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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.

O mighty God, our gracious King, we thank You that Your power is still active in our Nation and world. Forgive us when we forget that You continue to rule Your universe. Lord, we are grateful for the confidence You have given us that You hear and answer our prayers. Use the Members of this body as ambassadors of reconciliation. Help them to create laws that will bring wholeness to a fragmented nation and world. Lord, infuse them with a spirit of contemplative stillness so that they will find joy in righteousness, justice, and integrity.

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 pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Truncale nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, to commemorate this year's National Police Week, I joined a bipartisan group of Senators on a resolution to honor these people who lost their lives in order to protect our lives. The men and women of law enforcement make sacrifices every day to protect their families and fellow citizens. We are indebted to their dedication.

I want to express my appreciation for each and every police officer, firefighter, first responder, and other law enforcement officers who work diligently to protect our friends and families.

All of those visiting Washington this week to commemorate National Police Week, if you get a chance to see them on the streets of Washington, DC, thank them for their service.

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. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning's New York Times contained a stunning report that President Trump's top national security aid had been presented with a plan that would "send as many as 120,000 troops to the Middle East should Iran attack American forces or accelerate work on nuclear weapons"—120,000 American troops in the Middle East. This report is completely baffling and incredibly alarming.

What is the strategy here? The administration just began a maximum pressure campaign of sanctions against Iran to squeeze its economy. Doesn't it make sense to see if your policy is working before preparing for potential troop deployments, particularly in such large numbers? Six months ago the President was trying to pull U.S. forces out of the Middle East entirely, against the advice of many in our defense and diplomatic communities. Now his national security team is reviewing plans for war?

Meanwhile, President Trump has not laid out what his plans are, what his long-term strategy in the Middle East is, or even given a speech about Iran. So why on Earth are his advisers discussing plans to entrench U.S. ground troops in the Middle East for who knows how long? It seems that hardliners in the administration are pushing the conversation in a very dangerous direction, and I am very concerned.

U.S. foreign policy depends upon the stable execution of a consistent policy, but all too often the Trump administration has seemed capable of neither stability nor consistency. The erratic behavior of the President and the chaos he instills in his administration has led to numerous blunders at home and abroad. We should all hope that this report is just that—another blunder—and not the beginnings of a rush by the President's hawkish advisers to heighten military tensions with Iran.

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



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There are many questions for the President, but here are two. Why do we need more troops in the Iran area right now? Why? And why such a large number—120,000, which is as many as the total number of troops we have had in Iraq at significant times.

PUERTO RICO

Now, there are a lot of Americans still waiting at this point for Puerto Rico and the disaster bill. A lot of Americans are still waiting for the Senate to put politics aside and help them piece their lives back together from natural disasters last year, from wildfires to floods, from tornadoes to hurricanes. Because of climate change, our weather is different—considerably different—and Americans are paying the price. We are also paying the price for not taking leadership on climate. But now I am here to discuss this relief package. Throughout our discussions here in Congress about the relief package, Democrats have maintained that it must include relief for all Americans affected by disasters last year, not just those Americans who live in the West and Midwest or South, but also the 3 million citizens living in Puerto Rico. It is not a zero-sum game. It is not that if you help Puerto Rico you would not be helping Florida or Iowa. You can help them all, and that is what Americans have always done.

But there is some good news. I must say that I am encouraged that Republicans are starting to realize that we cannot leave Puerto Rico out. It may not have happened had Democrats not insisted all along that Puerto Rico be included, but our Republican friends are beginning to realize that if Puerto Rico is not in the package, no package will pass. As for their intransigence and obeisance to President Trump, when he came in out of the clear blue one day and bollixed up the package that had been carefully worked out between the Democrats and Republicans by insisting that no aid to Puerto Rico be in the package, it is clear to our Republican friends that is not working, and I am encouraged that Republicans have moved into our direction when it comes to disaster in Puerto Rico. I hope that we can find agreement soon and put this totally unnecessary political fight behind us and finally deliver relief to disaster-stricken Americans, wherever they may be.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, 133 million Americans under 65 years of age are living with a preexisting condition of some kind. Right now, because of the laws on the books, insurance companies cannot charge those Americans more or deny them coverage simply because they have a preexisting condition. That is a great thing. That is something Americans longed for before these protections became law.

But, unfortunately, that could all change and go away if the lawsuit against our healthcare law brought by Republican attorneys general and supported by the Trump administration

succeeds. It would deprive health coverage for tens of millions of Americans and risk denial of coverage or exorbitant premiums for up to 133 million Americans with preexisting conditions. That scale of cruelty is so large that it is almost unimaginable—to tell 133 million Americans that you will not get protections if, God forbid, you have an illness and your insurance company wants to cut you off. Yet those are the practical consequences of the lawsuit that the Trump Department of Justice continues to support. While that lawsuit is a fundamental threat to our country's healthcare system, led by President Trump and supported by just about every Republican in this Chamber, the Trump administration has also spent much of the past 2 years sabotaging and undermining healthcare at every turn.

As for this ideology that the government should not help people who have healthcare problems, well, about 90 percent of all Americans do not agree with that, but somehow it is dominant in the White House and dominant in the Republican Senate. Last week the House passed legislation that would reverse the Trump administration. It is good that the new majority in the House is taking action.

Later this week the House is poised to pass another package of legislation to further protect preexisting conditions and help Americans sign up for quality health coverage. But so far none of the bills that protect Americans' healthcare have received any attention from the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and that is a shame—a real shame.

Leader MCCONNELL has slowly but surely been turning the Senate into a legislative graveyard, where even the most consequential and noncontroversial legislation gets buried indefinitely.

Just take the House-passed legislation on preexisting conditions as an example. This is extraordinarily popular with the American people. A Kaiser poll found that nearly 70 percent of Americans do not want the courts to overturn protections for preexisting conditions. I don't think any of my colleagues would argue on the merits that we should go back to a healthcare system where insurance companies could discriminate against a child with cancer. In fact, several of my Republican colleagues who recently won reelection ran ads explicitly saying they were for protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. So why will the Republican leader not commit to at least putting up legislation to do that? I hope it is not because my Republican colleagues want to be able to say one thing and do another. I hope it is not because of the influence of dark money. I hope that is not why. So I would say to the leader: Do not throw healthcare legislation into the legislative graveyard. Do not throw the healthcare of the American people into the legislative graveyard.

The American people are worried about rising costs and declining qual-

ity. They are worried that if they are sick, they could wake up any day and no longer have access to healthcare. That is a very real threat that millions of Americans face under the Trump administration. Healthcare was the No. 1 issue for most Americans in the last election. We should be doing something to protect American families from the Trump administration's effort to undermine healthcare. I understand that my Republican colleagues do not want to cross the President, but this issue is too important to too many American families to remain silent, too important for our Republican colleagues not to go to their leader—especially, those colleagues who campaigned for preexisting condition protections—and tell the leader that we must bring this legislation to the floor.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

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.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, when Republicans took office at the beginning of the 115th Congress, we had one goal in mind, and that was to make life better for American families. We knew that American families were struggling. Recovery from the great recession was long and slow. Economic growth was sluggish. Wages were stagnant. Too many families were living paycheck to paycheck. American families needed relief, and Republicans were determined to give it to them.

That is why we made getting our economy going again a priority. We knew that our economy needed to do a lot better if American families were going to start doing better. A strong economy is the key to getting Americans access to the jobs, wages, and opportunities they need to thrive.

So we took action. We eliminated burdensome regulations that were acting as a drag on economic growth, and we passed a historic reform of our Tax Code to put more money in Americans' pockets and to get our economy going again.

We cut tax rates and doubled the child tax credit, and in 2018 the average family of four saw a tax cut of more than \$2,000. We lowered tax rates for businesses, expanded business owners' ability to invest in their operations and their workers and made American businesses more competitive in the global economy.

We are seeing the results. Job creation is up. Wages are growing at the fastest pace in a decade. Personal income is up. Unemployment is at the lowest level in 50 years. Tax reform is

delivering bigger paychecks, more opportunities, and a better quality of life for American workers.

Tax reform might be our biggest achievement in the 115th Congress, but it is far from the only thing that we did to make life better for American families. We also enacted legislation to provide better education and training to American workers. We passed multi-billion-dollar bipartisan legislation to combat the opioid epidemic, which has devastated families and communities across the United States.

We passed the longest extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program in the program's history. We passed legislation to provide hope to terminally ill patients by giving them access to experimental treatments. We passed bipartisan clean energy legislation. We passed a farm bill to support our Nation's farmers and ranchers, to protect our environment, and more.

But there is more work to be done. Republicans are working right now to develop and pass legislation to continue to address the cost of living and to improve Americans' quality of life. We are committed to making tax relief permanent for American families. We are also committed to ensure that the economic progress we have made sticks around for the long term.

We are working to open new markets for American goods and services so that American workers and businesses can thrive. One priority is passing the United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement, which would grow our economy and create 167,000 new jobs.

Republicans are also committed to making healthcare more affordable. We want to give Americans more and more affordable insurance options. We are working on legislation to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and increase access to lower cost generics. We are focused on developing solutions that will bring greater clarity to healthcare costs and address so-called surprise billing. You should not go to an in-network hospital expecting to pay one thing and then get an unexpected enormous bill weeks later because it wasn't disclosed to you that the doctor you saw wasn't in your insurance network.

Another challenge facing American families is the cost of education. Republicans are currently working on legislation to make it easier to apply for Federal student aid and to pay back student loans. We will also continue to support career and technical education, and we will work to further increase the usefulness of 529 savings plans to help families plan and meet educational expenses.

One bright spot for family budgets over the past few years has been energy costs. Republican policies have helped to make energy more affordable, and we are committed to keeping American's energy bills reasonable by supporting responsible energy development.

We are also committed to continuing our work to keep our air clean and our environment healthy.

We currently have multiple bills in the pipeline to promote clean energy technologies with more to come. There are a lot of other Republican plans that I could talk about, everything from making it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to ensuring that rural communities enjoy equal access to broadband services and the economic opportunities that they bring.

One thing the American people can count on is that Republicans are working every day to improve Americans' quality of life. Our proposals may not always make it into the news. A lot of them do not have catchy names, like the Green New Deal, and they do not make pie-in-the-sky promises. But unlike the so-called Green New Deal, our plans are actually achievable, and they would actually make life better for American families.

I am proud that more families are thriving today thanks to tax reform and to other Republican policies, and Republicans will continue to work every day to make sure that life continues to improve for the American people.

I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. THUNE. 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Daines	Lee
Barrasso	Enzi	McConnell
Blackburn	Ernst	McSally
Blunt	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gardner	Murkowski
Braun	Graham	Paul
Burr	Grassley	Perdue
Capito	Hawley	Portman
Collins	Hoeven	Risch
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Cotton	Inhofe	Rubio
Cramer	Isakson	Sasse
Crapo	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (SC)

Shelby
Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Toomey
Wicker

Young

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Hirono	Rounds
Gillibrand	Kennedy	

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 actions.

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 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 Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito.

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 Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Court Judge, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barraso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Collins	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cassidy	Hirono	Rounds
Gillibrand	Kennedy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Lee nomination.

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the years, I have spent a great deal of time on the Senate floor highlighting the evolving challenges along our southern border.

My home State of Texas shares a 1,200-mile common border with Mexico, so any major shift in terms of who or what is arriving at the border is felt quickly by my constituents and by my State. In recent months, I have heard from the Border Patrol, local officials, nongovernmental organizations, community leaders, businesses of every size, and just average citizens alike about how the situation today is far more challenging than it has ever been before.

In the past, the number of illegal border crossings have fluctuated by varying degrees, but now we have seen a complete shift not only in number but also in the “who” of those crossing.

While we used to see single adults from Mexico, that is simply not the case anymore. There is no new net migration from Mexico, we are told. As Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost highlighted in a hearing last week, 68 percent of those apprehended are now families or unaccompanied children, and that is on purpose. The human smugglers have figured out what our laws are and how to exploit them in order to successfully place people in the United States by overwhelming our system. The 68 percent of families or unaccompanied children amounts to roughly 293,000 apprehensions so far this fiscal year—293,000. What is more, 70 percent of the unaccompanied children and families are occurring in just two Border Patrol sectors, the El Paso sector and the Rio Grande Valley sector, making the State of Texas and its border communities the hardest hit.

The vast majority of those crossing aren't from Mexico. They are coming from Mexico, but they are actually coming through Mexico. So far this fiscal year, 74 percent of the Border Patrol's apprehensions along the southern border are people from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—what is called the Northern Triangle. This means that in 7 months, nearly 341,000 people from the Northern Triangle of Central America made the decision to leave their homes and to make a dangerous journey in the hands of a human smuggler to illegally enter the United States. Here is another shocking statistic, Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan recently noted that Guatemala and Honduras have seen more than 1 percent of their total population migrate to the United States in the first 7 months of this fiscal year—more than 1 percent of their entire population.

While it is abundantly clear that the mass movement of people across our border is a problem that must be addressed, it is an understatement to say that Members of the Senate disagree on what a solution looks like. We spent a lot of time debating the semantics of the entire situation without making any real progress. I believe our strategy to alleviate this humanitarian crisis hinges on three important steps:

First, we need stronger physical security at the border. The experts have told us that means three things: barriers and, in-hard-to-control places, people—that is law enforcement—and technology. That is what our frontline officers and agents need to do their jobs, and that is what we should provide.

Secondly, we need to provide Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Patrol with the authorities—that means the laws—they need in order to effectively do their job. That includes closing the loopholes that are being exploited by the human smugglers and the illegal immigrants entering the country because they have figured out how to

game the system. They know our laws better than most Americans do.

Both of these are what are called pull factors—what attract people to come to the United States illegally. They are gaps in our physical security and legal system that encourage Central American migrants to make the dangerous journey north because their chances of making their way into the interior of our country are pretty high.

There is a critical third step here. We also need to eliminate the push factors. That is what is driving people from Central America on that dangerous road north through Mexico into the United States. The reason so many of these families are leaving their home countries in the first place boils down to poverty and violence. We know these three countries in the Northern Triangle are plagued by crime, corruption, and a lack of economic opportunities. Sometimes it is difficult for Americans to grasp the deep-seated nature of these problems and why it is so tough to resolve them because it is such a far cry from what most have experienced here at home.

In October of 2018, the International Organization for Migration conducted a survey of a group of Salvadoran migrants who banded together as a caravan to make the journey north. It found that 52 percent of the people who were coming from El Salvador cited economic opportunity as their motive for leaving the region, 18 percent cited violence and insecurity, 2 percent said they wanted to unify their families, and 28 percent cited some combination of these factors. Now, this may not be the case for migrants from each country, but it paints a broad picture of how these challenges are affecting them.

We must help these countries address their problems, but we can't do it for them. Looking at South America and the successful efforts we have had to help countries rebuild themselves into successful economies with security for their people, there is one that stands out the most, and that is Colombia. What is different about Colombia from the rest of these countries is we had, one, a bipartisan plan that was applied over many years by both Republican and Democratic administrations. We also had a strong partner, a leader, President Uribe in Colombia, which is something we are missing in Central America. Then we had a plan, as the name Plan Colombia suggests, so we knew what we were doing, and we knew how to measure success. We don't have any of these things now as part of our effort to help the Central American countries help themselves.

Having said that, I think that is a challenge we need to rise to, to find a way of helping these countries create economic opportunities and security for their people so we can help relieve some of the strain on our own border.

This morning, my colleague from Delaware, Senator CARPER, and I participated in a discussion by the Bush

Center and the Atlantic Council on how to promote economic growth in the Northern Triangle. I think it is very helpful for these think tanks to gather experts and come up with proposals we can consider and then vote on. Frankly, it is very hard for Congress—we don't have really the bandwidth to come up with proposals from the start, so it is helpful to have smart people from around the country, experts, who can help advise us.

We know this: One of the most fundamental problems standing in the way of prosperity for Central America is the security crisis. Because of endemic corruption and powerful criminal organizations, a genuine rule of law is missing in these countries and has been for generations. We have had some successes partnering with our closest neighbor in this crisis, Mexico, and I believe we can continue to build upon some of the programs we already have in place there. For example, the United States has partnered with Mexico in recent years through programs like the Merida Initiative to combat drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, and money laundering. There is a need for increased security cooperation and burden sharing to lessen the regional insecurity and damage caused by the growing influence of cartels, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations. We have directed funds toward strengthening communities and empowering the Mexican criminal justice system and judicial system to help combat the rampant culture of impunity that exists in Mexico, and I believe we have made some marginal gains, although there is a lot of work that needs to be done. We have also shared intelligence and cooperated in providing various forms of security.

The Bureau of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement continues to work to develop programs to combat international narcotics and crime, especially in Central America, but U.S. funding for this program in Mexico has stagnated. Additional aid for this program would combat transnational criminal organizations, improve drug interdiction, and train Mexican law enforcement and judicial personnel.

Moving forward, we should begin to look at the effectiveness of these existing programs so we can take full advantage of the work they do and ensure they are modernized to confront the evolving epidemic. It is nearly impossible to determine how or if this money is benefiting the people hit hardest by this crime and corruption, and that needs to change. It is no news that the Trump administration has recently announced its decision to suspend aid to Central America. While I believe aid to these countries is important in providing any semblance of long-term stability, I also think it is important to fundamentally examine where this money is going, what we are trying to achieve, and how effective these programs are at achieving that goal. That

seems pretty simple, pretty straightforward, but we actually don't have a plan, and we don't have any metrics to measure our progress.

We know the problem is getting worse because the number of people showing up on our border just continues to increase.

If we are going to ask the American taxpayer to foot the bill, we have a fiduciary duty to them to make sure the money is going to be well spent in pursuit of American interests. We can't do that right now.

Every dollar should be responsibly spent on initiatives to strengthen security cooperation, improve governance, enhance public security, and promote prosperity through pro-growth reforms.

If that is not the case, then we need to take a hard look at how we can improve our foreign aid program.

