to a PCAOB disciplinary proceeding. Disturbingly, these investors and the public company clients of that audit firm were deprived of important information about the proceeding against the firm and the substance of any violations. There are other critical reasons why the Board’s enforcement proceedings should be open and transparent.

First, the incentive to litigate cases in order to shield conduct from public scrutiny as long as possible frustrates the process and requires both litigants and the PCAOB to expend needless resources.

Second, agencies such as the SEC have found that open and transparent disciplinary proceedings can be valuable because they inform peer audit firms of the type of activity that could lead to enforcement action by the regulator. In effect, transparent proceedings can serve as a deterrent to misconduct because of a perceived increase in the likelihood of “getting caught.” Accordingly, the audit industry as a whole would also benefit from timely, public, and non-secret enforcement proceedings.

Our bill will make hearings by the PCAOB, and all related notices, orders, and motions, transparent and available to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Board. This would more closely align the PCAOB’s procedures with those of the SEC for analogous matters.

Increasing transparency and accountability of audit firms subject to PCAOB disciplinary proceedings bolsters investor confidence in our financial markets

and better protects companies from problematic auditors. I hope our colleagues will join Senator GRASSLEY and me in supporting this legislation to enhance transparency in the PCAOB’s enforcement process.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 174—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 1, 2019, THROUGH JUNE 9, 2019, AS “NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK”

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 174

Whereas more than 141,600,000 people in the United States go boating each year, including approximately 71,100,000 adults and 70,500,000 children;

Whereas, in 2018, the recreational boating industry contributed an estimated \$170,300,000,000 to the national economy in direct, indirect, and induced spending, supporting more than 35,000 businesses and 691,000 direct and indirect jobs in the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce estimated that recreational boating and fishing accounted for \$36,900,000,000 of real gross output in the United States in 2016;

Whereas 95 percent of boats sold in the United States are made in the United States;

Whereas there are approximately 1,300 active marine manufacturers in the United States, using materials and services contributed from all 50 States;

Whereas boaters are stewards of the environment, contributing approximately \$600,000,000 in excise taxes annually to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which funds habitat conservation and restoration efforts, preserving the natural resources of the United States for future generations; and

Whereas boating provides opportunities for families to be together, appeals to all age groups, and has a beneficial effect on the physical fitness and scholastic performance of those who participate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of June 1, 2019, through June 9, 2019, as “National Fishing and Boating Week”; and

(2) recognizes that the recreational boating community and the boating industry of the United States should be commended for their numerous contributions to the economy of the United States, the well-being of United States citizens, and responsible environmental stewardship of water resources of the United States.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 175—SUPPORTING INCREASED AWARENESS OF SEPSIS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 175

Whereas sepsis is a medical condition resulting from an immune system response to an infection;

Whereas the overwhelming response of the immune system to an infection can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death;

Whereas more than 1,700,000 individuals in the United States develop sepsis each year;

Whereas more than 270,000 individuals in the United States die from sepsis each year, which is more than the number of individuals who die from prostate cancer, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS combined;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in 3 patients who die in a hospital have sepsis;

Whereas, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, sepsis is the most common diagnosis for inpatient hospital stays in the United States;

Whereas sepsis is the most expensive condition treated in hospitals in the United States, costing more than \$24,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas sepsis is the number 1 cause of hospital readmissions, generating more than \$2,000,000,000 in costs annually;

Whereas more than 80 percent of septic patients are septic upon admission to the hospital;

Whereas mortality rates from septic shock increase by up to 8 percent for every hour that treatment is delayed;

Whereas rapid diagnosis and treatment can prevent up to 80 percent of fatalities from sepsis; and

Whereas the combination of early detection of sepsis and appropriate interventions can significantly improve the chances of survival for patients with all types of sepsis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) is committed to increasing awareness of sepsis and encouraging the education of patients, families, health care professionals, and government agencies on the critical importance of early diagnosis as the key for patients to survive sepsis; and

(2) supports innovative public-private partnerships and the pursuit of innovative financing tools, incentives, and other mechanisms to accelerate the pursuit of improved early detection and appropriate intervention for patients with sepsis.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 176—CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON CHRISTIAN WORKSHIPPERS IN SRI LANKA ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019, AND STANDING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA TO ENCOURAGE THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 176

Whereas, on the morning of April 21, 2019, Easter Sunday, 7 Islamist suicide bombers carried out coordinated attacks on—

(1) the Shrine of St. Anthony Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka;

(2) St. Sebastian’s Church in Negombo, Sri Lanka;

(3) Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka;



(4) Zion Evangelical Church in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka;

(5) a guest house near the National Zoo of Sri Lanka; and

(6) a housing complex in Dematagoda, Sri Lanka;

Whereas more than 250 people were killed and more than 500 people were injured in the attacks;

Whereas the attackers acted in the name of National Thowheeth Jama'ath (referred to in this preamble as "NTJ"), a local Islamist group that had previously attacked Buddhist monks and statues;

Whereas NTJ has ties to global Islamist terrorist organizations and subscribes to an intolerant Wahhabi ideology that condones violence against non-Muslims and fellow Muslims; and