We need to provide the resources and training to help Central American countries stabilize their governments and their economies. But, again, we can't do this for them. We can't want an outcome more than they do. They need to want this. They need to provide the leadership to be a partner with us to help execute an agreed-upon common plan, and then we need to be able to show the American taxpayers that their money is being well spent because we are making measurable progress.

When the people begin to see the opportunity and safety in their home countries, making a long migration northward becomes less of a necessity.

I hope we can have these continued discussions here in Congress over the coming months. But even more than that, I hope we can focus on this as a problem that needs to be solved—one that is above politics and beyond politics and one that really threatens the security and safety of our own country because not only do we know that migrants come to the United States fleeing poverty and violence, but we also know these same criminal organizations transmit drugs into the United States. They move people for human trafficking and sex slavery, and this is a challenge for our country, as well as the entire region.

We can do this if we will simply focus on it and work together on this as a problem to be solved. But, again, we can't do this for these countries in Central America.

I think President Trump was correct to suspend the money we are spending there until we actually have a plan and a willing partner to work with to implement and execute this plan in a way that can demonstrate measurable progress.

We have a model in Colombia where this has worked in the past, but around the world where the United States is engaged in nation building, there are not a lot of models for success. There are a lot of examples of failure because of the complexity and difficulty of this, but this is something that should be getting our attention and something that should be a priority for all of us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, in commemoration of National Police Week, families from across the country are gathering in Washington to pay respect to law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty last year.

Mississippi tragically lost four officers who are being recognized this week at ceremonies in Mississippi and here in the Nation's Capital.

On May 17, 2018, Officer Emmett Paul Morris, 61, of Louin, was killed in a car crash. Having served the Raleigh and Reservoir Police Departments, Officer Morris was described as "a kind man who had the spirit of service."

Patrolman LeAnn Simpson of Philadelphia, MS, died in an automobile crash while responding to a call on November 24, 2018. She was just 23 years old. Prior to joining the Philadelphia Police Department, Simpson was a sergeant in the U.S. Army.

The loss of two other officers from Mississippi last year has special significance to me because they had dedicated themselves to protecting my hometown of Brookhaven in Lincoln County, MS.

Officers James Kevin White, 35, of Sontag, and Corporal Walter Zachery Marshall Moak, 31, of Brookhaven, lost their lives in a terrible standoff on September 29, 2018.

Corporal Moak served with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office before serving with the Wesson and Brookhaven Police Departments.

Officer White, in addition to being a police officer, served in Iraq with the Mississippi National Guard.

I join the families and communities of these four Mississippi officers in remembering their lives and expressing sincere gratitude for their service.

Sadly, their sacrifice did not end our losses in Mississippi. Mississippians just yesterday, this past Monday, paused to mourn a veteran Biloxi police officer, Robert McKeithen, as he was laid to rest after being gunned down outside the police station on May 5, 2019—last Sunday.

These officers and Trooper Kenneth "Josh" Smith of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, along with the more than 160 officers from around the country who lost their lives, deserve national recognition.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives daily to help keep us safe, and any loss of an officer deeply affects entire communities. I greatly admire members of the law enforcement community who remain steadfast in the

dangers of their noble profession. We acknowledge their brave service and fortify our support of their work to protect our families and our communities.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in recess subject to the call of the chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:15 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:41 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use my leader time.

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week we observe National Police Week, which is an annual gathering of tens of thousands of law enforcement personnel right here in our Nation's Capital. America will pay special tribute tomorrow to the service and sacrifice of our fallen officers as we mark Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Officers from all around the country will join together to honor their brothers and sisters in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and the rest of the Nation will remember how blessed we are by the selfless sacrifices of this "thin blue line" that protects our families and keeps our communities safe.

I extend a warm welcome to the many Kentuckians who have traveled here this week, and along with them, I am thinking especially of four of their comrades whose names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this year: Hickman police officer Rodney Smith, whose patrol car was washed into a field while he was checking on members of his community during a flood; Patrolman Scotty Hamilton, of the Parkville Police Department, who was murdered while he was investigating a suspicious vehicle for narcotics activity; Hopkinsville police officer Phillip Meacham, who was shot and killed while off duty as he assisted a fellow officer; and Louisville

Metro Police Department detective Deidre Mengedoh, who was struck and killed while conducting a traffic stop on Christmas Eve.

With more than three decades of combined service, these heroic Kentuckians left behind spouses, children, and an entire Commonwealth that mourns their tragic losses. It is my honor to have represented them in the Senate and to represent all those who wear the uniform. It was an honor to proudly cosponsor the resolution designating this as National Police Week.

I also pause to recognize the U.S. Capitol Police, whose officers protect all of us in this building every day. Their professionalism and dedicated service make our democracy possible and allow millions of visitors to observe their government up close each year.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, this morning, we voted to confirm Michael Truncale to serve as a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Texas. Now we are considering Kenneth Lee, of California, who is slated to serve as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Lee is a graduate of Cornell University and Harvard Law School, and he held a clerkship in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Since then, his record has been marked by his success in private practice as a litigator, in his distinguished public service as an Associate White House Counsel during the Bush administration, and in his work as an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University School of Law.

In addition to a "unanimously well qualified" rating from the ABA, which is the best it can give, and a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Lee has earned the especially high esteem of one of our own colleagues. The junior Senator from Arkansas attended law school with the nominee. He has personally testified that Mr. Lee is "not only a brilliant lawyer, but more important, he's a man of high character."

So I hope, as this body continues our work toward swiftly processing the backlog of well-qualified nominees on the Executive Calendar, that each of my colleagues will join me in supporting the confirmation of Kenneth Lee.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Madam President, on one final matter, since the beginning of this Congress, the Nation has watched two fascinating trends play out.

We have observed the job market—and the opportunities available to working Americans—continue to break records and open new doors across the country. At the very same time, we have watched a new House Democratic majority, along with our friends across the aisle in this body, put forward a laundry list of proposals that appear to be tailor-made to shut those many doors.

Two weeks ago, the contrast was drawn especially stark. Just a few days

before we received a new Labor Department report that 263,000 new jobs were created during the month of April, House Democrats held a hearing on legislation to heap a massive new tax burden on American producers and consumers in pursuit of a one-size-fits-all, Washington-run health insurance scheme; news of the lowest national unemployment rate since 1969 and a roadmap for Medicare for None; an economic moment that has seen more job openings than job seekers for the first time in recorded history alongside a proposal for a Federal social program that could leave taxpayers with an estimated \$32 trillion bill.

It is not the first time I have mentioned this staggering pricetag here on the floor, but the news of this reality is spreading. Our friends in the press are catching on to the fact that the plan to implement Medicare for None isn't as neatly wrapped as its sponsors would suggest. "Tax Hikes on the Wealthy Alone Can't Pay for 'Medicare for All.'" That was one headline from last week. The cat is out of the bag. According to one analyst, "there isn't \$30 trillion sitting around from high earners . . . it just doesn't exist."

Turning these socialist policies into reality would fall on the shoulders of all kinds of working families. Indeed, raising what the Senate Democrats' plan is estimated to cost over a 10-year period would require, according to the same analyst—listen to this—"doubling all personal and corporate income taxes or tripling payroll taxes." Let me say that again: doubling or tripling the taxes that all Americans pay, not just the wealthy. Far-left class warfare rhetoric will not pay those bills. That will take real money that will have to be taken from real middle-class families.

As communities across the country continue to reap the benefits of this remarkable opportunity economy—helped by the policy accomplishments that the Republicans have worked hard to enact—the Democrats' plan to pile radical new costs on the shoulders of the American people is looking like an especially tough sell.

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.

Mrs. CAPITO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, this week is National Police Week—a time to honor the sacrifices and the service of our Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers.

I want to take this opportunity as a Senator from West Virginia to thank the officers who keep our communities across our country safe.

I especially want to thank the State troopers, the sheriffs, the deputy sheriffs of all 55 of our counties, and our city police officers across West Virginia who serve and protect the Mountain State.

Tomorrow, the 38th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service—a somber service—will honor 158 law enforcement heroes from across this Nation who were killed in the line of duty in the year 2018. We all mourn the loss of these brave men and women.

Last night, I joined thousands, I believe, of officers on the National Mall for their candlelight vigil in preparation for the Peace Officers Memorial Service. What I saw there was really astounding. I struck up conversations with a lot of different people. I saw sheriffs from Florida. I saw the motorcycle police officers from Texas. We saw the mounted officers from all over the country on beautiful equestrian horses. We saw city police officers from big cities and small cities, men and women, young and old, serving our country as our law enforcement officers.

As we did yesterday evening during the candlelight vigil, we continue to stand with not just the fallen heroes' families but those who are serving us now. Our country will never forget the sacrifices our fallen law enforcement officers and their families have made.

In the coming days, I hope that we will further honor our police officers by passing several pieces of bipartisan legislation.

One of these bills is the Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis Act. It was introduced by Senator HAWLEY. The bill will reauthorize and improve family support grants for law enforcement officers to better address mental health and suicide prevention.

Our law enforcement officers have to deal with difficult and often tragic situations. They are the first to respond to a difficult accident or the first to view up close and personal the devastation of child abuse and other terrible incidents. Responding to tragedy and helping individuals through the worst days of their lives would take a toll on anybody. We need to be there for the officers who are there for us by providing mental health services when they are needed.

I also support passage of the Debbie Smith Act, which was introduced by Senator CORNYN. This will extend funding for DNA testing to reduce the rape kit backlog, which has been historically quite large.

The West Virginia State Police and Marshall University have partnered to utilize some of this funding in my State. It is important that we continue providing resources to help our law enforcement officers bring justice to the victims of rape and other violent crimes.

Senator LEAHY's bill to continue the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program, which we participate in, again, in West Virginia, is also critical to protecting the lives of our police officers.

All of these bills enjoy broad support and should be passed soon.

The work of our police officers do influence so many aspects of our lives. In West Virginia, where the opioid epidemic continues to devastate families and communities across the State, our police play a vital role. They help others to stop bringing the drugs into our towns to begin with. They assist with those who are caught in the cycle of addiction. By going to schools and being school resource officers, they prevent that next generation from going down that path.

This week is also National Drug Prevention Week, and the Martinsburg Initiative in West Virginia is a great example of how our police can play such a positive role in our children's lives.

This initiative is spearheaded by the Martinsburg Police Department, the Berkeley County Schools, and Shepard University, as well as a wide array of local partners, most especially the Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle. Its goal is to stem the opioid addiction problem by identifying and trying to determine the basic causes of drug abuse in at-risk families. The effort is actually based on a CDC study that shows when children have adverse childhood experiences like exposure to drugs and alcohol, it can have a major impact on their physical and mental developmental health.

The work these officers are doing, led by Martinsburg chief of police Maury Richards, is incredible. I have seen it firsthand. Whether they are playing basketball with the kids at the Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle or spending times in West Virginia in Berkeley County Schools playing interactive learning games and helping students with their work, or simply lending a hand and a smile whenever one is needed, they are making such a difference and letting kids know that their police department is part of the solution, and they are there and available to help.

I saw other prevention efforts underway last year when I visited John Adams Middle School in Charleston. I went with Chad Napier, who is from the Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Task Force to meet with students. He was explaining to them just the proliferation of drugs, the damage drugs can do, and doing it in a way that could relate to the middle schoolers.

So during National Drug Prevention Week, I want to recognize those who use their time and talent to help prevent addiction in our communities. During National Police Week, I want to thank our police officers again and their loved ones for their service and their sacrifice on behalf of our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, this week marks the 65th anniversary of the

Supreme Court's unanimous decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In *Brown*, the Justices recognized a profound, moral wrong tearing at the soul of this country—racial segregation in our Nation's schools.

They held fast to the principle inscribed above the entrance to the Supreme Court, "Equal Justice Under Law," and they appealed to a self-evident truth, but not yet realized by our Founding documents, that equal means equal.

Of course, the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown* didn't stand alone. We needed civil rights activists like Thurgood Marshall, who had built toward this moment to carry the torch forward. We needed a Congress and a White House that would enshrine protections for civil rights, voting rights, and housing rights into law. We needed courts committed to this principle that racism and White supremacy could no longer hide behind the shield of law.

Most of all, we needed the power of the people fiercely demanding equality—students like the Little Rock Nine, who courageously, in the face of State-sponsored hostility, walked through the doors of Little Rock Central High School to jeers and taunts and threats; people like JOHN LEWIS, who marched and bled on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma; folks like Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner, who lost their lives together in the pursuit of justice; and leaders like King, who pointed us to the mountaintop.

Brown v. Board of Education isn't confined to the history books. The fight for equality and civil rights still continues to this day. Much of this hard-earned progress, unfortunately, almost tragically, is being rolled back.

Now, staggeringly, many judicial nominees for the Trump administration have refused to say whether they believe *Brown v. Board of Education* was even rightly decided. They can't even affirm the most basic and fundamental principle of American law.

One judicial nominee is set to receive a floor vote this week—Wendy Vitter. She not only refused to say that *Brown* was correctly decided but even suggested at the time that it was, perhaps, the wrong decision.

The nominee for the second highest job at the Justice Department, Jeffrey Rosen, refused to say whether *Brown* was rightly decided, even though he would oversee the Solicitor General in day-to-day operations of our Federal prosecutors.

The principle underlying *Brown* is more than a foundation of our legal system. It is also the foundation of democracy. It goes to the heart of one of the deepest ideals in our Nation—that we are a Nation where equal means equal.

The principle underlying *Brown* is sacrosanct. It is not something that we in this era, this day and age, should be leaving up to question or even debate.

So I would like to take a moment today to read from the Supreme

Court's landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

This decision wasn't written just for lawyers or students at law school; it was written for the American people, making the case for equal justice under law.

So here we are—*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*. Chief Justice Warren delivered the opinion of the Court, and I quote:

These cases come to us from the States of Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and Delaware. . . . In each of the cases, minors of the Negro race, through their legal representatives, seek the aid of courts in obtaining admissions to public schools of their communities on a nonsegregated basis. In each instance, they have been denied admission to schools attended by white children under laws requiring or permitting segregation according to race. This segregation was alleged to deprive the plaintiffs of equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment.

In each of the cases other than the Delaware case, a three-judge federal district court denied relief to the plaintiffs on the so-called "separate but equal" doctrine announced by this Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. . . . The plaintiffs contend that segregated public schools are not "equal" and cannot be made "equal," and hence they are deprived of the equal protection of the laws. . . . Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education toward democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship.

Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.

We come then to the question presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does. . . . To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone. . . . We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs and others similarly situated for whom the actions have been brought are, by reason of the segregation complained of, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. . . . It is so ordered.

It has been 65 years since the nine Justices of the Supreme Court unanimously gave those words the force of law. Today, for any nominee who would enforce or interpret our laws, it should be far beyond debate that *Brown* was right—the separate-but-equal doctrine has no place in American society.

Sixty-five years on, it is our duty as Americans to continue to fight for equality and justice in America. We owe this not just to ourselves but we who benefit from the blessings of this democracy, sewn by the hands of our ancestors, we who partake of that fruit from their labors. We must recognize those heroes in the generations who advocated, marched, and insisted that this Nation make good on the promise of equal justice under the law.

I stand here upon the shoulders of those who came before. We as a nation have progressed in every generation toward more inclusion, more equality. Our courts and our activists and our citizens who came before have made this a more perfect union. We still have work to do, but we cannot allow ourselves to see undone the progress of our ancestors. We cannot allow ourselves to call into question those sacrosanct ideas enshrined in our law. This is not the time to go back. We must continue to forge a pathway forward.

Sixty-five years ago, our courts acted in the name of justice and equality. It is our duty and obligation to preserve that progress.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise to express my objections in opposition to the Trump administration's constant attacks on women's healthcare, such as taking action to undermine the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and finalizing administrative rules that allow discriminatory practices to family planning providers and women seeking reproductive healthcare.

Women and their healthcare should not be under constant threat. As a country, the United States has made great efforts to promote equal rights for both women and men. Yet in the 21st century, the Trump administration and congressional Republicans continue to push the policies that set this country back.

The Trump administration's attacks on women's healthcare are unconscionable. Trump has taken several administrative actions that allow employers, insurance companies, and hospitals to refuse healthcare coverage and services based on their personal beliefs. For example, the recently finalized refusal rule allows virtually any individual or entity involved in a patient's care—from a hospital's board of directors to a receptionist who schedules procedures—to put their personal beliefs ahead of a patient's healthcare needs.

Letting hospitals, pharmacies, and a range of people involved in healthcare deny services means that women will lose critical care. Rape survivors could be denied emergency birth control. Same-sex couples could be denied fertility treatment. Women with an unintended pregnancy could be denied information and counseling on their options. The rule represents a radical de-

parture from HHS's mission and long history of combating discrimination, protecting patients' access to care, and eliminating health disparities. It is outrageous that President Trump continually implements policies that discriminate against women in healthcare. We cannot allow women to be treated this way.

One of the most egregious acts of this administration is gutting title X, the Nation's only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services. The Trump administration finalized a rule that would bar providers from giving their patients complete medical information and block care at popular family planning providers like Planned Parenthood, even though Planned Parenthood serves approximately 40 percent of title X patients.

Last year, title X funding allowed nearly 4,000 health centers to provide over 4 million low-income women and men basic primary and preventive healthcare services such as pap tests, cervical cancer screenings, contraception, breast exams, and HIV testing. In Maryland there are 55 title X-funded health centers spanning my State. These include federally qualified health centers, local health departments, Planned Parenthood clinics, and school-based health centers. In fiscal year 2015, Maryland received over \$3.8 million in title X funding and provided health services to over 64,000 patients. These are low-income, underinsured, and uninsured individuals who would otherwise lack access to healthcare.

In addition to attacks on women's healthcare, the Trump administration has proposed a title IX rule that weakens the existing protections for victims of campus sexual assault and allows universities to roll back their responsibilities to ensure students receive an education free of discrimination. Recently I was on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, speaking to students from College Park and Bowie State University regarding issues related to higher education. At College Park students are guaranteed housing on campus only for their first 2 years of education. Under Secretary DeVos's title IX rule, the university would no longer be responsible for investigating any claims of sexual assault for incidents that take place off campus, even though it may involve two students. In fact, 9 out of 10 sexual assaults do take place off college campuses.

This rule and the administration's failure even to listen to the concerns of sexual assault survivors on campus show a callous disregard for victims. We should be working to ensure protection for victims, not minimizing their experiences. In order to do just that, I have fought for funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to have adequate staffing to investigate these claims and other

claims of violations of a student's civil rights. I have also cosponsored bipartisan legislation, such as the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, which seeks to find a commonsense solution to this difficult issue that holds colleges accountable without traumatizing victims when reporting an assault.

We should also take up and pass the reauthorization for the Violence Against Women's Act. Last month, the House passed this critical legislation, which would reauthorize funding of these programs and authorize new programs; amend and add definitions used in the VAWA programs; amend Federal criminal law relating to firearms, custodial rape, and stalking; and expand Tribal jurisdiction over certain crimes committed on Tribal lands.

The American people deserve better from their elected officials. I am committed to opposing President Trump's reckless and outrageous actions that would harm women and their families in Maryland and across our Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. JONES pertaining to the introduction of S. 1453 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. JONES. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Illinois.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 1 year ago, President Trump recklessly withdrew from the historic nuclear agreement reached between the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran to end Iran's nuclear weapons program.

President Trump decided to withdraw from that agreement. It is not clear to me why President Trump further undermined our country's international reputation by backing out of this agreement reached by key global powers.

To think that we had a consensus, including Russia and China and our traditional allies of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, and the President decided to walk away from it is beyond me.

As with so many issues, he seems motivated to reverse anything ever done by President Barack Obama, regardless of the facts or by his naive belief that he can always strike a better deal.

Sadly, I have yet to see any evidence of that dealmaking acumen. In fact, I have only seen alienated allies, giveaways to dictators, and a loss of American standing and influence in the world.

It is important to step back and recall where we were when President Obama took office. Our intelligence community assessed that until 2003, Iran was working toward a nuclear bomb. Among the many calamities of the disastrous war in Iraq was that it further empowered Iran. The country's hard-liners moved forward at great speed, building suspicious nuclear infrastructure. These efforts produced large and unsettling quantities of highly enriched uranium that could have been used for a nuclear weapon.

Such a weapon in the hands of the Iranian regime would have been an unacceptable risk to the region, to Israel, and to the world.

This is the mess that President Obama inherited when he came to office. He pledged that Iran would not be able to obtain a nuclear bomb on his watch, and he kept his word. You see, just as President Kennedy negotiated with the Soviets when they were threatening possible nuclear war with missiles in Cuba, just as President Nixon began to establish ties with China while it was supplying weapons to the North Koreans, who were fighting Americans, and just as President Reagan negotiated with the Soviet Union, even though it was occupying Eastern Europe and fomenting violent revolution, there are times when such agreements serve our national interest and make the world a safer place.

Similarly, President Obama negotiated a comprehensive deal that prevented Iran from being able to build a nuclear bomb and held it to stringent, invasive inspections to ensure that Iran kept its pledge.

Notably, this historic agreement was accomplished without drawing the United States into war in the Middle East. Let me be clear. The nuclear agreement was never about all the other genuinely troubling Iranian behavior in the world, but, instead, it was designed to ensure that Iran didn't pursue activities with a nuclear weapon. That is what it did.

The International Atomic Energy Agency continues to verify that on the ground in Iran the agreement still holds. For the last 4 years, this Agency has performed an average of four surprise inspections every month—8,000 inspection hours—and they have found no evidence of noncompliance on the Iranian side.

Now, today, President Trump is pursuing an incomprehensible policy of regime change, trying to flatter and meet with Iranian President Ruhani to negotiate a supposedly better deal and threatening Iran militarily and tightening sanctions. The end result of this dangerous incoherence is that our allies are united against us, sadly to say, and Iran may restart nuclear activities which had been frozen for the last 4 years because of the agreement that President Trump walked away from.

So the only thing our President's policies have done is to make a potential restart of Iran's nuclear program a

reality. I fear that President Trump, with the goading of many around him, is trying to foment a pretext for another war in the Middle East—the last thing America or the world needs.

So let me be clear on something that I have said regardless of who is in the White House, a Republican President or a Democratic President. Article I, section 8 of our Constitution is clear that Congress has the authority—the only authority—to declare war. This President—any President—must first have the approval of the people's representatives in Congress before asking our sons and daughters to enter into battle.

It is not too late for an off-ramp.

I am concerned that this word isn't even close to the way I actually feel with the suggestion that Acting Defense Secretary Shanahan was called on to create a plan using 130,000 American military to be poised in some effort to intimidate Iran. One hundred thirty thousand—that is the number of troops we sent into Iraq.

I was happy to be one of the 23 members of the Senate who voted against that terrible decision, but we didn't prevail. We went into Iraq and thousands of Americans died. It can happen on any President's watch. This President is setting the stage for it to happen in Iran.

Sadly, the American people have not been dealt into the conversation. They have one thing to turn to, though, our Constitution, which says that, ultimately, the American people will make the decision when it comes to war through their elected representatives.

This administration should return to the only reasonable, smart, and effective option on the table for countering Iran: Rejoin the nuclear agreement immediately, repair our strained relationship with our own allies, and use that unity to push back on Iran's destabilizing actions across the region which exist outside the nuclear realm. Anything else is reckless.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Texas.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to give voice to a town in Texas. It is a small town of about 14,000 people. In that town there is a high school, a school of about 1,500 students. One year ago, on May 18, a deeply disturbed and deranged student committed an unspeakable act of evil which shook Santa Fe, shook Texas, and shook the entire country. It left our Nation weeping.

Just before 8 in the morning, the shooter began firing weapons into classrooms and through doors where his fellow students were taking shelter.

Within minutes, the attacker senselessly murdered 8 students and 2 teachers. Their names are the following: Jared Conard Black, Christian Riley Garcia, Shana Fisher, Aaron Kyle McLeod, Glenda Ann Perkins,

Angelique Ramirez, Sabika Sheikh, Christopher Stone, Cynthia Tisdale, and Kimberly Vaughan.

I would like us to pause for a moment of silence as we remember these brave souls.

Their names will live on. Their killer's name will not. His name is never worth mentioning again.

Thirteen others were also brutally wounded, including three substitute teachers. Flo Rice, one of the substitute teachers at the high school that day, was shot five times. I have gotten to know Flo and her husband Scott well in the weeks and months since the shooting.

But that day was not merely a day of great tragedy. It was also a day of incredible bravery. Santa Fe police officers did their duty and swiftly engaged the shooter. One of those police officers, John Barnes, was critically wounded in the process. They shot back, and, ultimately, they took the coward into custody.

Santa Fe students also proved themselves to be heroes. One of them, Riley Garcia, made the ultimate sacrifice. He held a door shut to give other students time to escape, and he was killed in the process. Other students tended to the wounded and to each other.

In the wake of the shooting, Texans grieved with the families and friends of those we lost. We heard stories of terror and stories of hope.

I was at my home in Houston that morning. Santa Fe High School is about 45 minutes away from my house. When I got the call as to what was happening, I jumped into a truck and headed down there. I spent the entire day with families who had lost their children, with first responders, with teachers, with school leaders, with a community that was grieving mightily. But in Santa Fe, I also saw a boundless spirit and hope and unity.

I remember that afternoon, traveling to the hospital and visiting with a number of the students who had been shot and wounded that day. I remember meeting Clayton, a young man who had been shot just that morning. He had pins in his arm from being shot twice. Clayton described how he jumped over the fence, even after having been shot, and his friends helped to carry him to safety. This young man described how he is a bull rider and a pole vaulter. I asked him if he is a lefty or righty. He said he is a lefty, and that was the arm that was wounded. But he said with a smile: "You know, now I gotta learn to ride a bull with my right arm." That is the toughness and the spirit of these students and their entire community.

All across Texas and all across the country, millions of Americans lifted those children and lifted those families up in prayer. You know, it has become politically fashionable now to deride thoughts and prayers. To suggest that thoughts and prayers are not appropriate, I will say this: We should always lift up in prayer those who are

victimized by violence, by brutality, by terrorism, by murder. I believe in the power of prayer, and I will tell you that the community of Santa Fe leaned on the power of prayer in the wake of that tragedy.

Now, thoughts and prayers are not themselves a substitute for action. In the days and the weeks that followed, I met with mothers and fathers and teachers and students. I hosted Santa Fe students here in the Senate Dining Room. We talked with law enforcement and with first responders. I sat down with the President, and he traveled down to meet with the Santa Fe families. I participated in a roundtable with Governor Abbott, families from Santa Fe and other communities victimized by violence, and officials at the Federal, State, and local levels. We discussed how we could do a better job of protecting our schools and protecting our children. We have lost too many kids to homicidal action, and it has to stop.

We have to do much more to keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals and to better treat the mentally ill—all while preserving and protecting our constitutional rights.

There was a universal agreement in the wake of Santa Fe that, as a State and as a Nation, we had to see justice done and to take every step to try to ensure that such an attack never occurs again.

Soon after, I was gratified to hear that the Department of Education announced \$1 million in Federal funds for the Santa Fe Independent School District through Project School Emergency Response to Violence, or Project SERV. It is a crucial first step in Federal funding to help the Santa Fe school community to recover and protect all its students, but the story doesn't end there.

In addition to a State prosecution, most of us assumed there would be a Federal case against the Santa Fe shooter, as well, because his massive assault was on students and teachers in a public school, and, crucially, because authorities found explosive devices on the school grounds and off campus, including pipe bombs and a Molotov cocktail. To any reasonable observer, this would open the case to Federal explosives and terrorism charges.

All of us were committed to seeing the attacker prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Early press reports, however, indicated that Federal authorities were not going to proceed with the Federal case. Those press reports dismayed me—dismayed many—in particular because the shooter was under 18 at the time of the massacre, which means it is likely that the maximum State sentence he would receive is 40 years, which means that, if only State charges were brought, the shooter would be potentially eligible for release at 57 years old. Releasing this mass murderer into society would not be just, and it would not be right.

Thankfully, Attorney General Barr agreed, and it has been publicly re-

ported now that Federal charges have come forward to ensure that this attacker is brought to justice and faces the full consequences for the horrific acts of that morning.

(The remarks of Senator CRUZ pertaining to the submission of S. 1442 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. CRUZ. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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 MARILYN SKOGLUND

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a remarkable and unique person, Vermont Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Skoglund, who will soon be retiring after serving 25 years with the Vermont judiciary.

Justice Skoglund is what we all want to see in a jurist and public servant. She is dedicated, personable, and highly committed to the rule of law, but her path to the Vermont Supreme Court was anything but typical. As a single mother working hard to get by in the 1970s, law school was not an option. Instead, she took advantage of Vermont's "Reading the Law" approach that allowed her to study while serving as an apprentice of sorts with the Vermont Attorney General's office. After being admitted to the Vermont Bar, she would go on to serve as chief of the civil law and public protection divisions in the AG's office before being appointed to the bench in 1994 by then-Governor Howard Dean. She would be elevated to the supreme court just 3 years later. At the time, she was only the second woman to serve on Vermont's highest court. Today, women make up the majority of its five justices.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Justice Skoglund during her many years of living and working in my hometown of Montpelier. Her personal story was so compelling that she was my first choice in 2008 to keynote Vermont's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference, an annual event I have now hosted for 23 years.

But no tribute to Justice Skoglund would be complete if it did not mention her keen sense of humor. Perhaps it is this trait that has so deftly served her these many years, for as serious as the supreme court must be in delivering justice, Marilyn Skoglund has demonstrated time and again the benefit of

laughter in our lives. She finds the time to appreciate what some might only see as mundane; she cherishes her friendships, and she mentors those who will succeed us. By her own account, she has led a full life.

I ask unanimous consent that these excerpts of the May 1 Seven Days profile of Justice Skoglund be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Seven Days, May 1, 2019]

JUSTICE SERVED: MARILYN SKOGLUND TO
RETIRE FROM THE VERMONT SUPREME COURT
(By Paul Heintz)

On her way out the door of her Montpelier home last Friday, Vermont Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Skoglund rolled up her right sleeve to show off her latest tattoo.

"I waited until my youngest daughter's wedding," the justice said with a sneaky smile. "I knew she wouldn't want me to get it."

Written in a simple black cursive on the inside of her arm were the words, "Jag är mätt," a Swedish expression often uttered in her childhood home at the conclusion of a family meal. "I am satisfied," she translated. "I am full."

The 72-year-old jurist reflected for a moment—perhaps on a life rich in family, friends, dogs and the law—and declared, "I am satisfied! I mean, what else can you say? I'm very lucky. I am satisfied."

This week, Skoglund plans to inform Gov. Phil Scott that, after 22 years on the state's highest court, she intends to resign effective September 1.

Skoglund's retirement brings to a close one of the most remarkable and least likely careers in the Vermont judiciary—that of a struggling single mother who passed the bar without a day of law school and worked her way up to become the second female justice in state history.

Now, the famously irreverent attorney is looking for a new challenge, be it the beginning Spanish class she plans to take this fall or the online bartender course she's long contemplated. "I just need to take a chance and see what else I can do before I drop dead," she said, letting loose her trademark cackle.

Skoglund's sense of humor has long served as the "collegiality glue" on the court of five, according to retired justice John Dooley. In her decades on the bench, she has made it her mission to draw colleagues and staff members out of their casework and into the world—through court poetry slams, end-of-term parties and art openings at the Supreme Court gallery she founded and oversees.

"I would describe her as a unifier," said Victoria Westgate, a Burlington attorney who clerked with her from 2013 to 2014. The justice has also served as a role model to a generation of young women in the law, Westgate said.

Though Skoglund may be best known for her larger-than-life personality, colleagues describe her as a deeply serious jurist with an unmatched work ethic.

"Of all the justices I've worked with, I think she probably put . . . more effort into preparing and understanding a case than any," said Dooley, who served alongside Skoglund for two of his three decades on the court. . . .

Born in Chicago and raised in St. Louis, Skoglund had what she describes as an "idyllic childhood," replete with a picket fence and parents who were "the Swedish equiva-

lent of Ozzie and Harriet." Her father managed a steel treatment plant and her mother, a former hairdresser and math tutor, raised the future justice and her sister.

Skoglund spent seven years meandering her way through Southern Illinois University—a fine arts major and "hippie folk singer" who worked, for a time, as a graphic designer for the inventor and futurist Buckminster Fuller. She finally earned her diploma after getting married and becoming pregnant with her first daughter.

The young family moved to Vermont in 1973 so that Skoglund's husband could take a job teaching painting and printmaking at Goddard College. They rented a small, uninsulated cottage on a 500-acre dairy farm in Plainfield. Skoglund learned to milk cows, taught photography and worked as an editor at Goddard. The marriage didn't last, though, and soon she was raising her daughter on her own.

Skoglund found herself relying upon the generosity of Walter Smith, the 68-year-old dairy farmer who served as her landlord and her "very own personal version of welfare." He provided firewood when she needed it and let her dip raw milk from the bulk tank. When she and her daughter were low on food, they would join Smith for cans of chicken noodle soup and mayonnaise sandwiches.

"He saw me through it," she said.

Skoglund's experience with poverty later informed her work on the bench and, she said, gave her "a very good understanding of desperation and frustration and what it causes people to do." "I think I'm the only justice that's ever been poor," she said.

After completing a six-month paralegal class, Skoglund landed a clerkship in the Vermont Attorney General's Office and began reading for the law—an alternative route to the bar that enables aspiring attorneys to bypass law school through independent study. It was a solitary, self-motivated education, but I am disciplined," she wrote in a recent essay about her unconventional path. "In the central office of the attorney general, I was the only student with about 50 'teachers.'"

Skoglund spent four years clerking for Louis Peck, then the chief assistant attorney general and later a Supreme Court justice. She would run lines for Peck, an amateur actor, and he would school her in the law. Skoglund credits him with informing her "legally conservative" approach. "I don't take liberties with the language, and I don't read myself into it," she said. "It's not about you, Marilyn."

Skoglund spent 17 years in the Attorney General's Office, eventually serving as chief of its civil law division and then its public protection division. She was appointed to the Superior Court in 1994 and to the Supreme Court in 1997.

"It's like candy," Skoglund said of her current gig. "I have never been bored."

The pace of the job wouldn't allow it. The supremes hear an average of 120 full cases a year, plus many more appeals on the so-called "rocket docket." They're also consumed by the myriad unseen administrative duties of the judicial branch, such as divvying up its "shoestring" budget and managing the lower courts.

"This all takes hours when all I want to be doing is reading cases," Skoglund said. . . .

According to Skoglund, her acid prose occasionally gives her law clerks "panic attacks." But members of her tight fraternity of former clerks praise her "dedication to raising a new generation" of lawyers, as Todd Daloz put it.

"She has a real energy and a real humor and a real joy of life," said Daloz, who clerked for Skoglund from 2009 to 2011 and now serves as associate general counsel for the Vermont State Colleges System.

"When I hire [clerks], I explain that I'm hiring my best friend for the next year," Skoglund said. "I have to be able to come in and vent and bitch and moan and get solace from them." . . .

For the past 35 years, Skoglund has lived in a tall, brown- and green-shingled house perched above the Statehouse on the southern boundary of Hubbard Park. The place is crammed with books and artwork and features a "wall of dogs" consisting of canine paintings she's collected. "It's kind of a magical place for me," she said of her home, where she does much of her off-the-bench legal work. "It's just a sanctuary."

Skoglund's two grown daughters, an obstetrician and a neuropsychologist, have long since moved out. Her current roommates include a 4-year-old goldendoodle named Johnny and, during Vermont's four-month legislative session, Senate Majority Leader Becca Balint (D-Windham). "I always say I have the best roommate," Balint said. "Sometimes it's seven o'clock in the morning and we're both crying because we're laughing so hard." . . .

Last Friday morning, after showing off her tattoo, Skoglund wrapped an unused dog leash around her waist and commenced her three-block commute down the hill and past the Statehouse to the Supreme Court. Johnny pranced along in front of her, relishing his freedom.