Whereas the Wall Street Journal has reported that, according to SITE, a terrorist-monitoring firm, on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, the Islamic State released a video claiming responsibility for the attacks, stating that "the executors of the attack that targeted citizens of coalition states and Christians in Sri Lanka two days ago were Islamic State fighters": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the April 21, 2019, terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka as—

(A) targeted principally against Christians because of their faith, on their holy day of Easter, during their Easter prayers; and

(B) perpetrated by radical Islamist terrorists acting in the name of a hateful radical Islamist ideology;

(2) considers the April 21, 2019, terrorist attacks to be an attack on—

(A) all Christians and members of all faiths in Sri Lanka and around the world; and

(B) the basic human liberty of freedom of religion;

(3) stands with the Government of Sri Lanka in bringing peace and security to the citizens of Sri Lanka, particularly the religious communities of Sri Lanka; and

(4) calls on Sri Lanka and all governments—

(A) to protect the freedom of religion, at home and abroad; and

(B) to partner with the United States in advancing security and freedom.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 177—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 30, 2019, AS "NATIONAL ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION AWARENESS DAY"

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

##### S. RES. 177

Whereas as many as 2,200,000 individuals in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and as many as % of those individuals are unaware of the infection;

Whereas hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver that is transmitted via infected blood and other bodily fluids, including through—

(1) mother-to-child transmission; and

(2) injection drug use;

Whereas individuals with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, and chronic liver disease, and individuals on hemodialysis, are at an increased risk for hepatitis B co-infection;

Whereas there is no cure for hepatitis B, and individuals with chronic hepatitis B require lifelong medical care;

Whereas chronic hepatitis B is a common cause of liver cancer;

Whereas 1 in every 4 individuals with unmanaged chronic hepatitis B will develop liver cancer, cirrhosis, or liver failure, with liver cancer having a 5-year survival rate of only 18 percent in the United States;

Whereas safe and highly effective vaccines to protect against hepatitis B are available;

Whereas, in accordance with universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination recommendations in the United States, infants and children in the United States have routinely been vaccinated against hepatitis B since the 1990s;

Whereas the hepatitis B vaccine, which is 95 percent effective and was the first anticancer vaccine to be developed, is projected to prevent 310,000,000 cases of hepatitis B worldwide from 1990 to 2020;

Whereas only 25 percent of adults in the United States are vaccinated against hepatitis B;

Whereas the number of reported acute hepatitis B cases increased by 20 percent nationwide in 2015;

Whereas, as a result of the opioid epidemic, there have been significant regional increases in acute hepatitis B cases in the United States, including—

(1) a reported 729 percent increase from 2015 to 2017 in Maine;

(2) a reported 114 percent increase from 2009 to 2013 in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee;

(3) a reported 78 percent increase in 2017 in southeastern Massachusetts; and

(4) a reported 62 percent increase from 2012 to 2016 in North Carolina;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV, and 5 to 10 times more infectious than hepatitis C; and

Whereas there are significant opportunities, particularly within the setting of the opioid epidemic, to prevent new hepatitis B infections, and thereby reduce the incidence of liver cancer and cirrhosis, through efforts to—

(1) increase adult hepatitis B vaccination; and

(2) maintain childhood hepatitis B vaccination: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 30, 2019, as "National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes the importance of providing support and encouragement—

(A) for all individuals to be tested for hepatitis B;

(B) for individuals susceptible to infection to be vaccinated against hepatitis B; and

(C) for individuals diagnosed with hepatitis B to be linked to appropriate care; and

(3) in order to reduce the number of new hepatitis B infections and hepatitis B-related deaths, encourages a commitment to—

(A) increasing adult hepatitis B vaccination rates;

(B) maintaining childhood hepatitis B vaccination rates; and

(C) promoting provider and community awareness of adult hepatitis B vaccination.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 178—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 178

Whereas the Senate is committed to the awareness, prevention, and deterrence of sexual violence affecting individuals in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, an estimated 399,861 individuals, including victims under 18 years of age, in the United States experienced sexual violence during 2017;

Whereas, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 2007 and 2017, approximately—

(1) 3,018,600 women were victims of rape and sexual assault; and

(2) 453,200 men were victims of rape and sexual assault;

Whereas, according to the 2017 Child Maltreatment Report of the Department of Health and Human Services, in 2017, child protective services agencies substantiated 58,114 cases of sexual abuse of children under 18 years of age;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2018, the Department of Justice reported 9,100 State and local arrests of individuals charged with on-line sexual victimization of children under 18 years of age;

Whereas, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (commonly known as "RAINN"), an individual is sexually assaulted every 92 seconds in the United States, but for every 1,000 rapes committed in the United States, on average only—

(1) 330 rapes are reported to law enforcement agencies;

(2) 59 reported rape cases lead to an arrest;

(3) 10 rape cases are referred for prosecution;

(4) 6 rape cases lead to a felony conviction; and

(5) 5 convicted rapists are sentenced to some form of incarceration;

Whereas, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, between 2013 and 2017, an average of only 33 percent of rapes or sexual assaults in the United States were reported to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas studies have suggested that the rate at which American Indians and Alaska Natives experience sexual violence is significantly higher than for other populations in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 5 women, or 18.3 percent, and 1 in 71 men, or 1.4 percent, surveyed in the United States in 2010 experienced a rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than ½ of all female rape victims reported being raped by an intimate partner;