Skoglund gushed about her daughters and 9-year-old granddaughter, with whom she had spent the previous weekend.

"They're not thrilled with this tattoo—at least, the younger one isn't," she conceded. "But that's the way it goes, ladies. Mom's gotta do what Mom's gotta do."

Skoglund entered the court through a side door and showed off one of her most concrete contributions to the institution: an art gallery in the lobby of the building that she's curated for the past 20 years.

"When I first got here, it was the hall of dead justices," she said, referring to the oil paintings of her predecessors, now relegated to the stairways and upper floors. In their place was a series of mixed-media pieces by the artist Janet Van Fleet consisting of red buttons and plastic animals. Johnny led Skoglund up to her third-floor office, which features a smiling boar's head mounted to a wall. "Behind you is Emmet, my amanuensis," she said, gesturing at the hairy creature. "A lot of those wild boar things look scary and vicious. He's just sweet."

Skoglund took a seat behind her cluttered desk and said, with a resigned tone of voice, "I've been here for 22 years. It's time to go."

Asked how she hoped people would remember her, Skoglund answered without hesitation. "I worked hard," she said. "I took my position very seriously. I never cut corners. I understood the responsibility. That's what I hope."

TRIBUTE TO E. THOMAS SULLIVAN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, I am honored to recognize the president of the University of Vermont, UVM, Thomas Sullivan, who is stepping down this June after 7 years as a remarkable leader for the university.

Tom's tenure as the 26th president of the University of Vermont came during a tumultuous time in higher education. Despite demographic declines and reduced public investments in higher education, Tom made quality, affordable education and investment in scholarship his top priorities.

Tom expanded UVM's course offerings, oversaw 20 building projects, and

helped increase the value of UVM's endowment by 80 percent. When appointed in 2012, Tom was given the responsibility of heading UVM's Move Mountains fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$500 million by 2020. Because of Tom's personality, passion, and, at times, persuasion, the University hit its fundraising goal a year ahead of schedule, a very impressive accomplishment considering the economic hardship that has defined the last decade. The success of this campaign increased scholarships for students, invested in top-tier faculty, and made capital investments to improve the student experience.

While the university has continued to evolve, under Tom's leadership, UVM has managed to stay true to its founding as a Land Grant university. Tom has worked tirelessly during his tenure to expand UVM's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—STEM—offerings including the 4-year construction of a \$104 million STEM Complex. Tom shares the belief that income should not be a barrier to a good education. Because of his dedication to the education of all students, Tom was instrumental in developing UVM's Catamount Commitment, which promises Pell Grant-eligible Vermonters that the remainder of their tuition will be covered, either through grants or waived by the university entirely.

Tom's tenure at UVM tops off a long and distinguished professional experience in the field of academia. Tom taught at the law schools of the University of Missouri, Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and was appointed to be a dean and professor of law at the University of Arizona College of Law. Following his time at the University of Arizona, he began his 17-year tenure at the University of Minnesota, where he eventually was appointed to become its senior vice president and provost.

Calling Tom a prolific academic and legal scholar would be an understatement. He has written 11 books and over 50 articles primarily in the field of antitrust litigation. In addition to his writings, in 2009, the Senate Judiciary Committee had the honor and privilege of obtaining Tom's advice and consultation on the confirmation of then-Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. The lasting impact of Tom's work in the field of legal studies is no small feat and will be felt for generations to come.

It is rare to find Tom's unparalleled selfless dedication to academia and the needs of students across the country as well as throughout the world. Over the course of his 7-year tenure, Marcelle and I have had the pleasure on multiple occasions to enjoy the company of Tom and his wife Leslie. They are wonderful people who care about nothing more than giving the next generation the opportunity to succeed through academics. Tom's charming and caring presence will surely be missed on cam-

pus, but we look forward to having Tom and Leslie as Vermont residents for some time. Marcelle and I thank Tom for his service, and we wish him and Leslie all the best in the next chapter of his distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED BROWNELL

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to speak briefly about the courageous environmental activism of Alfred Brownell, a native of Liberia now living in exile in Boston.

Mr. Brownell is an environmental and human rights lawyer and the executive director of Green Advocates, a Liberian organization that he founded to promote environmental justice for indigenous communities. Like so many environmental activists around the world, he has been repeatedly harassed and threatened. He was forced to flee his country with his family due to fear of reprisal for his outspoken and tireless work to protect the traditional land rights of his countrymen and against the sale, without their consent, of vast areas of forest to Golden Veroleum Liberia, a Southeast Asian-based company that produces palm oil. Now a visiting scholar and teacher at Northeastern University, Mr. Brownell continues to conduct research and classes on the issues that have come to define his life.

Mr. Brownell was recently recognized by the international community for his perseverance in protecting Liberia's forests on which thousands of Liberian families and many endangered species of wildlife depend. He was honored in San Francisco and Washington as one of six recipients of the prestigious 2019 Goldman Environmental Prize. It is important that we not only pay tribute to Mr. Brownell for his extraordinary contribution to his people and his country but that we be aware that despite this international recognition, he continues to fear returning to his native country.

I have long supported U.S. assistance to help Liberia overcome years of a brutal armed conflict, and I will continue to do so. But I regret that the Liberian Government has sided with the palm oil company and against their own local farmers. Unable to intimidate Mr. Brownell, government officials tried to silence him by offering him government jobs in return for his cooperation. When that failed, they put his house and his family under police surveillance, publicly accused him of sedition and economic sabotage, accused his organization and other environmental rights organizations of undermining Liberia's sovereignty, and lied about him to incite an assassination attempt. Since December 2016, he has been living in exile, with no indication from Liberian officials that their hostility toward him and his cause has diminished.

Government intimidation of civil society activists and scholars is antithetical to open and accountable demo-

cratic societies. It is what we have come to expect of shortsighted or, even worse, corrupt officials and the outsized influence of corporate interests.

If the Liberian Government is serious about attracting foreign investment for job creation and sustainable economic development—goals we all support—it should recognize that Mr. Brownell is a patriot of whom all Liberians can be proud. Liberian officials should encourage him and his family to return to Liberia, and point to him as an example of how one courageous and determined individual can make a positive difference for the country.

Rather than benefiting a foreign corporation producing a monocrop for export, the Liberian Government should be protecting its biologically diverse forests and wildlife, not destroying them and polluting the rivers on which local inhabitants depend and displacing people who have lived there for generations.

Alfred Brownell should be a source of pride and an inspiration for all Liberians. I hope the international recognition he has received will convince the Liberian Government that it is people like him who deserve our admiration and our thanks.

HONORING SERGEANT SEAN M. GANNON AND SERGEANT MICHAEL C. CHESNA AND PATROLMAN LEON F. MOODY

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, this week the country will observe National Police Week, a week in honor of the courageous law enforcement officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.

As we honor the service of our brave men and women in the law enforcement community, I would like to take the opportunity to honor the life and memory of three law enforcement officers from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities: Sean M. Gannon, Michael C. Chesna, and Leon F. Moody.

Sergeant Sean Gannon, of New Bedford, was killed in the line of duty on April 12, 2018. He was a lifelong public servant, first serving as a public safety officer and later becoming a police officer with the Yarmouth Police Department, where he served for 8 years. When he wasn't on duty, Sergeant Gannon enjoyed volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, spending time outdoors, traveling, and devoting time to family and friends.

Sergeant Gannon, who lost his life at the age of 32, was the beloved son of Denise Morency Gannon and Patrick Gannon and a devoted husband to his wife Dara.

Sergeant Michael Chesna, who was killed in the line of duty on July 15, 2018, dedicated his life to his country, his community, and his family. A native of Hanover, MA, Sergeant Chesna enlisted in the U.S. Army following the September 11 attacks, serving two

tours of duty with the 187 10th Mountain Division, where he was awarded the Purple Heart. Following his service in the Army, Sergeant Chesna became a police officer with the city of Weymouth, where he served until his untimely death at the age of 42.

Sergeant Chesna was a loving husband to his wife Cindy and father to his children Olivia and Jack. He was an avid Boston sports fan who enjoyed playing basketball, collecting sports memorabilia, and spending time with family and friends.

Patrolman Leon Moody of the Worcester Police Department died of an illness he sustained in the line of duty in 1932. He served the Worcester P.D. bravely for 15 years, before passing away at the age of 44.

Sergeants Gannon and Chesna and Patrolman Moody are among 371 law enforcement officers who died while protecting their communities and whose names were engraved this week on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington, DC.

This week and every day, we honor their service and their sacrifice. Most importantly, we honor the lives they lived and legacies they leave behind. May their memories continue to challenge and inspire us.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

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:

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Reid Blackwelder is a family physician with three clinics in the Tri-Cities area of East Tennessee.

A few years ago, he talked to the New York Times about the electric health records that were supposed to make his life easier, saying, "We have electronic records at our clinic, but the hospital, which I can see from my window, has a separate system from a different vendor. The two don't communicate. When I admit patients to the hospital, I have to print out my notes and send a copy to the hospital so they can be incorporated into the hospital's electronic records."

Dr. Blackwelder could pay for his patients' hospital records to be electronically sent from his system to the hospital's system—but it would cost him \$26,400 every month—or \$316,800 a year. For Dr. Blackwelder, and so many other doctors, record keeping is now more expensive and burdensome.

In 1991, the National Academy of Medicine released a report urging the "prompt development and implementation" of what were then called computer-based patient records. The report said these systems, "have a unique potential to improve the care of both individual patients and . . . to reduce waste through continuous quality improvement." Electronic health records got a boost in 2009 when the federal government began the Meaningful Use program, spending over \$36 billion in grants to incentivize doctors and hospitals to use these systems.

As was the prediction in the 1991 report, the hope was electronic records would improve patient care and reduce unnecessary health care spending. This is important because, at a hearing last summer, Dr. Brent James, from the National Academies, testified that up to 50 percent of what we spend on health care is unnecessary.

There is a bipartisan focus both in Congress and in the Administration on reducing health care costs. One way to reduce what we spend on administrative tasks and unnecessary care is by having electronic health records that talk to one another—we call that interoperability.

But in 2015—six years after the Meaningful Use program started—as this Committee worked on the 21st Century Cures Act, we realized that, in many cases, electronic health records added to administrative burden and increased unnecessary health care spending.

A major reason for that is that the records are not interoperable. One barrier to interoperability is information blocking—which is when some obstacle is in the way of a patient's information being sent from one doctor to another.

So, in 2015, this committee held six bipartisan hearings and formed a working group to find ways to fix the interoperability of electronic health records. These hearings led to a bipartisan group of HELP Committee members working together to include a provision in the 21st Century Cures Act to stop information blocking and encourage interoperability.

Today's hearing is about two new rules the Department of Health and Human Services has proposed to implement this provision in the 21st Century Cures Act. These two rules are complicated, but I'd like to highlight a few ways that they lay out a path toward interoperability:

First the rules define information blocking—so it is more precisely clear what we mean when one system, hospital, doctor, vendor, or insurer is purposefully not sharing information with another;

Second, the rules require that by January 1, 2020, for the first time, insurers must share a patient's health care data with the patient so their health information follows them as they see different doctors;

Third, all electronic health records must adopt the same standards for data elements, known as an Application Programming Interface, or API, two years after these rules are completed.

Fourth, hospitals are required to send electronic notifications to a patient's doctors, immediately, when that patient is admitted to, discharged from, or transferred from the hospital.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, these two new rules should give more than 125 million patients easier access to their own records in an electronic format. This will be a huge relief to any of us who have spent hours tracking down paper copies of our records and carting them back and forth to different doctors' offices.

The rules will reduce administrative burden on doctors so they can spend more time with patients. A recent study from Kaiser found that emergency room doctors, in order to use electronic health records systems, make up to 4,000 mouse clicks per shift. If electronic health records data was truly interoperable, it would greatly reduce how many clicks doctors have to make. According to HHS, spending less time on these administrative tasks will improve efficiency and therefore could save \$3.3 billion a year. And because doctors can see patients' full medical history, they can avoid ordering unnecessary tests and procedures.

I also want to be aware of unintended consequences from these rules: Are these rules

moving too fast? In 2015, I urged the Obama Administration to slow down the Meaningful Use program, which they did not do, and looking back, the results would have been better if they had.

Are the standards for data elements too rigid? Is the door still open for bad actors to game the system and continue to information block? And how can we ensure patient privacy as patients gain more access and control over their personal health information. And how do we help them keep it secure?

I want to ensure these rules will make the problem of information blocking better, not worse. I look forward to any specific suggestions to improve these rules from those who use electronic health records systems.

Electronic health records that work can give patients better outcomes and better experiences at a lower cost.

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY

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:

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. ALEXANDER. When I was president of the University of Tennessee, I asked David Gardner, who was then president of the University of California, why his university was considered one of the best in the world. He told me:

First, autonomy. We basically have four branches of government, he said, and one of them is the University of California.

Second, competition and choice—large amounts of state and federal money following students to the campus of their choice.

Third, a commitment to excellence by institutional leaders and faculty.

As a former university president, I am very much aware that despite that autonomy, our country's 6000 colleges and universities report to a lot of bosses—they are accountable to a great many individuals, boards, governments and other entities.

First, they are accountable to the students who may take their federal and state grants and loans to any accredited institution that will admit them;

Next, to 44 federally recognized accrediting agencies whose certification of quality is necessary before institutions are allowed to accept students who bring \$30 billion in new Pell grants and \$100 billion in federal student loans each year;

To ensure that these billions of dollars are spent wisely, the federal government measures how many students default on their loans;

For the 80 percent of students who attend public colleges and universities, states have governors, state legislators, laws, and state higher education authorities;

Every institution, public or private, also has its own board of trustees or directors;

And in addition, there are specific federal rules for the for-profit institutions, which about five percent of students attend, in order to stop fraud against students and taxpayers;

And when making a list of bosses, no former university president should leave out the faculty—most faculty members I have known take great pride in maintaining institutional excellence.

So any president of an American higher education institution has a lot of bosses and

a lot of people to whom he or she is accountable. And that has been a mostly successful approach.

Most surveys show that the United States has most of the best colleges and universities in the world. The dream of many of the best students from around the world is to attend American colleges and universities.

Still, I hear often from students asking if college is worth their time and money.

I believe there are steps we can take to make our higher education institutions more accountable—to provide those students, and the taxpayers backing their loans, with a clear yes, college is worth it.

In March, at our first bipartisan hearing during this Congress on updating the Higher Education Act, we looked at how to simplify how 20 million families apply for federal student aid. Last week, we held a bipartisan hearing about how to create a safe environment for students attending college.

Today's hearing will be looking at ways to ensure that students are earning degrees worth their time and money and that taxpayers are paid back the hundreds of billions that they have loaned students to earn degrees.

To hold colleges accountable for the \$130 billion a year in grants and loans, in 1990, Congress created the Cohort Default Rate, which applies to all colleges and universities.

This measure makes a college ineligible to receive federal student aid if, for three consecutive years, more than 30 percent of its borrowers are in default or over 40 percent in any one year.

However this cohort default rate has proven to be a poor instrument of accountability, since it does not take into account the one third of borrowers who are not yet in default but don't make payments on time.

Over the last decade, only 20 schools have become ineligible for federal student aid under the Cohort Default Rate, according to the Congressional Research Service. And then there are two federal accountability rules that apply only to for-profit institutions.

One, the 90-10 rule, which requires that at least ten percent of a for-profit's revenue come from non-federal sources; and

Two, the Gainful Employment Rule, which looks at how much debt a graduate has compared to his or her salary.

This comparison of debt to salary has proved to be a confusing and ineffective measure of accountability because it is too complex and does not account for students who take out loans but do not complete their degrees.

So we need a more effective measure of accountability.

But I do not want the federal government acting as a sort of National School Board for Colleges—telling states and accreditors and boards of directors at institutions how to manage the 6,000 colleges and universities.

Four years ago, this Committee passed the Every Student Succeeds Act, which reversed the trend towards a national school board for elementary and secondary education.

For the same reasons, Washington should resist the urge to send thousands of federal bureaucrats to evaluate our colleges and universities, which would, in effect, create a national school board for colleges. Instead, Congress should create a new measure of accountability that looks at whether students are actually repaying their loans.

This would be a more effective and simpler way to ensure that taxpayers aren't financing degrees that are priced so high and worth so little that students are never able to pay back their loans.

This proposal is much like the Gainful Employment Rule—but it would apply to every

program at every college—public, private, and for-profit and would include students who took out loans but dropped out before graduating.

For some programs, this new measure should provide colleges with an incentive to lower tuition and help their students stay in school to finish their degrees and find a job so they can repay their loans.

A second step to improve accountability would be for the federal government to make the data it collects from colleges more useful to students and families. The Department has struggled for years under all administrations to make such information easily accessible to students and families.

As we work on updating the Higher Education Act, we first need to identify what information schools actually need to report, and second to provide direction to the Department on how to make that information accessible and useful to students.

And third, we should strengthen the 44 federally recognized accrediting agencies upon which we rely for certifying that students are receiving a quality education.

For example, instead of requiring that accreditors have a standard of "student achievement," Congress could more clearly require that accreditors measure whether students are both learning and succeeding, but leave the specific ways of measuring those to accreditors and institutions.

Our goal needs to be to help students know that their degrees are going to be worth their time and money and to help taxpayers know that the federal government isn't financing programs that do not provide students with a valuable education.

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL KEELING

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to J. Michael Keeling, a lifelong advocate for employee retirement benefits who believed in creating engaged workforces through Employee Stock Ownership Plans, or ESOPs.

A proud graduate of Harvard and the University of Texas School of Law, and a lifelong student of history, Mr. Keeling's support of ESOPs began in the 1970s when he served as chief of staff for former Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle, an ardent supporter of these plans.

When Mr. Keeling joined the ESOP Association, he distinguished himself as an outstanding advocate and lawyer on behalf of employees and their companies seeking to establish Employee Stock Ownership Plans during the 1980s.

In 1991, after serving as general counsel to the organization, Mr. Keeling was chosen by the ESOP Association's board of directors to lead its operations as president and chief staff officer. It was during his distinguished 28-year tenure in this position that many important achievements benefitting thousands of businesses and millions of employee owners took place.

Thanks to his efforts, the ESOP Association developed a nationwide network of chapters facilitating education, training, and networking among employee owners. These local groups help hundreds of companies better engage their employee owners and successfully navigate the often complex regulations guiding ESOPs.

Recognizing that good policy is predicated on good data, Mr. Keeling worked with the ESOP Association to establish the Employee Ownership Foundation to fund research on the economic and personal effects of ESOPs and broad-based employee ownership. Since its inception in 1997, the foundation has donated millions of dollars to fund academic research. Its support was the key factor in establishing the first academic center devoted specifically to employee ownership: the Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing, at Rutgers University.

Thanks to foundation-funded research, as a nation we now have clear evidence that companies with employee stock ownership are much more likely to withstand difficult economic times, more likely to invest in employee training, and are far less likely than conventionally owned firms to lay off employees. The foundation also has funded the academic study of dozens of fellows and researchers interested in employee ownership and its role in the U.S. economy.

During his tenure at the ESOP Association, Mr. Keeling visited nearly 600 ESOP companies. The breadth of insight he gained, coupled with his deep understanding of ERISA and tax law, made him a uniquely credible voice in the retirement plan community.

Mr. Keeling is retiring from his role as head of the ESOP Association this year, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his longterm, passionate efforts to preserve and advance the retirement benefits of millions of working Americans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL L. HOPKINS

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, today I wish to salute Michael L. Hopkins for his decades of tireless work and devoted service to the schools of Rochester, NH. Mike is retiring this year as superintendent of the Rochester School District after spending the entirety of his career in the city's school system. He leaves a legacy worthy of our praise and our gratitude.

We all know the value of a quality education. It plays a critical role in the development of young minds everywhere, and enthusiastic teachers and administrators make it possible for so many students to take part in experiences that shape a lifelong appreciation for learning. As a former teacher myself, I know the commitment and understanding required to engage students, encourage curiosity and critical thinking, ultimately prepare them to find success after school and outside of the classroom.

Mike is also a former teacher, and he has brought that perspective to every move he makes as his district's top decision-maker. After graduating from his hometown school, Grinnell College

in Iowa, Mike set his sights toward New Hampshire and accepted a teaching job at the Gonic School. He quickly assumed managerial duties in addition to his teaching responsibilities as the school's teaching principal. Mike was a fitting choice when a full-time principal position opened a short time later at the nearby William Allen School, where he served for 6 years before being promoted to assistant superintendent of the city's school system. A dozen years later, he made a seamless transition to superintendent of all Rochester schools.

As superintendent, Mike has retained a deep connection to the classroom, even in a sprawling district comprised of 11 public schools with over 4,400 children and 800 employees. He is a constant presence in the halls of city schools, and teachers are quick to point out how his caring, compassion, and guidance make it easier for them to fulfill their essential roles as educators. He has also forged meaningful relationships outside school walls with business and nonprofit leaders in the Greater Rochester region, all in an effort to strengthen the educational programs he is able to offer to students.

Under Mike's leadership, Rochester schools have been quick to adapt to a changing learning landscape, embracing technology and alternative educational methods in order to provide the best education possible to city students. He has been influential in developing training programs at Spaulding High School's Creteau Regional Center that pair bright high school students with local businesses looking to grow. This is an approach that can help satisfy demands statewide for a capable, qualified workforce.

Mike has accomplished so much in his four decades in the Lilac City schools. Words like visionary, innovator, and community builder are often used to describe his tenure; yet, if one were to ask Rochester teachers, staff, administrators, school board members, and residents about Mike Hopkins, one quality emerges more often than the others: his humility. Mike always put the interests of students and teachers first, and when he found success, he was always eager to share credit with others. He was driven by a desire to better the lives of students, and his impact on the Rochester community will be felt for years to come.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in thanking Mike Hopkins for his service and wishing him all the best as he begins a well-deserved retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE ANCHORAGE NORTH STARS

● Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize and congratulate an incredible group of young Alaskans on their victory in the 2019 USA Hockey National Championship. On April 8, 2019,

the Anchorage North Stars beat the McKinney North Stars of Texas 4-3 to win the Youth Tier II 16U National Championship.

USA Hockey is the major governing body for ice hockey in the United States. There are almost 600,000 players across the various age groups. Make no mistake; the best youth hockey players in the country were competing in this tournament, which makes the North Stars' victory all the more significant.

The Anchorage North Stars traveled nearly 4,000 miles to compete with 11 other teams for the title. Early on in the tournament, during round-robin play, the Anchorage North Stars lost to the McKinney North Stars in a hard-fought 3-2 battle. However, like many great sports stories, the Anchorage North Stars found redemption.

Late in the championship game, the teams were tied 3-3, but Hayden Fox, who had already scored one goal in the third period, scored the game-winning goal for the Anchorage North Stars with less than a minute left on the clock. The Anchorage North Stars held their lead and came home with a national championship, the first for an Alaska youth hockey team since the mid-90's.

Hockey is a way of life for many Alaskan families. Many of these players have been in the sport since they were young kids. The North Stars' victory is a testament to the years of hard work and commitment by each and every player and coach, not to mention all the support from parents and other family members who were there from the beginning providing support, driving the players to and from practice, and cheering them on to victory. This achievement was a long time in the making, and I think it is important to recognize that kind of dedication.

Throughout the season, the North Stars adhered to two mottos—"Let's Leave No Doubt" and "Together We Can." This spirit of confidence and comradeship took the North Stars all the way to the final round, and they showed the entire country what kind of team they are. They performed at the highest level on the biggest stage, and I think it is safe to say that there is no one doubting them now.●

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 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 986. An act to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force of effect.

H.R. 2157. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 986. An act to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect.

H.R. 2157. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

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-1261. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2019; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-1262. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2018-2019 Marketing Area" ((7 CFR Part 985) (Docket No. AMS-SC-17-0073)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1263. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order; Reallocation of Council Membership" ((7 CFR Part 1209) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1264. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program: Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances for 2017 NOSB Recommendations (Livestock and Handling)" ((7 CFR Part 205) (Docket No. AMS-NOP-17-0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1265. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to

violations of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2013–2015 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Navy funds and was assigned case number 17–01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–1266. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, “Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account” and a semiannual listing of personal property contributed by coalition partners; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1267. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1268. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment” (RIN0790–AK40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1269. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1270. 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; Oklahoma: Tulsa, City of Osage, Rogers, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties” ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2019–0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1271. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1272. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendments to Federal Implementation Plan for Managing Air Emissions from True Minor Sources in Indian Country Oil & Natural Gas Production and Natural Gas Processing Segments of O&NG Sector” (FRL No. 9993–43–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1273. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Lake County Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 9993–54–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1274. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Criteria for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation for Nuclear Power Plants” (NUREG–0700, 0711, and 0800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May

9, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1275. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress: The Administration, Cost, and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1276. A communication from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Peace Corps, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1277. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, five (5) reports relative to vacancies in the Millennium Challenge Corporation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 13, 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1278. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Terminated and Insolvent Multiemployer Plans and Duties of Plan Sponsors” (RIN1212–AB38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1279. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department’s 2017 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1280. A communication from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Agency’s 2017 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1281. A communication from the Director of National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “2018 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interests and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) and on Apportionment of Membership for Regional Fishery Management Councils”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1282. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Elimination of Obligation to File Broadcast Mid-Term Report (Form 397) Under Section 73.2080(f) (2); Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative” ((FCC 19–10) (MB Docket Nos. 18–23 and 17–105)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1283. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Great Lakes Pilotage Rates—2019 Annual Review and Revisions to Methodology” ((RIN1625–AC49) (Docket No. USCG–2018–0665)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2019; to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–53. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the United States Congress to take any further actions necessary to advance the project of a new pipeline to bring Snake River water to Mountain Home Air Force Base through additional congressional action to authorize construction and provide further Military Construction (MILCON) Funds; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 104

Whereas, the Mountain Home Air Force Base draws its water supply from the Mountain Home Aquifer. The aquifer is over-drafted by about 30,000 acre-feet annually and is declining approximately two feet per year; and

Whereas, there are water quality issues in some of the wells that the Mountain Home Air Force Base depends on for its water supply. Of the six main wells that are on the base, only two are safe sources of drinking water and four are contaminated. Of the four contaminated wells, one is high in nitrates and is used strictly for irrigation, and the other three are high in nitrates and perfluorinated compounds; and

Whereas, the state, in partnership with the United States Air Force is working on the Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Supply Project. The purpose of the project is to provide a sustainable, long-term water supply for the base from the Snake River and to eliminate the base’s reliance on the declining Mountain Home Aquifer; and

Whereas, the project consists of a pump station at C.J. Strike Reservoir and a 14.4 mile long pipeline to bring Snake River water to the base, as well as construction of a water treatment plant at the base; and

Whereas, it is anticipated that the state will build, own, maintain, and operate the pipeline and the pumps and that the United States Air Force will build, operate, and maintain the water treatment plant, as well as anything downstream of the plant; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base is one of the largest employers in Idaho. According to a 2016 study, the base is responsible for the direct employment of 4,686 personnel, supports an additional 190 jobs in local businesses that directly supply the base’s operations, and is responsible for 2,127 jobs supported by the consumer spending of those who are directly and indirectly employed by the base; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base has been estimated to support the employment of more than 10,500 individuals; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base generates \$462 million in labor income; \$797 million in all forms of income including wages, salaries, interest, rent, and profit; and an output of goods and services valued at \$965 million; and

Whereas, a 2010 Economic Impact Analysis by the United States Air Force, assisted by Boise State University, shows that the estimated annual economic impact from the Mountain Home Air Force Base is approximately \$1.02 billion; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho and the Department of Commerce recognize that continued economic viability requires taking care of existing business before expanding economic development and attracting new business; and

Whereas, it is anticipated that there could be another round of Base Realignment and Closure in the near future; and

Whereas, Mountain Home Air Force Base has many strong attributes, such as great airspace, many clear weather days suitable for flying, and low possibility of encroachment around the base; and

Whereas, the uncertainty of a dependable water supply necessary for future operation is the only weakness that jeopardizes the future of Mountain Home Air Force Base: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we support the construction of a new pipeline to bring Snake River water to Mountain Home Air Force Base to ensure the long-term viability of the base; and be it further

Resolved, That the Idaho Legislature urges the congressional delegation for the State of Idaho to take any further actions necessary to advance the pipeline project through additional congressional action to authorize construction and provide further Military Construction (MILCON) Funds; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-54. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to enact legislation removing cannabis from the Federal Controlled Substances Act and facilitate the full spectrum of private banking services for cannabis-related business; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

Whereas, 33 states, four United States territories, and the District of Columbia have authorized the use of medical cannabis; twenty-two states, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia have decriminalized cannabis; and 10 states, the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, and three Native American tribes have legalized adulthood of cannabis; and

Whereas, data submitted by the Hawai'i Attorney General to the United States Department of Justice over the past decade indicates that there are over 1,000 arrests for cannabis possession in Hawai'i each year, including hundreds of juveniles who might not otherwise encounter the criminal justice system, and that Native Hawaiians are disproportionately arrested for cannabis possession; and

Whereas, Hawai'i enacted Act 228, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2000, which authorized the acquisition, possession, and use of medical cannabis, and authorized the establishment and regulation of medical cannabis dispensaries through Act 241, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2015; and

Whereas, there are currently over 24,000 medical cannabis patients registered with the Hawai'i Department of Health; and

Whereas, continued scheduling of cannabis under the federal Controlled Substances Act impairs the ability of medical cannabis dispensaries and other cannabis-related businesses to operate without the prospect of federal seizures, forfeitures, arrests, and other enforcement and prosecutorial actions; and

Whereas, alcohol and tobacco remain outside the purview of the federal Controlled Substances Act and have significant negative impacts on individual and public health,

including physical injuries, psychological and social harm, and the onset of chronic, often fatal illnesses related to regular use; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's medical cannabis dispensaries and other cannabis-related businesses, including those providing goods, services, property, and facilities to cannabis-related businesses, are hampered by the inability to obtain the full spectrum of private banking services under federal law; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in recent years by members of Congress to facilitate the full spectrum of banking services, including deposit insurance, for cannabis-related businesses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, the Senate concurring, that this body hereby requests the United States Congress to enact legislation that will remove cannabis from the federal Controlled Substances Act and facilitate the full spectrum of private banking services for cannabis-related business: and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leaders and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this Concurrent Resolution be printed in the Congressional Record.

POM-55. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the United States Congress to vote to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 102

Whereas, the growth and abuse of federal regulatory authority threatens our constitutional liberties, including those guaranteed by the Bill of Rights in the First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments of our Constitution; and

Whereas, federal regulators must be more accountable to elected representatives of the people and not immune from such accountability; and

Whereas, the United States House of Representatives has passed the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act to require that Congress approve major new federal regulations before they can take effect; and

Whereas, even if enacted, a law may be repealed or waived by a future Congress and President; and

Whereas, an amendment to the United States Constitution does not require the President's approval and cannot be waived by a future Congress and President: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we hereby urge the United States Congress to vote to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution as follows:

Whenever one quarter of the members of the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate transmits to the President their written declaration of opposition to a proposed federal regulation, it shall require a majority vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate to adopt that regulation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-56. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota rescinding certain previous applications made by the Legislature to the United States Congress calling for a constitutional convention, or convention of the states, for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1004

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, in 1907, adopted House Joint Resolution 2; in 1909, adopted House Joint Resolutions 5 and 7; and in 1971, adopted House Joint Resolution 503, making formal application to Congress to call an Article V constitutional convention for the purpose of altering the Constitution of the United States of America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that House Joint Resolution 2, adopted in 1907; House Joint Resolutions 5 and 7, adopted in 1909; and House Joint Resolution 503, adopted in 1971, of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, be rescinded; and be it further

Resolved, That the secretary of state transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the members of the South Dakota congressional delegation, and the Governor of the State of South Dakota, attesting the adoption of this resolution by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota.

POM-57. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the President of the United States and United States Congress to take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize valid easements existing pursuant to the 1866 Mining Act on lands under their respective administrations without requiring citizens of the United States to sue the government in order to enjoy the benefits of such validly existing easement rights; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 106

Whereas, approximately 63% of land in the State of Idaho is public land controlled by the United States, primarily by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, which makes the right to cross federal land for delivery of water rights to Idaho water users extremely important; and

Whereas, the law of the United States, since the 1866 Mining Act, has recognized that a water user in the arid West has the right to divert water from the rivers and streams across federal land for use on private property for, among other purposes, mining and agriculture. When the water user has a water right appropriated under state law, the law provides that a water user needs no approval from the federal government for the diversion and beneficial use of the water on the user's private property; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as amended, in 1976, which explicitly recognizes and protects easements and rights existing on federal

lands and recognizes under previous laws, such as the 1866 Mining Act, to deliver water appropriated under state law across federal land to private property; and

Whereas, Congress passed an amendment to FLPMA in 1986 known as the Colorado Ditch Bill Act, which explicitly directs the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a permanent easement for a water system involving reservoirs, canals, ditches, flumes, laterals, pipes, pipelines, tunnels, and other facilities and systems, for the impoundment, storage, transportation, and distribution of water traversing federal lands within the National Forest System when: (1) the water system is used for agricultural irrigation or livestock purposes; (2) the system that existed in 1976 has remained in operation; (3) any enlargement of the system after 1976 requires separate authorization; (4) the user has a valid state water right; and (5) the use involves some private land. The water users were to supply the Forest Service with evidence of the location of easements; and

Whereas, the state of Idaho has had a comprehensive method for recognizing the appropriation of waters of the state for beneficial use under the priority doctrine since before statehood; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho recognized in 1984 the need to adjudicate the water rights of this state and the Legislature directed the Department of Water Resources to initiate the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA), as provided by Idaho law, to facilitate the effective management of the waters of the Snake River Basin and to engage in a comprehensive adjudication of all surface and groundwater use in the basin; and

Whereas, the United States was a party to the SRBA, is bound by the decrees of the SRBA court, and must recognize the water rights of the Idaho water users as decreed by the SRBA court; and

Whereas, the SRBA issued more than 167,000 water rights and issued its final unified decree in 2014, in which the SRBA court decreed water rights with priority rights dating back, in some instances, to the 1860s; and

Whereas, Congress further directed that applications under the Colorado Ditch Bill Act by easement holders be submitted by the end of 1996 to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in issuing permanent easements; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Agriculture has not issued or recognized many of these permanent easements, even though the water rights have been decreed by the SRBA court and the applications have been submitted as required by Congress more than 20 years ago; and

Whereas, certain interest groups are arguing that the secretary must take actions harmful to the pre-FLPMA easement holders because the secretary has not issued the mandated easements; and

Whereas, the vast majority of surface water rights in this state were decreed with priority dates that preceded the enactment of FLPMA in 1976, and those water uses are entitled to the right to cross federal lands to deliver their state water rights; and

Whereas, there are many Idaho water users, such as the members of the Salmon Headwaters Conservation Association, that properly complied with the easement requirements specified by the Colorado Ditch Bill Act to have their permanent easement recognized by the United States, but are now required to further expend resources on legal and administrative processes to defend and protect their valid existing Idaho water rights and associated rights-of-way across federal land: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, By the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Represent-

atives concurring therein, that we urge the President of the United States and Congress to take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize valid easements existing pursuant to the 1866 Mining Act on lands under their respective administrations without requiring citizens of the United States to sue the government in order to enjoy the benefits of such validly existing easement rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the President and Congress take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize valid easements existing prior to FLPMA on lands within the National Forest System without requiring citizens of the United States to sue the government in order to enjoy the benefits of such validly existing rights; and be it further

Resolved, That in recognition that the Secretary of Agriculture has not acted on applications submitted more than 20 years ago, the President and Congress are urged to take such action as necessary to extend the deadline for filing applications under FLPMA for an additional two years; and be it further

Resolved, That the President and Congress are urged to take such action as necessary to require the Secretary of Agriculture to refrain from interfering with the use of any decreed water right by attempting under any federal law to attach conditions on any 1866 Mining Act or FLPMA easements crossing federal lands, especially in a manner that restricts or conditions in any way the use of water on private land as authorized by state laws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of Agriculture, and to the Secretary of the Interior.