Whereas sexual violence is a burden for many individuals who serve in the Armed Forces, and the Department of Defense estimates that approximately 14,900 members of the Armed Forces experienced some form of sexual assault during 2016;

Whereas sexual assault does not discriminate on any basis and can affect any individual in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, elder sexual abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation of disabled persons, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, in addition to immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault can have numerous adverse

consequences for the victim, which may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, and many States have restrictive criminal statutes of limitations, which enable many rapists to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional complications long after their physical scars have healed;

Whereas advances in deoxyribonucleic acid (commonly known as “DNA”) technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of previously unsolved sexual assault cases;

Whereas incarceration of sexual assault perpetrators can prevent perpetrators from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and Tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

(1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(A) by telephone at 800-656-HOPE; and

(B) online at <https://hotline.rainn.org>; and

(2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the victim service programs of RAINN, including the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(1) in 2018, helped 267,621 survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones, which represented the greatest number of people assisted since the founding of the hotline in 1994; and

(2) continue to receive a record number of requests for support in 2019;

Whereas the Department of Defense provides the Safe Helpline hotline, Safe HelpRoom online chat service, and Safe Helpline mobile application, each of which offer support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at <https://safehelpline.org>;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no victim of sexual assault to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2019 is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to—

(i) educate the people of the United States about sexual violence; and

(ii) encourage—

(I) the prevention of sexual assault;

(II) improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault; and

(III) the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in—

(i) promoting awareness about sexual assault;

(ii) providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault; and

(iii) increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 7 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Admiral William F. Moran, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, and Lieutenant General David H. Berger, USMC, to be general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, both of the Department of Defense.

##### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Ada E. Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Steven D. Grimberg, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, David

John Novak, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Matthew H. Solomonson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AND TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Con. Res. 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act.

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

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 4, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### FEDERAL ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2019

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 46, S. 406.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:



A bill (S. 406) to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

S. 406

*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 “Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except that the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the Chief Human Capital Officers Council established under section 1303 of the [Homeland Security] *Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002* (5 U.S.C. 1401 note).

(3) **CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.**—The term “cyber workforce position” means a position identified as having information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions under section 303 of the Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) **EMPLOYEE.**—The term “employee” has the meaning given the term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) **EMPLOYING AGENCY.**—The term “employing agency” means the agency from which an employee is detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position.

(7) **ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.**—The term “rotational cyber workforce position” means a cyber workforce position with respect to which a determination has been made under section 3(a)(1).

(8) **ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.**—The term “rotational cyber workforce program” means the program for the detail of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

#### SEC. 3. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITIONS.

(a) **DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO ROTATIONAL SERVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of each agency, in the sole and exclusive discretion of the head of the agency, may determine that a cyber workforce position in that agency is eligible for the rotational cyber workforce program.

(2) **NOTICE PROVIDED.**—The head of an agency shall submit to the Director—

(A) notice regarding any determination made by the head of the agency under paragraph (1); and

(B) for each position with respect to which the head of the agency makes a determination under paragraph (1), the information required under subsection (b)(1).

(b) **PREPARATION OF LIST.**—The Director, with assistance from the Council and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop a list of rotational cyber workforce positions that—

(1) with respect to each such position, to the extent that the information does not disclose sensitive national security information, includes—

(A) the title of the position;

(B) the occupational series with respect to the position;

(C) the grade level with respect to the position;

(D) the agency in which the position is located;

(E) the duty location with respect to the position; and

(F) the major duties and functions of the position; and

(2) shall be used to support the rotational cyber workforce program.

(c) **DISTRIBUTION OF LIST.**—Not less frequently than annually, the Director shall distribute an updated list developed under subsection (b) to the head of each agency and other appropriate entities.

#### SEC. 4. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.

(a) **OPERATION PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Council, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, representatives of other agencies, and any other entity as the Director determines appropriate, shall develop and issue a Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program operation plan providing policies, processes, and procedures for a program for the detailing of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

(2) **UPDATING.**—The Director may, in consultation with the Council and other entities as the Director determines appropriate, periodically update the operation plan developed and issued under paragraph (1).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The operation plan developed and issued under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) identify agencies for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(2) establish procedures for the rotational cyber workforce program, including—

(A) any training, education, or career development requirements associated with participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(B) any prerequisites or requirements for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program; and

(C) appropriate rotational cyber workforce program performance measures, reporting requirements, employee exit surveys, and other accountability devices for the evaluation of the program;

(3) provide that participation in the rotational cyber workforce program by an employee shall be voluntary;

(4) provide that an employee shall be eligible to participate in the rotational cyber workforce program if the head of the employing agency of the employee, or a designee of the head of the employing agency of the employee, approves of the participation of the employee;

(5) provide that the detail of an employee to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program shall be on a nonreimbursable basis;

(6) provide that agencies may agree to partner to ensure that the employing agency of an employee that participates in the rotational cyber workforce program is able to fill the position vacated by the employee;

(7) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program, upon the end of the period of service with respect to the detail—

(A) shall be entitled to return to the position held by the employee, or a corresponding position, in the employing agency of the employee; and

(B) shall not be entitled to return to another position in the employing agency of the employee, including a more senior position, if the position held by the employee upon accepting the detail remains open;