POM-58. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support the pledges made by the United States in the Paris Agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE PAPER 1047

Whereas, the year 2016 was the hottest year in the modern temperature record; and

Whereas, there is increasing consensus among scientists and economists that there will be serious economic consequences if we fail to reduce global carbon emissions quickly; and

Whereas, a changing climate will irreversibly damage the global economy; and

Whereas, if left unaddressed, the consequences of a rising global temperature have the potential to adversely affect all Americans, hitting vulnerable populations hardest, hurting working families and harming productivity in middle class job sectors such as construction, agriculture and tourism, among others; and

Whereas, there has been an increase in extreme weather events across the United States that have affected supply chains, consumer behaviors and local economies; and

Whereas, the Paris Agreement provides a pathway forward to limit temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius; and

Whereas, the Paris Agreement sends a powerful signal to the world that climate change is an immediate problem facing the planet; and

Whereas, if the United States withdraws from the Paris Agreement, the United States

will face an international diplomatic backlash and will cede leadership on climate change and renewable energy issues to China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to respectfully request that the President of the United States and the United States Congress work with our allies that signed the Paris Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That We respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States not issue an Executive Order withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Donald John Trump, President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-59. A resolution adopted by the City Commission of Coconut Creek, Florida urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

*Naomi C. Earp, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

*Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1438. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1439. A bill to reauthorize activities of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1440. A bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend,

and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1441. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of certain vessels for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 1442. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen school security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1443. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 1444. A bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. KING):

S. 1445. A bill to provide a coordinated regional response to manage effectively the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1446. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to include an act of unregulated custody transfer in the definition of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1447. A bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1448. A bill to require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances to complete continuing education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1449. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require warning labels for prescription opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1450. A bill to enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1451. A bill to prohibit the issuance of F or J visas to researchers affiliated with the Chinese People's Liberation Army; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1452. A bill to establish a program to provide assistance for education and research harbors; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 1453. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide adjustment assistance to farmers adversely affected by reduced exports resulting from tariffs imposed as retaliation for United States tariff increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1454. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to add a representative of the Department of Homeland Security from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on the Technical Guidelines Development Committee; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1455. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1456. A bill to require the appropriation of funds to use a fee, fine, penalty, or proceeds from a settlement received by a Federal agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1457. A bill to provide for interagency coordination on risk mitigation in the communications equipment and services marketplace and the supply chain thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1458. A bill to codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1459. A bill to control the export to the People's Republic of China of certain technology and intellectual property important to the national interest of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1460. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan that does not include investment in any fossil fuel companies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1461. A bill to require health insurance coverage for the treatment of infertility; to

the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1462. A bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in the commission, from obtaining a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1463. A bill to establish a scorekeeping rule to ensure that increases in guarantee fees of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac shall not be used to offset provisions that increase the deficit; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1464. A bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to obtain behavioral health crisis response training for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1465. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants to enhance collaboration between State child welfare and juvenile justice systems; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1466. A bill to establish a grant program within the Department of Labor to support the creation, implementation, and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in cybersecurity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1467. A bill to require a pilot program on information sharing between the Department of Defense and designated relatives and friends of members of the Armed Forces regarding the experiences and challenges of military service, particularly during and after overseas deployments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1468. A bill to support the successful implementation of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement in Cambodia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1469. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering in elections with agents of a foreign government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1470. A bill to strengthen border security, increase resources for enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S.J. Res. 21. A joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States relative to the line item veto, a limitation on the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve, and requiring a vote of two-thirds of the membership of both Houses of Congress on any legislation raising or imposing new taxes or fees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 22. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of Bahrain of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 23. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of the Czech Republic of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 24. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of the Czech Republic of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 26. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed sale to the Government of Qatar of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 205. A resolution expressing the gratitude of the Senate for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. Res. 206. A resolution marking the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, expressing concern about significant violations of international humanitarian law on contemporary battlefields, and encouraging United States leadership in ensuring greater respect for international humanitarian law in current conflicts, particularly with its security partners; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. Res. 207. A resolution congratulating the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Senate staff on the 15-year anniversary of the association; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 208. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July as "American Grown Flower Month"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BURR, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. REED, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BARASSO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 209. A resolution designating the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, as "National Police Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 210. A resolution supporting the designation of May 15, 2019, as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Day" to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent schemes targeting seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those schemes, and to improve protections from those schemes for seniors; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 63

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 63, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 172

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 172, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2021.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 203, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) 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.

S. 332

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove the manifestation period required for the presumptions of service connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 457, a bill to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 469

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to allow penalty-free distributions from retirement accounts in the case of certain Federal contractors impacted by Federal Government shutdowns.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 509

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 509, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 569, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct payment to physician assistants under the Medicare program for certain services furnished by such physician assistants.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to provide investment authority to support rural infrastructure development, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 820, a bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

S. 821

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain member banks from using discount window lending programs, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) 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. 851

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 893

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications

systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes.

S. 897

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "family farmer".

S. 904

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 904, a bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to prepare and submit periodic reports to Congress on the role of telecommunications in hate crimes.

S. 932

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax-exempt financing of certain government-owned buildings.

S. 997

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 997, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) 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. 1007

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to limit the

use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1049

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1083, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1172, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 1188

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes.

S. 1191

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors 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. 1208

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1227

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1227, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 1231

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1231, a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

S. 1246

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

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 1365

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1365, a bill to provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by the opioid epidemic and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, and public or private nonprofit entities to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1394, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1409

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to enhance the ability of the Office of the National Ombudsman to assist small businesses in meeting regulatory requirements and develop outreach initiatives to promote awareness of the services the Office of the National Ombudsman provides, and for other purposes.

S. 1426

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1426, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 1429

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1429, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

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

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor 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. 183

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 183, a resolution reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 184

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 184, a resolution condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 188, a resolution encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 189

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 189, a resolution condemning all forms of antisemitism.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 203, a resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. ENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1438. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, along with my friend Senator ENZI, the "Breast Cancer Research Stamp Reauthorization Act."

Breast cancer remains one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in women. One in eight women will receive a diagnosis during her lifetime—and more than 40,000 women will die from the disease this year.

The Breast Cancer Research Stamp was first issued in 1998 and has since raised almost \$90 million for research into new, innovative treatments for breast cancer.

A 2018 study that was partially funded by revenue from stamp sales found that most women diagnosed with a common early-stage breast cancer do not actually need chemotherapy as a part of their cancer treatment. Results from this study are expected to spare up to 70,000 U.S. patients a year from the cost and side effects associated with chemotherapy without it hurting their chances of beating the disease.

Think about it. Simply purchasing a stamp could help spare thousands of women the pain they may experience when undergoing chemotherapy and side effects that range from hair loss to long-term organ damage. Not to mention the expense, with one basic round

of chemo costing anywhere from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The stamp's ability to fund critical research like this study helps us take big steps forward in treating breast cancer for only a few more cents over the standard price of sending a letter.

As we come back to work after Mother's Day, I invite the Senate to pause and remember all the women who have faced a diagnosis of breast cancer, not knowing what the outcome would be. I applaud as well the family and friends who have tirelessly supported them.

The Breast Cancer Stamp currently costs 65 cents, 10 cents more than a traditional Forever stamp. The additional 10 cents helps support breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense's Medical Research Program. Our bill would reauthorize the stamp for 8 more years through 2027.

For these women and their families, this stamp is as meaningful to them as it is impactful to how we combat the disease now and in the future.

I am honored to be joined by Senators BALDWIN, BARRASSO, CAPITO, CASEY, CRAMER, COLLINS, DAINES, DUCKWORTH, DURBIN, GRASSLEY, HASSAN, HIRONO, HYDE-SMITH, KLOBUCHAR, ROSEN, SCHATZ, SHAHEEN, STABENOW, and TESTER.

I am very grateful for supporters of this bill, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American College of Surgeons, Susan G. Komen, the American Association for Cancer Research, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and Are You Dense, Inc.

As we celebrate the mothers in our lives this week, I urge my colleagues to join us in taking meaningful action to improve women's health.

Thank you Mr. President and I yield the floor.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 1442. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen school security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, as we pause this week to remember the 10 people who lost their lives and the 13 people who were wounded 1 year ago, we should reflect on what has changed but also on what still needs to be done to stop this epidemic of mass shootings and school shootings, in particular.

Last year I was very proud that Congress authorized nearly \$1 billion in school safety funding—legislation that I was a cosponsor of. That is nearly \$1 billion that schools can use to improve school safety, including hardening doors so that shooters can't shoot through the school doors anymore, shrinking the number of entrances and exits, installing metal detectors, and hiring armed police officers to keep our kids safe. That was an important first step, but we need to do more.

That is why I am reintroducing this week two important bills. First, I am reintroducing legislation to authorize more funding for school safety and to enable greater targeting of the felons and fugitives who try to buy firearms illegally. If a felon or fugitive tries to purchase a firearm illegally, that felon or fugitive should be prosecuted and they should be put in Federal jail.

In 2013, my first year in the Senate, I introduced legislation with my friend Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa to create a gun crime task force at the Federal Department of Justice to ensure that Federal convictions are in the national database and to direct the Department of Justice to prosecute the felons and fugitives who try to illegally buy guns and to put them in jail before they can take the lives of more innocents. Sadly, cynically, Senate Democrats filibustered that legislation. They prevented it from passing into law by demanding a 60-vote threshold.

In light of the tragedies of Santa Fe, Parkland, and Highlands Ranch High School, just last week, I urge my colleagues to join me in making this commonsense bill law in this Congress. Let's direct law enforcement resources to stop violent criminals before they commit more heinous murders.

I am also reintroducing the bipartisan School Security Enhancement Act with Democratic Senator DOUG JONES, which would allow local communities to utilize student support and academic enrichment grants to reinforce school safety infrastructure and technology. Installing metal detectors, bulletproof doors and windows, and establishing an efficient system for communicating important information to law enforcement and to parents are all important steps in improving school safety.

I hope we can join together and pass these bills so that our students are safer, and so we can do more to prevent future mass shootings.

What happened in Santa Fe a year ago was a tragedy. On the night of the shooting, there was a candlelight prayer vigil in the community at a public park in downtown Santa Fe. Even as you saw families grieving and in unspeakable agony, and their hearts breaking, you also saw people coming together. When I was at the vigil that night, as you wept and mourned with students and parents experiencing the ultimate agony, you saw at the same time students and parents in the community leaning on each other, holding each other, holding each other up, praying alongside each other, praying with each other, and giving thanks for the heroism and strength. I think that is the only way a community makes it out of a tragedy like that.

The last year has been an extremely difficult year for the Santa Fe families and the community. That morning is indelibly marked onto that community. At the same time, they have been able to lean on each other, to rely on each other, to support each other, and to lift each other up in prayer.

I want to conclude by saying to the families in Santa Fe: We are with you. We support you. We love you, and we are there for you.

To my colleagues in Congress, we need to unite together to make our schools safer, to prosecute felons and fugitives before they commit acts of murder, and to do everything to stop this horrific mass shooting epidemic. We need to do it now. End the partisan battles. Focus on the bad guys, and stop them before more lives and innocents are taken.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. KING):

S. 1445. A bill to provide a coordinated regional response to manage effectively the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 1445

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Central America Reform and Enforcement Act”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—ADVANCING REFORMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO ADDRESS THE FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Capacity of Central American Governments To Protect and Provide for Their Own People

- Sec. 111. United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.
- Sec. 112. Authorization of appropriations for United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.
- Sec. 113. Strengthening the rule of law and combating corruption.
- Sec. 114. Combating criminal violence and improving citizen security.
- Sec. 115. Tackling extreme poverty and advancing economic development.

Subtitle B—Conditions, Limitations, and Certifications on United States Assistance

- Sec. 121. Assistance funding available without condition.

Sec. 122. Conditions on assistance related to combating, smuggling, and providing for screening and safety of migrants.

Sec. 123. Conditions on assistance related to progress on specific issues.

Sec. 124. Additional limitations.

Sec. 125. Restrictions on reprogramming.

Subtitle C—Effectively Coordinating United States Engagement in Central America

Sec. 131. United States Coordinator for Engagement in Central America.

Subtitle D—United States Leadership for Engaging International Donors and Partners

Sec. 141. Requirement for strategy to secure support of international donors and partners.

TITLE II—CRACKING DOWN ON CRIMINAL GANGS, CARTELS, AND COMPLICIT OFFICIALS

Subtitle A—Strengthening Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies To Target Smugglers and Traffickers

Sec. 211. Enhanced international cooperation to combat human smuggling and trafficking.

Sec. 212. Enhanced investigation and prosecution of human smuggling and trafficking.

Sec. 213. Information campaign on dangers of irregular migration.

Subtitle B—Strengthening the Ability of the United States Government To Crack Down on Smugglers, Traffickers, and Drug Cartels

Sec. 221. Enhanced penalties for organized smuggling schemes.

Sec. 222. Expanding financial sanctions on narcotics trafficking and money laundering.

Sec. 223. Support for FBI transnational anti-gang task forces for countering criminal gangs.

Sec. 224. Sense of Congress regarding the expansion of targeted sanctions related to corruption and human rights abuses.

Subtitle C—Creating New Penalties for Hindering Immigration, Border, and Customs Controls

Sec. 231. Hindering immigration, border, and customs controls.

TITLE III—MINIMIZING BORDER CROSSINGS BY EXPANDING PROCESSING OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN-COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION AND BY STRENGTHENING REPATRIATION INITIATIVES

Subtitle A—Providing Alternative Safe Havens in Mexico and the Region

Sec. 311. Strengthening internal asylum systems in Mexico and other countries.

Subtitle B—Expanding Refugee Processing in Mexico and Central America for Third Country Resettlement

Sec. 321. Expanding refugee processing in Mexico and Central America for third country resettlement.

Subtitle C—Establishing Legal Channels to the United States

Sec. 331. Program to adjust the status of certain vulnerable refugees from Central America.

TITLE IV—MONITORING AND SUPPORTING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PROCESSING AT THE BORDER

Sec. 401. Definitions; authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 402. Family reunification.

Sec. 403. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Government's Ability To Oversee the Safety and Well-being of Children and Support Children Forcibly Separated From Their Families

Sec. 411. Health care in shelters for unaccompanied alien children.

Sec. 412. Services to unaccompanied alien children after placement.

Sec. 413. Background checks to ensure the safe placement of unaccompanied alien children.

Sec. 414. Responsibility of sponsor for immigration court compliance and child well-being.

Sec. 415. Monitoring unaccompanied alien children.

Subtitle B—Funding to States and School Districts; Supporting Education and Safety

Sec. 421. Funding to States to conduct State criminal checks and child abuse and neglect checks.

Sec. 422. Unaccompanied alien children in schools.

TITLE V—ENSURING ORDERLY AND HUMAN MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEEKING PROTECTION

Subtitle A—Providing a Fair and Efficient Legal Process for Children and Vulnerable Families Seeking Asylum

Sec. 511. Court appearance compliance and legal orientation.

Sec. 512. Fair day in court for kids.

Sec. 513. Access to counsel and legal orientation at detention facilities.

Sec. 514. Report on access to counsel.

Sec. 515. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Reducing Significant Delays in Immigration Court

Sec. 521. Eliminate immigration court backlogs.

Sec. 522. Improved training for immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Sec. 523. New technology to improve court efficiency.

Subtitle C—Reducing the Likelihood of Repeated Migration to the United States

Sec. 531. Establishing reintegration and monitoring services for repatriating children.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 2008, incidents of murder, other violent crime, and corruption perpetrated by criminal networks, armed gangs and groups, and illicit trafficking organizations have remained at alarming levels in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(2) In 2017, El Salvador and Honduras—

(A) continued to be among the most violent countries in Latin America and the world, with 60 and 42 murders for every 100,000 people, respectively; and

(B) were characterized by a high prevalence of gang-related violence and crimes involving sexual and gender-based violence.

(3) El Salvador and Honduras are both among the top 3 countries in the world with the highest child homicide rates, with more than 22 and 32 deaths per 100,000 children respectively, according to the nongovernmental organization Save the Children.

(4) A November 2017 report by the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women stated that femicide “is taking on a devastating magnitude and trend in Central America, where 2 in every 3 women murdered, are killed because of their gender.”

(5) Since 2014, elevated numbers of unaccompanied minors, women, and other vulnerable individuals have fled violence in Central America's Northern Triangle and left for the United States in search of protection.

(6) Unaccompanied minors emigrating from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras

cite violence, forced gang recruitment, extortion, poverty, and lack of opportunity as reasons for leaving their home countries.

(7) Challenges to the rule of law in the Northern Triangle continue to be exacerbated by high levels of impunity related to murders and violent crime. In 2015, approximately 95 percent of murders taking place in Honduras and El Salvador remained unresolved.

(8) The presence of major drug trafficking organizations in the Northern Triangle contributes to violence, corruption, and criminality. According to the Department of State's 2017 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras continue to be transit countries for illicit drugs originating from countries in South America that are destined for the United States.

(9) In June 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights found that in El Salvador, a pattern of behavior among security personnel and weak institutional responses may have resulted in extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force, with official figures indicating an alarming increase in the number of persons (alleged gang-members) who have been killed by security personnel.

(10) Widespread public sector corruption in the Northern Triangle undermines economic and social development and directly affects regional political stability.

(11) Human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, social leaders, and LGBT activists in the Northern Triangle face dire conditions, as evidenced by—

(A) the March 2016 murder of the prominent Honduran environmental activist, Berta Caceres; and

(B) the ongoing targeted killing of civil society leaders in all 3 countries in the Northern Triangle.