(8) provide that discretion with respect to the assignment of an employee under the rotational cyber workforce program shall remain with the employing agency of the employee;

(9) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in an agency that is not the employing agency of the employee shall have all the rights that would be available to the employee if the employee were detailed under a provision of law other than this Act from the employing agency to the agency in which the rotational cyber workforce position is located;

(10) provide that participation by an employee in the rotational cyber workforce program shall not constitute a change in the conditions of the employment of the employee; and

(11) provide that an employee participating in the rotational cyber workforce program shall receive performance evaluations relating to service in the rotational cyber workforce program in a participating agency that are—

(A) prepared by an appropriate officer, supervisor, or management official of the employing agency;

(B) based, acting in coordination with the supervisor at the agency in which the employee is performing that service, on objectives identified in the operation plan with respect to the employee; and

(C) based in whole or in part on the contribution of the employee to the agency in which the employee performed such service, as communicated from that agency to the employing agency of the employee.

(c) **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ROTATIONAL SERVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An employee serving in a cyber workforce position in an agency may, with the approval of the head of the agency, submit an application for detail to a rotational cyber workforce position that appears on the list developed under section 3(b).

(2) **SELECTION AND TERM.**—

(A) **SELECTION.**—The head of an agency shall select an employee for a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in a manner that is consistent with the merit system principles under section 2301(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) **TERM.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), and notwithstanding section 3341(b) of title 5, United States Code, a detail to a rotational cyber workforce position shall be for a period of not less than 180 days and not more than 1 year.

(C) **EXTENSION.**—The Chief Human Capital Officer of the agency to which an employee is detailed under the rotational cyber workforce program may extend the period of a detail described in subparagraph (B) for a period of 60 days unless the Chief Human Capital Officer of the employing agency of the employee objects to that extension.

(3) **WRITTEN SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The detail of an employee to a rotational cyber position shall be contingent upon the employee entering into a written service agreement with the employing agency under which the employee is required to complete a period of employment with the employing agency following the conclusion of the detail that is equal in length to the period of the detail.

(B) **CONTINUED SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**—A written service agreement under subparagraph (A) shall not supersede or modify the terms or conditions of any other service agreement entered into by the employee under any other authority or relieve the obligations between the employee and the employing agency under such a service agreement. Nothing in this subparagraph prevents

an employing agency from terminating a service agreement entered into under any other authority under the terms of such agreement or as required by law or regulation.

#### SEC. 5. REPORTING BY GAO.

Not later than the end of the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the operation plan under section 4(a) is issued, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the operation and effectiveness of the rotational cyber workforce program, which shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which agencies have participated in the rotational cyber workforce program, including whether the head of each such participating agency has—

(A) identified positions within the agency that are rotational cyber workforce positions;

(B) had employees from other participating agencies serve in positions described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) had employees of the agency request to serve in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program in participating agencies, including a description of how many such requests were approved; and

(2) the experiences of employees serving in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program, including an assessment of—

(A) the period of service;

(B) the positions (including grade level and occupational series) held by employees before completing service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program;

(C) the extent to which each employee who completed service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program achieved a higher skill level, or attained a skill level in a different area, with respect to information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions; and

(D) the extent to which service in rotational cyber workforce positions has affected intra-agency and interagency integration and coordination of cyber practices, functions, and personnel management.

#### SEC. 6. SUNSET.

Effective 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, this Act is repealed.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, 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 committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 406), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 406

*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 “Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code,

except that the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Chief Human Capital Officers Council established under section 1303 of the Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 1401 note).

(3) CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.—The term “cyber workforce position” means a position identified as having information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions under section 303 of the Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee” has the meaning given the term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) EMPLOYING AGENCY.—The term “employing agency” means the agency from which an employee is detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position.

(7) ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.—The term “rotational cyber workforce position” means a cyber workforce position with respect to which a determination has been made under section 3(a)(1).

(8) ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.—The term “rotational cyber workforce program” means the program for the detail of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

#### SEC. 3. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITIONS.

(a) DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO ROTATIONAL SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency, in the sole and exclusive discretion of the head of the agency, may determine that a cyber workforce position in that agency is eligible for the rotational cyber workforce program.

(2) NOTICE PROVIDED.—The head of an agency shall submit to the Director—

(A) notice regarding any determination made by the head of the agency under paragraph (1); and

(B) for each position with respect to which the head of the agency makes a determination under paragraph (1), the information required under subsection (b)(1).

(b) PREPARATION OF LIST.—The Director, with assistance from the Council and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop a list of rotational cyber workforce positions that—

(1) with respect to each such position, to the extent that the information does not disclose sensitive national security information, includes—

(A) the title of the position;

(B) the occupational series with respect to the position;

(C) the grade level with respect to the position;

(D) the agency in which the position is located;

(E) the duty location with respect to the position; and

(F) the major duties and functions of the position; and

(2) shall be used to support the rotational cyber workforce program.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF LIST.—Not less frequently than annually, the Director shall distribute an updated list developed under subsection (b) to the head of each agency and other appropriate entities.

#### SEC. 4. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.

(a) OPERATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Council, the Chief Information Officer of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, representatives of other agencies, and any other entity as the Director determines appropriate, shall develop and issue a Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program operation plan providing policies, processes, and procedures for a program for the detailing of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

(2) UPDATING.—The Director may, in consultation with the Council and other entities as the Director determines appropriate, periodically update the operation plan developed and issued under paragraph (1).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The operation plan developed and issued under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) identify agencies for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(2) establish procedures for the rotational cyber workforce program, including—

(A) any training, education, or career development requirements associated with participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(B) any prerequisites or requirements for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program; and

(C) appropriate rotational cyber workforce program performance measures, reporting requirements, employee exit surveys, and other accountability devices for the evaluation of the program;

(3) provide that participation in the rotational cyber workforce program by an employee shall be voluntary;

(4) provide that an employee shall be eligible to participate in the rotational cyber workforce program if the head of the employing agency of the employee, or a designee of the head of the employing agency of the employee, approves of the participation of the employee;

(5) provide that the detail of an employee to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program shall be on a nonreimbursable basis;

(6) provide that agencies may agree to partner to ensure that the employing agency of an employee that participates in the rotational cyber workforce program is able to fill the position vacated by the employee;

(7) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program, upon the end of the period of service with respect to the detail—

(A) shall be entitled to return to the position held by the employee, or a corresponding position, in the employing agency of the employee; and

(B) shall not be entitled to return to another position in the employing agency of the employee, including a more senior position, if the position held by the employee upon accepting the detail remains open;

(8) provide that discretion with respect to the assignment of an employee under the rotational cyber workforce program shall remain with the employing agency of the employee;

(9) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in an agency that is not the employing agency of the employee shall have all the rights that would be available to the employee if the employee were detailed under a provision of law other than this Act from the employing agency to the agency in which the rotational cyber workforce position is located;

(10) provide that participation by an employee in the rotational cyber workforce program shall not constitute a change in the conditions of the employment of the employee; and

(11) provide that an employee participating in the rotational cyber workforce program

shall receive performance evaluations relating to service in the rotational cyber workforce program in a participating agency that are—

(A) prepared by an appropriate officer, supervisor, or management official of the employing agency;

(B) based, acting in coordination with the supervisor at the agency in which the employee is performing that service, on objectives identified in the operation plan with respect to the employee; and

(C) based in whole or in part on the contribution of the employee to the agency in which the employee performed such service, as communicated from that agency to the employing agency of the employee.

**(C) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ROTATIONAL SERVICE.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An employee serving in a cyber workforce position in an agency may, with the approval of the head of the agency, submit an application for detail to a rotational cyber workforce position that appears on the list developed under section 3(b).

**(2) SELECTION AND TERM.—**

(A) **SELECTION.**—The head of an agency shall select an employee for a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in a manner that is consistent with the merit system principles under section 2301(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) **TERM.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), and notwithstanding section 3341(b) of title 5, United States Code, a detail to a rotational cyber workforce position shall be for a period of not less than 180 days and not more than 1 year.

(C) **EXTENSION.**—The Chief Human Capital Officer of the agency to which an employee is detailed under the rotational cyber workforce program may extend the period of a detail described in subparagraph (B) for a period of 60 days unless the Chief Human Capital Officer of the employing agency of the employee objects to that extension.

**(3) WRITTEN SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The detail of an employee to a rotational cyber position shall be contingent upon the employee entering into a written service agreement with the employing agency under which the employee is required to complete a period of employment with the employing agency following the conclusion of the detail that is equal in length to the period of the detail.

(B) **CONTINUED SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**—A written service agreement under subparagraph (A) shall not supersede or modify the terms or conditions of any other service agreement entered into by the employee under any other authority or relieve the obligations between the employee and the employing agency under such a service agreement. Nothing in this subparagraph prevents an employing agency from terminating a service agreement entered into under any other authority under the terms of such agreement or as required by law or regulation.

**SEC. 5. REPORTING BY GAO.**

Not later than the end of the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the operation plan under section 4(a) is issued, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the operation and effectiveness of the rotational cyber workforce program, which shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which agencies have participated in the rotational cyber workforce program, including whether the head of each such participating agency has—

(A) identified positions within the agency that are rotational cyber workforce positions;

(B) had employees from other participating agencies serve in positions described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) had employees of the agency request to serve in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program in participating agencies, including a description of how many such requests were approved; and

(2) the experiences of employees serving in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program, including an assessment of—

(A) the period of service;

(B) the positions (including grade level and occupational series) held by employees before completing service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program;

(C) the extent to which each employee who completed service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program achieved a higher skill level, or attained a skill level in a different area, with respect to information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions; and

(D) the extent to which service in rotational cyber workforce positions has affected intra-agency and interagency integration and coordination of cyber practices, functions, and personnel management.

**SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

Effective 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, this Act is repealed.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019**

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Barker nomination, with the time until 11:45 a.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

**ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. CASSIDY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators Durbin and Casey.

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

The Senator from Illinois.

**VENEZUELA**

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last year, I made a visit to Caracas, Venezuela. It was a surprise that they even offered me a visa to journey to that country. In the course of several days, I saw firsthand what life in Venezuela was like. It was terrible from every aspect—malnutrition, children fainting in schools, hospitals without the basic

medicines, the return of diseases which had been eradicated decades before, people on the street emaciated and working day in and day out in a runaway inflation country. At 11:30 at night, there were queues by ATM machines where people stood patiently in line for hours to make the maximum withdrawal from their savings account, which was the money they needed the next day to take the bus to work. It is a terrible situation.