(12) The Northern Triangle struggles with high levels of economic insecurity. In 2016, 60.9 percent of Hondurans and 38 percent of Salvadorans lived below the poverty line. In 2014, 59.3 percent of Guatemalans lived below the poverty line.

(13) Weak investment climates, low levels of tax collection, and low levels of educational opportunity are barriers to inclusive economic growth and social development in the Northern Triangle.

(14) In January 2018 and May 2018, the Trump Administration announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status designations for Honduras and El Salvador, respectively, which would affect more than 500,000 individuals and their United States citizen children who may have to return to dangerous conditions in those countries.

(15) In a November 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security, then Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned that as a result of ending Temporary Protected Status, the Governments of El Salvador and Honduras “may take retaliatory actions counter to our long-standing national security and economic interests like withdrawing their counternarcotics and anti-gang cooperation with the United States, reducing their willingness to accept the return of their deported citizens, or refraining from efforts to control illegal migration.”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States support is necessary to address irregular migration by addressing the violence and humanitarian crisis in the Northern Triangle, which has resulted in the elevated numbers of Central American unaccompanied children, women, and other refugees and migrants arriving at the Southwestern border of the United States;

(2) the violence and humanitarian crisis is linked to the severe challenges posed by—

(A) high rates of homicide, sexual and gender-based violence, and violent crime perpetrated by armed criminal actors, including drug trafficking organizations and criminal gangs, such as the MS-13 and 18th Street gangs;

(B) endemic corruption carried out by organized networks and the weak rule of law, including the limited institutional capacity of national police forces, public prosecutors, and court systems; and

(C) the limited capabilities and lack of political will on the part of Northern Triangle governments to establish the rule of law, guarantee security, and ensure the well-being of their citizens;

(3) the United States must work with international partners—

(A) to address the complicated conditions in the Northern Triangle that contribute to the violence and humanitarian crisis; and

(B) to guarantee protections for vulnerable populations, particularly women and children, fleeing violence in the region;

(4) the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle, which was developed by the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, with the technical assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank, represents a comprehensive approach to address the complex situation in the Northern Triangle;

(5) the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, as first developed by President Obama and Vice President Biden, provides important support for the Alliance for Prosperity and other United States national security priorities, including rule of law and anti-corruption initiatives;

(6) President Trump's decision to reduce United States foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras from funding levels set in fiscal years 2017 and 2018—

(A) poses a serious risk to United States national security; and

(B) will damage the efforts of the United States to address the underlying conditions causing citizens of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to flee their homelands and migrate to the United States;

(7) the Trump Administration's proposed cuts in United States foreign assistance for Central America for fiscal year 2020, if implemented, would undermine the United States ability to work with the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to address critical United States national security priorities and the factors driving migration to the United States;

(8) the Trump Administration must reverse its decision to terminate the Temporary Protected Status designations for El Salvador and Honduras in order to prevent negative consequences to United States foreign policy objectives;

(9) the United States should partner with the Government of Mexico—

(A) to strengthen Mexico's internal asylum system; and

(B) ensure that Mexico upholds international and humanitarian standards;

(10) combating corruption in the Northern Triangle must remain a critical priority and the United States must continue its public and financial support for the United Nation's Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the Organization of American States' Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) as part of this effort;

(11) the Government of Guatemala should reverse its efforts—

(A) to terminate CICIG's mandate; and

(B) to undermine the effectiveness of CICIG's ongoing operations, including prohibiting the current CICIG Commissioner from entering the country; and

(12) it is imperative for the United States to implement a multi-year strategy and sustain a long-term commitment to addressing the underlying factors causing Central Americans to flee their countries by strengthening citizen security, the rule of law, democratic governance, the protection of human rights, and inclusive economic growth in the Northern Triangle.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given the term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(2) **NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**—The term “Northern Triangle” means El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(3) **PLACEMENT.**—The term “placement” means the placement of an unaccompanied alien child with a sponsor.

(4) **PLAN.**—The term “Plan” means the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle.

(5) **SPONSOR.**—The term “sponsor” means a sponsor referred to in section 462(b)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(4)).

(6) **UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.**—The term “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given the term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

TITLE I—ADVANCING REFORMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO ADDRESS THE FACTORS DRIVING MIGRATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Capacity of Central American Governments To Protect and Provide for Their Own People

SEC. 111. UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a 5-year, interagency strategy, titled “the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America”, to advance reforms in Central American countries that address the factors driving migration.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy under subsection (a) shall include efforts to—

(1) strengthen the rule of law, improve access to justice, and bolster the effectiveness and independence of judicial systems and public prosecutors' offices, and the effectiveness of civilian police forces;

(2) combat corruption and improve public sector transparency;

(3) confront and counter the violence and crime perpetrated by armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and organized crime;

(4) disrupt money laundering operations and the illicit financial operations of criminal networks, armed gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and human smugglers;

(5) strengthen democratic governance and promote greater respect for internationally recognized human rights, labor rights, fundamental freedoms, and the media, including through the protection of human rights and environmental defenders, other civil society activists, and journalists;

(6) enhance the capability of Central American governments to protect and provide for vulnerable and at-risk populations;

(7) address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality;

(8) address the constraints to inclusive economic growth in Central America;

(9) prevent and respond to endemic levels of sexual and gender-based violence; and

(10) enhance accountability for government officials, including security force personnel, credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights or other crimes.

(c) **COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.**—In formulating the strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall—

(1) coordinate with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; and

(2) consult with the Director of National Intelligence.

(d) **SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN EFFORTS.**—To the degree feasible, the strategy under subsection (a) shall support or complement efforts being carried out by the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras under the Plan, in coordination with the Inter-American Development Bank and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

(e) **PRIORITIZATION.**—The strategy under subsection (a) shall prioritize programs and initiatives to address the key factors in Central American countries that contribute to the flight of unaccompanied alien children and other individuals to the United States.

SEC. 112. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to carry out the strategy described in section 111.

SEC. 113. STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND COMBATING CORRUPTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In advancing the strategy described in section 111, of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$550,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to strengthen the rule of law, combat corruption, consolidate democratic governance, and defend human rights.

(b) **ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.**—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities described in this section include—

(1) strengthening the rule of law in Central American countries by providing support for—

(A) the Office of the Attorney General, public prosecutors, judges, and courts in each such country, including the enhancement of their forensics capabilities and services;

(B) reforms leading to independent, merit-based, selection processes for judges and prosecutors, independent internal controls, and relevant ethics and professional training, including training on sexual and gender-based violence;

(C) the improvement of victim and witness protection and access to justice; and

(D) the reform and improvement of prison facilities and management;

(2) combating corruption by providing support for—

(A) inspectors general and oversight institutions, including relevant training for inspectors and auditors;

(B) international commissions against impunity, including the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala and the Support Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras;

(C) civil society watchdogs conducting oversight of executive branch officials and functions, police and security forces, and judicial officials and public prosecutors; and

(D) the enhancement of freedom of information mechanisms;

(3) consolidating democratic governance by providing support for—

(A) the reform of civil services, related training programs, and relevant career laws and processes that lead to independent, merit-based, selection processes;

(B) national legislatures and their capacity to conduct oversight of executive branch functions;

(C) the reform and strengthening of political party and campaign finance laws and electoral tribunals; and

(D) local governments and their capacity to provide critical safety, education, health, and sanitation services to citizens; and

(4) defending human rights by providing support for—

(A) human rights ombudsman offices;

(B) government protection programs that provide physical protection to human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, and civil society activists at risk;

(C) civil society organizations that promote and defend human rights, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, labor rights, environmental protection, and LGBT rights; and

(D) civil society organizations that address sexual, domestic, and inter-partner violence against women and protect victims of such violence.

SEC. 114. COMBATING CRIMINAL VIOLENCE AND IMPROVING CITIZEN SECURITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In advancing the strategy described in section 111, of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$550,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to counter the violence and crime perpetrated by armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking organizations, and human smugglers.

(b) **ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.**—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities described in this section include—

(1) professionalizing civilian police forces by providing support for—

(A) the reform of personnel recruitment, vetting and dismissal processes, including the enhancement of polygraph capability for use in such processes;

(B) inspectors general and oversight offices, including relevant training for inspectors and auditors, and independent oversight mechanisms, as appropriate;

(C) community policing policies and programs;

(D) the establishment of special vetted units;

(E) training and the development of protocols regarding the appropriate use of force and human rights;

(F) training on civilian intelligence collection (including safeguards for privacy and basic civil liberties), investigative techniques, forensic analysis, and evidence preservation;

(G) training on the management of complex, multi-actor criminal cases; and

(H) equipment, such as nonintrusive inspection equipment;

(2) countering illicit trafficking by providing assistance to the civilian law enforcement and armed forces of Central American countries, including support for—

(A) the establishment of special vetted units;

(B) the enhancement of intelligence collection capacity (including safeguards for privacy and basic civil liberties);

(C) the reform of personnel recruitment, vetting, and dismissal processes, including the enhancement of polygraph capability for use in such processes; and

(D) port, airport, and border security systems, including—

(i) computer infrastructure and data management systems;

(ii) secure communications technologies;

(iii) nonintrusive inspection equipment;

(iv) radar and aerial surveillance equipment;

(v) canine units; and

(vi) training on the equipment, technologies, and systems listed in clauses (i) through (v);

(3) disrupting illicit financial networks, including by providing support for—

(A) finance ministries, including the enhancement of the capacity to use financial sanctions to block the assets of individuals and organizations involved in money laundering and the financing of armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, human smugglers, and organized crime;

(B) financial intelligence units, including the establishment and enhancement of anti-money laundering programs; and

(C) the reform of bank secrecy laws; and

(4) improving crime prevention by providing support for—

(A) educational initiatives to reduce sexual and gender-based violence;

(B) the enhancement of police and judicial capacity to identify, investigate, and prosecute sexual and gender-based violence;

(C) the enhancement of programs for at-risk and criminal-involved youth, including the improvement of community centers throughout El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and

(D) alternative livelihood programs.

(d) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) operational technology transferred to governments in Central America for intelligence or law enforcement purposes should be used solely for the purposes for which the technology was intended;

(2) the United States should take all necessary steps to ensure that the use of operation technology described in paragraph (1) is consistent with United States law, including protections of freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom of association; and

(3) the assistance to Central American armed forces described in subsection (c)(2) should be limited to assistance that relates to—

(A) the armed forces activities to combat illicit maritime and riverine trafficking; and

(B) illicit trafficking occurring at national borders.

SEC. 115. TACKLING EXTREME POVERTY AND ADVANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 112, \$400,000,000 are authorized to be made available to the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to improve economic development and the underlying causes of poverty.

(b) **ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA.**—The Secretary and the Administrator may use the amounts made available under subsection (a) to provide assistance for Central American countries through the activities described in subsection (c).

(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Activities described in this section include—

(1) strengthening human capital, including by providing support for—

(A) workforce development and entrepreneurship training programs that are driven by market demand, specifically programs that prioritize women, at-risk youth, and minorities;

(B) improving early-grade literacy and the improvement of primary and secondary school curricula;

(C) relevant professional training for teachers and educational administrators; and

(D) educational policy reform and improvement of education sector budgeting;

(2) enhancing economic competitiveness and investment climate by providing support for—

(A) small business development centers and programs that strengthen supply chain integration;

(B) trade facilitation and customs harmonization programs;

(C) reducing energy costs through investments in clean technologies and the reform of energy policies and regulations;

(D) the improvement of protections for investors, including dispute resolution and arbitration mechanisms; and

(E) the improvement of labor and environmental standards, in accordance with the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement;

(3) strengthening food security, including by providing support for—

(A) small-scale agriculture, including—

(i) technical training;

(ii) initiatives that facilitate access to credit; and

(iii) policies and programs that incentivize government agencies and private institutions to buy from local producers;

(B) agricultural value chain development for farming communities;

(C) nutrition programs to reduce childhood stunting rates; and

(D) investment in scientific research on climate change and climate resiliency; and

(4) improving the state of fiscal and financial affairs, including by providing support for—

(A) domestic revenue generation, including programs to improve tax administration, collection, and enforcement;

(B) strengthening public sector financial management, including strategic budgeting and expenditure tracking; and

(C) reform of customs and procurement policies and processes.

Subtitle B—Conditions, Limitations, and Certifications on United States Assistance

SEC. 121. ASSISTANCE FUNDING AVAILABLE WITHOUT CONDITION.

The Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, may obligate up to 25 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to carry out the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America.

SEC. 122. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE RELATED TO COMBATING, SMUGGLING, AND PROVIDING FOR SCREENING AND SAFETY OF MIGRANTS.

(a) **NOTIFICATION AND COOPERATION.**—In addition to the amounts authorized to be made available under sections 121 and 123, 25 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for assistance for the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras may only be made available after the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, consults with, and subsequently certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that such governments are taking effective steps, in addition to steps taken during previous years, to—

(1) combat human smuggling and trafficking, including investigating, prosecuting, and increasing penalties for individuals responsible for such crimes;

(2) improve border security and border screening to detect and deter illicit smuggling and trafficking, while respecting the rights of individuals fleeing violence and seeking humanitarian protection asylum, in accordance with international law;

(3) cooperate with United States Government agencies and other governments in the region to facilitate the safe and timely repatriation of migrants who do not qualify for refugee or other protected status, in accordance with international law;

(4) improve reintegration services, in open partnership with civil society organizations, for repatriated migrants in a manner that ensures the safety and well-being of the individual and reduces the likelihood of repeated migration to the United States; and

(5) cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to improve protections for, and the processing of, vulnerable populations, particularly women and children fleeing violence.

SEC. 123. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE RELATED TO PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES.

(a) **EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.**—In addition to the amounts authorized to be obligated under sections 121 and 122, 50 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 that are made available for assistance for the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras may only be made available after the Secretary consults with, and subsequently certifies and reports to, the appropriate congressional committees that such governments are taking effective steps in their respective countries, in addition to steps taken during the previous calendar year, to—

(1) combat corruption, including investigating and prosecuting government officials, military personnel, and civilian police officers credibly alleged to be corrupt;

(2) implement reforms and strengthen the rule of law, including increasing the capacity and independence of the judiciary and public prosecutors;

(3) counter the activities of armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, and organized crime;

(4) establish and implement a plan to create a professional, accountable civilian police force and curtail the role of the military in internal policing;

(5) investigate and prosecute, through the civilian justice system, military and police personnel who are credibly alleged to have violated human rights, and to ensure that the military and the police are cooperating in such cases;

(6) counter and prevent sexual and gender-based violence;

(7) cooperate, as appropriate, with international human rights entities and international commissions against impunity, including the United Nations Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the Organization of American States' Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), and any other similar entities that may be established;

(8) implement electoral and political reforms, including reforms related to improving the transparency of financing political campaigns and political parties;

(9) protect the right of political opposition parties, journalists, trade unionists, human rights defenders, and other civil society activists to operate without interference;

(10) increase government revenues, including by enhancing tax collection, strengthening customs agencies, and reforming procurement processes;

(11) implement reforms to strengthen educational systems, vocational training programs, and programs for at-risk youth;

(12) resolve commercial disputes, including the confiscation of real property, between United States entities and the respective governments; and

(13) implement a policy by which local communities, civil society organizations (including indigenous and marginalized groups), and local governments are consulted in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the activities of the Plan that affect such communities, organizations, or governments.

(b) **ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.**—The Secretary of State may not certify that the Government of Guatemala is taking effective steps to address the issues listed in subsection (a) until after the Government of Guatemala—

(1) extends the mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) beyond 2019; and

(2) permits the CICIG Commissioner and CICIG staff to carry out their work with government obstruction.

(c) **EXCEPTION.**—The certification and reporting requirements under subsection (a) and section 122(a) shall not apply to the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 for assistance to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala and the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras.

SEC. 124. ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.

(a) **DEPORTATIONS AND REPATRIATIONS.**—None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this title may be used or transferred to any other Federal agency to assist in the removal or repatriation of any individual from a third country to his or her country of origin or to another country.

(b) **FUND TRANSFERS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State may not transfer amounts appropriated for the Department of State to any account managed by the Department of Homeland Security for the purpose of assisting in the deportation or repatriation of any foreign person from a third country to his or her country of origin or to another country, absent a specific authorization from Congress for such transfer.

SEC. 125. RESTRICTIONS ON REPROGRAMMING.

(a) **UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to section 112 may not be reprogrammed for any activities other than those authorized under this title.

(b) **BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HONDURAS.**—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development may not reprogram amounts made available for assistance for El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras under—

(1) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2019 (division F of Public Law 116-6);

(2) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018 (division K of Public Law 115-141);

(3) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2017 (division J of Public Law 115-31); or

(4) titles III and IV of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114-113).

Subtitle C—Effectively Coordinating United States Engagement in Central America

SEC. 131. UNITED STATES COORDINATOR FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the President shall designate a senior official to coordinate all of the Federal Government's efforts, including coordination with international partners—

(1) to strengthen citizen security, the rule of law, and economic prosperity in Central America; and

(2) to protect vulnerable populations in the region.

(b) SUPERVISION.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall report directly to the President.

(c) DUTIES.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall coordinate all of the efforts, activities, and programs related to United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, including—

(1) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Justice (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation), the Department of Homeland Security, the intelligence community, and international partners regarding United States efforts to dismantle and disrupt armed criminal gangs, illicit trafficking networks, and organized crime responsible for high levels of violence, extortion, and corruption in Central America;

(2) coordinating with the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of violent criminal gangs and transnational criminal organizations on vulnerable Central American populations, including women and children;

(3) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and international partners regarding United States efforts to counter human smugglers illegally transporting Central American migrants to the United States;

(4) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to increase protections for vulnerable Central American populations, improve refugee processing, and strengthen asylum and migration systems throughout the region;

(5) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice (including the Drug Enforcement Administration), the Department of the Treasury, the intelligence community, and international partners regarding United States efforts to combat illicit narcotics traffickers, interdict transshipments of illicit narcotics, and disrupt the financing of the illicit narcotics trade;

(6) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, the intelligence community, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to combat corruption, money laundering, and illicit financial networks;

(7) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the United States Agency for International Development, and international partners regarding United States efforts to strengthen the rule of law, democratic governance, and human rights protections; and

(8) coordinating with the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, the United States Agency for International Development, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Trade and Development Agency, the Department of Labor, and international partners, including the Inter-American Development Bank, to strengthen the foundation for inclusive economic growth and improve food security, in-

vestment climate, and protections for labor rights.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall consult with Congress, multilateral organizations and institutions, foreign governments, and domestic and international civil society organizations.