In the course of that visit, I met with President Maduro and talked to him directly about his plans to schedule an election. It was clear to me this election was rigged. He had intimidated and even jailed his opponents to make certain that there would be no serious opposition, and I told him there would be no credibility in that election. It wouldn't be accepted by countries around the world that he was the legitimate leader of that country. Yet he persisted and went through with the election.

During the time that I was there, I had a chance to meet with some of his political opponents. His tactics against these opponents were harsh. Leopoldo Lopez, a popular opponent, was put under house arrest for years. I spoke to him on the telephone and met personally with his wife, who described the bleak existence he had day to day in the same house under house arrest by Maduro.

One evening, we had dinner with opposition members of the National Assembly, and it was held at a secret location, upstairs in a darkened room, because of their fear of retribution by Maduro and his regime.

These are some pretty brave young men and women who are part of the opposition to Maduro. I can recall one of them saying to me: If you come back next year, out of the five of us, two will have been deported, two will be missing, and one of us will be dead. That is what happens when you oppose the Maduro regime.

One of those people who were at that dinner meeting with me was named Juan Guaido. His name became prominent just a few months ago when he stepped up in an extraordinary show of political courage and declared himself, under the original Constitution, as the leader of Venezuela—directly confronting Maduro and his regime. Since then, he has received a lot of publicity. He went to the border with Colombia and tried to encourage the Maduro regime to allow transports of food, medicine, and other humanitarian needs into the country. Maduro refused.

He also made it clear that he was willing to risk his life. I met here in Washington with his young wife, who had a little baby girl. His wife had come to the United States to plead his case in the Halls of Congress. She knew the danger her husband faced. Yet she understood that he was willing to risk that for the future of Venezuela.

Juan Guaido's effort to become the leader of that country has been recognized now and acknowledged by leaders

of countries around the world. The Organization of American States—the largest organization of Central and South American countries—acknowledged in a formal vote that Juan Guaido would be the leader of Venezuela by their calculation. They didn't accept the Maduro election any more than I did.

In the last several months, there has been increasing tension and concern as members of Guaido's following were jailed by the Maduro regime and concern that Guaido himself may be in danger because of this ongoing situation.

Early this morning, I received a phone call from Ambassador John Bolton, who works with the President in the White House. He knew of my interest in Venezuela, and he wanted to alert me that today was a day that could be historic, a day of reckoning. Guaido and Leopoldo Lopez, who had been under house arrest, were both appealing directly to the military leaders in Venezuela, asking those leaders to join their effort to establish a legitimate government in Venezuela and to have a free and fair election. We didn't know what was in store. There were no predictions as to who would prevail in this, and there was a great deal of danger associated with Guaido's position. Lopez, coming out of house arrest, is risking his own life in the process. We didn't know what Maduro's response would be.

In the last several weeks, there have been groups that have come to the aid and support of the Maduro regime. They include some Cuban security forces, as well as colectivos and motorcycle gangs that support the Maduro regime, but most notably the arrival of several hundred Russian military into Caracas. This, of course, complicates the situation. There are rumors in the press. We don't know which to believe and which not to believe, but at this point, there is at least a question as to whether Maduro was prepared to leave and was discouraged by the Russians and told to stay. I hope he does leave.

I hope Venezuela can turn the corner. I hope the people of that country who are leaving Venezuela by the millions to go to countries like Colombia have an opportunity to see a new life in their country and to move forward.

I have supported the efforts of the Trump administration against the Maduro regime in Venezuela with an understanding that they want to move forward with regime change in that country without the involvement of U.S. military force. I think it would be a mistake if we did that, to put in U.S. military force. We are in a situation where the history of that region is well known. There has been a lot of tension and a lot of difficulty in the past, and I hope we do not consider that military possibility. I certainly support their efforts and applaud their success in bringing the Organization of American States and other countries to the side of Juan Guaido and Leopoldo Lopez.

I urge Maduro to do the right thing for Venezuela—to avoid bloodshed, to accept Guaido's amnesty offer, and to step out of the way of a long-overdue transition and return to democracy.

Until then, I support President Guaido's peaceful effort to advance the constitutional transition period in which a credible and timely election can be prepared under his leadership. Mr. Guaido is literally putting his life on the line for the future of his country. The Russians and Cubans in Caracas who attempt to prop up Mr. Maduro must step back and let the Venezuelan people decide their own fate in an open and free election.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I come to the floor tonight to discuss the troubling state of judicial nominations before the Senate. This week, we are voting on, among others, two district court nominees—Campbell Barker and Andrew Brasher—who have, in my judgment, very concerning records.

Just several weeks ago, Senate Republicans changed the Senate rules so that they can continue to put on the Federal bench highly ideological and sometimes unqualified jurists who have the corporate stamp of approval but I don't think the mainstream stamp of approval. Under new Senate rules, these nominees will receive only 2 hours of postcloture consideration time on the Senate floor, but if confirmed, they would sit on the Federal bench for life. So 2 hours postcloture for a lifetime appointment.

I will start with Mr. Campbell Barker, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. He has a troubling record from his time as deputy solicitor general of the State of Texas. In 2016, he defended Texas's voter ID law, which the Fifth Circuit said violated the Voting Rights Act because it prevented minority voters from exercising their right to vote.

Second, Mr. Barker submitted amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court attacking the Affordable Care Act. In those briefs, he argued that the individual mandate is unconstitutional—a position rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. He also opposed the contraceptive coverage mandate, which was a critical part of the ACA's efforts to make sure that women have access to the medical care they need. He also signed amicus briefs arguing that businesses should be allowed to discriminate against LGBT customers and supporting the President's travel ban, which, in my judgment, was a bigoted policy that discriminated against the Muslim community.

The second nominee I will make some comments about tonight is Mr.

Andrew Brasher, a nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. Like Mr. Barker, Mr. Brasher has a troubling record from his time in the state solicitor general's office. In 2014, he defended the Alabama State redistricting scheme, which a Federal court determined violated the Constitution because it packed African-American voters into a few districts, diluting the power of their vote on the basis of their race.

Similar to Mr. Barker, Mr. Brasher challenged the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act and argued that the reasonable accommodations made for religious nonprofits were still too burdensome—an argument that the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals rejected.

In 2015, he submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court arguing against the right of same-sex couples to marry—a position the Supreme Court has rejected.

Lastly, Mr. Brasher submitted amicus briefs to the Supreme Court arguing against commonsense gun laws, such as age requirements for gun purchases and restrictions on concealed carry licenses.

There is no good reason why we should be confirming these judges with these troubling records on matters of critical importance to many Americans. There is no shortage of qualified, mainstream attorneys or judges, State court judges and other judges across the country. Of course, in the case of a Republican Senate and Republican President, these judges are often Republican in their party affiliation or by way of their philosophy, but I think there is often a big difference between a conservative jurist or potential judge who has a conservative view on issues—that is different from being extreme right, as many of these nominees are.

Just by way of contrast to these nominees and others we will be considering, Senator TOOMEY and I have worked together jointly to recommend experienced, consensus nominees for Federal district courts in Pennsylvania. Everyone knows we are in different parties. We have different views. We rarely vote together. But we have figured out a way on most days—not every day, not every nominee or potential nominee, but on most days—to work together to try to find consensus for district court nominees.

I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, for his commitment to our process over these many years we have served together now, since 2011. This process has allowed us to confirm 18 Federal judges to the 3 Federal district courts in Pennsylvania since 2011. We have five others who are being considered by the Senate now, including Joshua Wolson, whose nomination is on the floor this week. I returned a blue slip and will vote for Josh Wolson. He is experienced. He has strong academic credentials. He is a conservative. He probably

wouldn't be my first pick, but I am supporting him. He has been a partner at a distinguished Philadelphia law firm, the Dilworth Paxson firm, since 2008 and has both the ability and I think the integrity to serve as a Federal district court judge. So that is a demonstration that this process can work when you have consensus, even between Senators who don't often vote together.

This is a bipartisan process. It requires both parties to work very hard. It requires our staff to work hard. It requires consensus. It has required several White Houses now—the Obama administration's White House, as well as the Trump administration—to work with us. But we found a way to make it work on most days.

This bipartisan district court process is indeed the exception, not the rule. In so many other instances, especially with regard to circuit court nominees, we have seen extreme nominees being pushed through. The rule change that I referred to earlier that cut the postclosure time to just 2 hours means there is very little time to fully consider nominees to these lifetime appointments to the Bench. The Judiciary Committee has stacked multiple circuit court nominees in single hearings, giving Senators on the Judiciary Committee less time to ask nominees questions.

Circuit court nominees now receive votes over the objection of their home state Senators. That is new. That wasn't happening just a few years ago, and it wasn't happening many years before that.

The blue-slip process has been eviscerated for circuit court judicial nominees. That is a loss for the Senate, which may be the only body in the world that has the kind of rules that govern our work so that we will arrive at a consensus by empowering the minority to work with the majority to arrive at that consensus. It is a loss for the Senate, but it is also a loss for our constituents who are served by Federal district courts and Federal circuit courts.

Last year, the Senate confirmed David Porter to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Pennsylvania—Pennsylvania being one of the States represented in the circuit. That nomination and confirmation was over my objection as a home State Senator. This was in spite of my record of bipartisan work on judicial nominations. My record now goes back over the course of three Presidencies and different Senates—Democratic Senate, Republican Senate. Despite all the bipartisan work, this nominee was both nominated and confirmed without my consent.

For the first time in history, we have confirmed two judges to the circuit court—Eric Miller and Paul Matey—without the consent of any home State Senators, meaning you have two Democratic Senators who did not give consent, and now they have been con-

firmed. I don't think that is good for the Senate in the long run. I am certain it is not good for our constituents, as I said. I think they would prefer judges who come through a process where there is a degree of consensus, including all of the vetting that these nominees go through.

This isn't how the process is supposed to work. This process is supposed to be one of advice and consent. Advice and consent as to nominating people for lifetime appointments to the Federal courts, especially the circuit courts, has been gutted. "Gutted" might be an understatement. These nominees will impact not just the lives of the parties before them in court, but, of course, the lives of all Americans.