Subtitle D—United States Leadership for Engaging International Donors and Partners
SEC. 141. REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY TO SECURE SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS AND PARTNERS.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a 3-year strategy to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) describes how the United States will secure support from international donors and regional partners (including Colombia and Mexico) for the implementation of the Plan;

(2) identifies governments that are willing to provide financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the Plan and a description of such assistance; and

(3) identifies the financial and technical assistance to be provided by multilateral institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Andean Development Corporation—Development Bank of Latin America, and the Organization of American States, and a description of such assistance.

(c) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, as appropriate, shall—

(1) carry out diplomatic engagement to secure contributions of financial and technical assistance from international donors and partners in support of the Plan; and

(2) take all necessary steps to ensure effective cooperation among international donors and partners supporting the Plan.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after submitting the strategy under subsection (b), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) the progress made in implementing the strategy; and

(2) the financial and technical assistance provided by international donors and partners, including the multilateral institutions listed in subsection (b)(3).

(e) BRIEFINGS.—Upon a request from 1 of the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to such committee that describes the progress made in implementing the strategy submitted under subsection (b).

TITLE II—CRACKING DOWN ON CRIMINAL GANGS, CARTELS, AND COMPLICIT OFFICIALS

Subtitle A—Strengthening Cooperation Among Law Enforcement Agencies To Target Smugglers and Traffickers

SEC. 211. ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall expand partnership efforts with law en-

forcement entities in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico seeking to combat human smuggling and trafficking in those countries, including—

(1) the creation or expansion of transnational criminal investigative units to identify, disrupt, and prosecute human smuggling and trafficking operations;

(2) participation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Justice in the Bilateral Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative with their Mexican law enforcement counterparts; and

(3) advanced training programs for investigators and prosecutors from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

SEC. 212. ENHANCED INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall expand collaborative programs aimed at investigating and prosecuting human smugglers and traffickers targeting Central American children and families and operating at the southwestern border of the United States, including the continuation and expansion of anti-trafficking coordination teams.

(b) HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall increase the resources available to Homeland Security Investigations to facilitate the expansion of its smuggling and trafficking investigations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsections (a) and (b).

SEC. 213. INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON DANGERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall design and implement public information campaigns in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—

(1) to disseminate information about the dangers of travel across Mexico to the United States; and

(2) to combat misinformation about United States immigration law or policy; and

(3) to provide accurate information about the right to seek asylum.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The information campaigns implemented pursuant to subsection (a) shall, to the greatest extent possible—

(1) be targeted at populations and localities with high migration rates;

(2) be in local languages;

(3) employ a variety of communications media; and

(4) be developed in consultation with program officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and other government, nonprofit, or academic entities in close contact with migrant populations from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including repatriated migrants.

Subtitle B—Strengthening the Ability of the United States Government To Crack Down on Smugglers, Traffickers, and Drug Cartels

SEC. 221. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR ORGANIZED SMUGGLING SCHEMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 274(a)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) in the case of a violation of subparagraph (A)(i) during and in relation to which the person, while acting for profit or other financial gain, knowingly directs or participates in an effort or scheme to assist or

cause 10 or more persons (other than a parent, spouse, sibling, or child of the offender) to enter or to attempt to enter the United States at the same time at a place other than a designated port of entry or place other than designated by the Secretary, be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both;"; and

(3) in clause (iv), as redesignated, by inserting "commits or attempts to commit sexual assault of," after "section 1365 of title 18, United States Code) to,".

(b) **BULK CASH SMUGGLING.**—Section 5332(b)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "TERM OF IMPRISONMENT" and inserting "IN GENERAL"; and

(2) by inserting " , fined under title 18, or both" after "5 years".

SEC. 222. EXPANDING FINANCIAL SANCTIONS ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING.

(a) **FINANCIAL SANCTIONS EXPANSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence shall expand investigations, intelligence collection, and analysis pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to increase the identification and application of sanctions against—

(A) significant foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations and networks; and

(B) foreign persons who provide material, financial, or technological support to such traffickers, organizations, and networks.

(2) **TARGETS.**—The activities described in paragraph (1) shall specifically target foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations and networks, and the foreign persons who provide material, financial, or technological support to such traffickers, organizations, and networks that are present and operating in Central America.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

SEC. 223. SUPPORT FOR FBI TRANSNATIONAL ANTI-GANG TASK FORCES FOR COUNTERING CRIMINAL GANGS.

(a) **TASK FORCE EXPANSION.**—The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall expand the efforts of the Transnational Anti-Gang Task Forces in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including by—

(1) expanding transnational criminal investigations focused on criminal gangs in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, such as MS-13 and 18th Street;

(2) expanding training and partnership efforts with Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran law enforcement entities in order to disrupt and dismantle criminal gangs, both internationally and in their respective countries;

(3) establishing or expanding special vetted investigative units; and

(4) collecting and disseminating intelligence to support related United States-based investigations.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated, to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

SEC. 224. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE EXPANSION OF TARGETED SANCTIONS RELATED TO CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should intensify targeting of and impose sanctions regularly on a range

of foreign persons from or in Central America determined to be responsible for human rights abuses, corruption-related misconduct, and other misconduct identified pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note);

(2) the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and other United States intelligence agencies, as appropriate, should expand intelligence collection and analysis in support of the efforts described in paragraph (1); and

(3) the efforts described in paragraph (1) should specifically target foreign persons, including foreign government officials, complicit in acts that weaken, run counter to, or undermine the strategy described in section 111.

Subtitle C—Creating New Penalties for Hindering Immigration, Border, and Customs Controls

SEC. 231. HINDERING IMMIGRATION, BORDER, AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS.

(a) **IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.**—The Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 274D the following:

"SEC. 274E. HINDERING IMMIGRATION, BORDER, AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS.

"(a) ILLICIT SPOTTING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly surveil, track, monitor, or transmit the location, movement, or activities of any officer or employee of a Federal, State, or tribal law enforcement agency—

"(A) with the intent to gain financially; and

"(B) in furtherance of any violation of the immigration laws, the customs and trade laws of the United States (as defined in section 2 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125)), any other Federal law relating to transporting controlled substances, agriculture, or monetary instruments into the United States, or any Federal law relating to border controls measures of the United States.

"(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

"(b) DESTRUCTION OF UNITED STATES BORDER CONTROLS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly and without lawful authorization—

"(A) destroy or significantly damage any fence, barrier, sensor, camera, or other physical or electronic device deployed by the Federal Government to control an international border of, or a port of entry to, the United States; or

"(B) otherwise seek to construct, excavate, or make any structure intended to defeat, circumvent or evade such a fence, barrier, sensor camera, or other physical or electronic device deployed by the Federal Government to control an international border of, or a port of entry to, the United States.

"(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both."

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 274D the following:

"Sec. 274E. Hindering immigration, border, and customs controls."

TITLE III—MINIMIZING BORDER CROSSINGS BY EXPANDING PROCESSING OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN-COUNTRY AND IN THE REGION AND BY STRENGTHENING REPATRIATION INITIATIVES

Subtitle A—Providing Alternative Safe Havens in Mexico and the Region

SEC. 311. STRENGTHENING INTERNAL ASYLUM SYSTEMS IN MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall work with international partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to support and provide technical assistance to strengthen the domestic capacity of Mexico and other countries in the region to provide asylum to eligible children and families, in accordance with international law and best practices, by—

(1) establishing and expanding temporary and long-term in-country reception centers and shelter capacity to meet the humanitarian needs of those seeking asylum or other forms of international protection;

(2) improving the asylum registration system to ensure that all individuals seeking asylum or other humanitarian protection—

(A) are provided with adequate information about their rights, including their right to seek protection;

(B) are properly screened for security, including biographic and biometric capture;

(C) receive due process and meaningful access to existing legal protections; and

(D) receive proper documents in order to prevent fraud and ensure freedom of movement and access to basic social services;

(3) creating or expanding a corps of trained asylum officers capable of evaluating and deciding individual asylum claims consistent with international law and obligations; and

(4) developing the capacity to conduct best interest determinations for unaccompanied alien children to ensure that their needs are properly met, which may include family reunification or resettlement in the United States or another country based on international protection needs and the best interests of the child.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit a report that describes the plans of the Secretary of State to assist in developing the asylum processing capabilities described in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(5) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(6) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(7) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(8) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

Subtitle B—Expanding Refugee Processing in Mexico and Central America for Third Country Resettlement

SEC. 321. EXPANDING REFUGEE PROCESSING IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall coordinate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support and provide technical assistance to the Government of Mexico and the governments of other countries in the region to increase access to global resettlement for eligible children and families with protection needs, in accordance with international law and best practices, by—

(1) establishing and expanding in-country refugee reception centers to meet the humanitarian needs of those seeking international protection;

(2) improving the refugee registration system to ensure that all refugees—

(A) are provided with adequate information about their rights, including their right to seek protection;

(B) are properly screened for security, including biographic and biometric capture;

(C) receive due process and meaningful access to existing legal protections; and

(D) receive proper documents in order to prevent fraud and ensure freedom of movement and access to basic social services;

(3) creating or expanding a corps of trained refugee officers capable of evaluating and deciding individual claims for protection, consistent with international law and obligations; and

(4) developing the capacity to conduct best interest determinations for unaccompanied alien children to ensure that—

(A) such children with international protection needs are properly registered; and

(B) their needs are properly met, which may include family reunification or resettlement in the United States or another country based on international protection needs and the best interests of the child.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit a report to the committees listed in section 311(b) that describes the plans of the Secretary of State to assist in developing the refugee processing capabilities described in subsection (a).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the conditions in Mexico, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, do not meet the necessary threshold for the United States Government to sign a safe third country agreement with the Government of Mexico; and

(2) individuals of any nationality, who enter the United States from Mexico and request humanitarian protection, such as asylum, in the United States—

(A) are not subject to section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(2)(C)); and

(B) cannot be returned to Mexico while their request for humanitarian protection is pending.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out subsection (a).

Subtitle C—Establishing Legal Channels to the United States

SEC. 331. PROGRAM TO ADJUST THE STATUS OF CERTAIN VULNERABLE REFUGEES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) REFUGEE STATUS.—The term “refugee status” has the meaning given the term in

section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)), except that the alien may apply inside his or her country of nationality if there is a designated application processing center present.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a refugee processing program for nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to respond to country conditions and the growing need to provide an alternative to the dangerous journey to the United States of America.

(c) ADMISSION OF ELIGIBLE CENTRAL AMERICAN ALIENS AS REFUGEES.—Notwithstanding the numerical limitations set forth in sections 201, 202, and 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1157), the Secretary shall adjust the status of an alien who is a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to that of an alien admitted as a refugee if the alien—

(1) applies for such refugee status at a Designated Application Processing Center (as defined in subsection (e)); and

(2) is eligible under subsection (d).

(d) CENTRAL AMERICANS ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Admission as a refugee or adjustment of status to that of a refugee shall be available to any alien, or members of the alien’s family, if—

(A) the alien is a national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras;

(B) the alien otherwise meets the definition of a refugee, except that the alien may apply from inside his or her country of nationality;

(C)(i) the alien presents himself or herself at a Designated Application Processing Center for consideration of refugee status under this section; or

(ii) in the case of an alien who is a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the alien presents an application for the alien; and

(D) the alien passes all relevant medical, national security, and background checks.

(2) EFFECT OF DENIAL OF REFUGEE STATUS.—The denial of refugee status under the Central American Minors Program—

(A) shall not be held determinative with respect to an adjudication under this section; and

(B) shall not prejudice the results of an adjudication under this section.

(e) DESIGNATED APPLICATION PROCESSING CENTERS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a minimum of 4 Designated Application Processing Centers in 4 different physical locations in the countries referred to in paragraph (2), with the consent of the host country, if necessary.

(2) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that at least 1 Designated Application Processing Center is established in—

(A) El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico; and

(B) any other country in Central America selected by the Secretary of State.

(3) APPLICATION FOR REFUGEE STATUS.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that any alien who is physically present at a Designated Application Processing Center is permitted—

(A) to apply for refugee status under this section;

(B) to include his or her family in the application for refugee status, regardless of such alien’s status; and

(C) if the alien applying for refugee status is an unaccompanied minor, to have legal counsel present at all interviews.

(4) ADJUDICATION.—Applications submitted at a Designated Application Processing Center under this section shall be adjudicated by refugee officers from the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(5) ADJUDICATION DEADLINES.—

(A) FIRST YEAR.—Applications submitted under this section during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be adjudicated not later than 1 year after submission.

(B) SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.—Applications submitted under this section after the period described in subparagraph (A) shall be adjudicated not later than 6 months after submission.

(f) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsections (c)(1) and (d)(1)(C) shall be waived by the Secretary if the alien, or his or her family—

(1) is a national of El Salvador or Honduras;

(2) was in temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) on the date on which his or her country of nationality’s designation under subsection (b) of such section was terminated;

(3) has maintained physical presence in the United States since the effectiveness date of the most recent designation, extension, or termination; and

(4) would be eligible to reapply, under such section 244, if his or her country of nationality’s designation had not been terminated.

(g) APPLICATION FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure that applicants for refugee status are not charged fees in order to apply for humanitarian relief under this section.

(2) PREVIOUS DENIAL.—The Secretary may charge a reasonable fee to an alien who applies for refugee status under this section after having previously been denied refugee status unless such denial occurred before the alien attained 21 years of age.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

TITLE IV—MONITORING AND SUPPORTING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PROCESSING AT THE BORDER

SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Department.

(3) FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term “Flores settlement agreement” means the Stipulated Settlement Agreement filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California on January 17, 1997 (CV 85-4544-RJK).

(4) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(5) RESIDENT ADULT.—The term “resident adult” means any individual who is at least 18 years of age and regularly lives, shares common areas, and sleeps in a sponsor or prospective sponsor’s home.

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

(7) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL; SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES.—The terms “specialized instructional support personnel” and “specialized instructional support services” have the

meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(8) **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.**—The term “zero tolerance policy” means the policy described in the memorandum of the Attorney General entitled “Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)”, issued on April 6, 2018.

SEC. 402. FAMILY REUNIFICATION.

(a) **DIRECTIVES TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

(1) **FAMILY REUNIFICATION.**—Consistent with section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) and other applicable Federal law, the Secretary shall reallocate resources to facilitate the immediate family reunification of each child separated from his or her parent or guardian at or near a port of entry or within 100 miles of the border or otherwise removed from her or her parent or legal guardian by the Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, or any agent or agency thereof, if such reunification is in the best interest of the child.

(2) **COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW.**—The Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, and any other head of a Federal agency involved in the proceedings against a parent or guardian separated from the parent or guardian’s child (as described in paragraph (1)) shall immediately change policies, procedures, and practices—

(A) to reunify the child separated from his or her parent or guardian; and

(B) to comply with section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232), the Flores settlement agreement, and other applicable Federal law.

(b) **PARENTAL RIGHTS.**—Consistent with the laws of the State in which the child is located, only an order from a court of competent jurisdiction may terminate the rights of a parent or guardian over an unaccompanied alien child, including any such child separated from the parent or guardian at such a border.

SEC. 403. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

Subtitle A—Strengthening the Government’s Ability To Oversee the Safety and Well-being of Children and Support Children Forcibly Separated From Their Families

SEC. 411. HEALTH CARE IN SHELTERS FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) **ACCESS TO SERVICES.**—The Secretary shall direct the Director, in carrying out the functions transferred to the Director under section 462(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(a))—

(1) to ensure that unaccompanied alien children who have not been placed with a sponsor have access to comprehensive, age-appropriate medical, behavioral, and mental health care services, including evidence-based and trauma-informed treatments, provided by qualified health care professionals with the appropriate certifications, licensure, training, and expertise in treating children, including infants, toddlers, and other children who are younger than 13 years of age; and

(2) to issue guidance to grantees, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the procedures for prescribing, reporting, and administration of psychotropic medication.

(b) **NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS INITIATIVE.**—

(1) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—Out of amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry

out this section, the Secretary shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to public and nonprofit private entities and Indian tribes and tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), for the purpose of developing and maintaining programs that respond to the needs of unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

(2) **BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN.**—The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative coordinating center described in section 582(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh–1(a)(1)) shall develop, and make publically available, best practices for providing evidence-based and trauma-informed health care treatment to unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (including such children who are traumatized by separation from parents or guardians by the Federal Government to facilitate enforcement of the zero tolerance policy and other infants, toddlers, and children who are younger than 13 years of age)—

(A) to carry out programs under paragraph (1);

(B) to provide services under section 412(a); and

(C) to conduct assessments under section 412(a)(1)(A).

(c) **OVERSIGHT ON ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an evaluation of the medical, behavioral, and mental health services provided to unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement and submit a report and recommendations to the Department, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **CONTENT.**—Each report under paragraph (1) shall address—

(A) the extent to which entities with which the Office of Refugee Resettlement contracts meet established standards for ensuring the safety and well-being of alien children in their care;

(B) the quality and appropriateness of the health care services provided to such children, including the administration of medications and treatment;

(C) the extent to which medical, behavioral, and mental health services address the needs of traumatized children and mitigate the long-term health consequences of trauma exposure;

(D) the adequacy of practices to assess the qualifications, including training and licensure, of the professionals administering care, including the expertise of such professionals in providing trauma-informed care;

(E) the adequacy of appropriately-trained health care staff at the Office of Refugee Resettlement tasked with assessing the adequacy of care provided to children in their