It is true that in our system, one Federal judge can affect the whole country. We know that from our history. And that includes both district court judges, as well as circuit court judges.

In the case of circuit court judges, often that is the last stop. Very few cases are briefed and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. In many cases, the last stop is the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. For all intents and purposes, that becomes the Supreme Court for a lot of cases—the highest level of review.

I hope we can return to a more inclusive process that focuses on putting experienced, mainstream judges on the bench rather than ramming through—and that is the best way to describe what has been happening lately—nominees with views and with records that are out of the mainstream. I would argue for purposes of the near-term votes that both Mr. Barker and Mr. Brasher would not fit under the umbrella of being mainstream.

I think there are plenty of folks around here in the Senate who would like to work together to arrive at more of a consensus. It doesn't mean that we will not have disagreements; it doesn't mean that one side will not have a different point of view. But I think someone can be conservative and philosophically aligned with one party or one point of view without being so far out of the mainstream that a lot of Americans would consider them extreme.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:58 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

B. CHAD BUNGARD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE

TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2025, VICE MARK A. ROBBINS, TERM EXPIRED.

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RODNEY L. FAULK  
BRIG. GEN. DEBORAH L. KOTULICH  
BRIG. GEN. FREDERICK R. MAIOCCO  
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY J. MOSSER  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN H. PHILLIPS  
BRIG. GEN. JOE D. ROBINSON  
BRIG. GEN. ALBERTO C. ROSENDE  
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD C. STAATS, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN C. WULFHORST

##### To be brigadier general

COL. TIMOTHY E. BRENNAN  
COL. CARY J. COWAN, JR.  
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. DZIUBEK  
COL. JEFFREY M. FARRIS  
COL. ROBERT E. GUIDRY  
COL. MICHELLE A. LINK  
COL. LAURENCE S. LINTON  
COL. PAMELA L. MCGAHA  
COL. STEVEN B. MCLAUGHLIN  
COL. JOSEPH A. PAPPENFUS  
COL. JOSEPH A. RICCIARDI  
COL. JED J. SCHAERTL  
COL. PATRICIA R. WALLACE  
COL. DAVID P. WARSHAW  
COL. STUART E. WERNER  
COL. WANDA N. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

##### To be colonel

TIMOTHY S. ADAMS  
DANIEL A. BLAZ  
DAVID F. BOYD III  
CRAIG S. BUDINICH  
BRETT G. BUEHNER  
MITZI A. FIELDS  
BRAD E. FRANKLIN  
STACEY S. FREEMAN  
MATTHEW K. GARRISON  
JOSEPH J. HOFFERT  
THERESA L. LEWIS  
BIRGIT B. LISTER  
RANAE T. LOWE  
ALICIA A. MADORE  
MARK L. MITCHELL  
VINCENT B. MYERS  
PRENTICE R. PRICE  
THURMAN J. SAUNDERS  
ANN C. SIMSCOLUMBIA  
ALICIA D. SURREY  
MICHAEL F. SZYMANIAK  
JIMMIE J. TOLVERT  
DENNIS R. TURNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

##### To be colonel

CAROL A. ANDERSON  
AMY A. BLANK  
MERBIN CARATTINI  
ROBERT CARTER III  
TRISHA A. COBB  
COLLEEN M. COOPER  
DAVID B. COWGER  
NATHANAEAL C. FORRESTER  
TOBIAS J. GLISTER  
JAMES B. GOETSCHUS  
MATTHEW J. GRIESSER  
MARK G. HARTELL  
CHARLOTTE L. HILDEBRAND  
RAYMOND J. JABLONKA  
FREDERICK C. JACKSON  
PAUL J. KASSEBAUM  
DUBRAY KINNEY, SR.  
BRADLEY D. LADD  
PAUL W. MAETZOLD  
KEVIN J. MAHONEY  
MATTHEW J. MAPES  
PETER B. MARKOT  
YVETTE M. MCCREA  
JAMES A. MORRISON  
ROBERT L. NACE  
WOODROW NASH, JR.  
BRIAN D. OLEARY  
ADAM J. PETERS  
RICARDO A. REYES  
DANIEL E. REYNOLDS  
MICHAEL D. RONN  
GINNETTE RUTH  
ALICK E. SMITH  
KIRSTEN S. SMITH  
KENNETH D. SPICER  
SABRINA R. THWEATT  
BARBARA T. TRAENKNER  
STUART D. TYNER  
ARISTOTLE A. VASELIANES  
LAWANDA D. WARTHEN  
CHAN L. WEBSTER  
DOUGLAS P. WEKELL  
KENNEY H. WELLS

ABDUL R. WILLIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be colonel*

THOMAS A. BRYANT  
RENEE E. COLE  
STEPHEN M. DELELLIS  
DAVID N. FELTWELL  
KEVIN M. HOUCK  
DAWN L. ORTA  
ARTHUR F. YEAGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

JEREMY J. BEARSS  
DALE R. BEEBE  
TODD M. BELL  
CARRIE G. BENTON  
WILLIAM E. CULP  
CHRISTINE A. EGE  
PAUL R. FACEMIRE  
MICHELLE THOMPSON

*To be colonel*

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WILLIAM COOPER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

R. CLARKE COOPER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS).

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

GORDON HARTOGENSIS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by  
the Senate April 30, 2019: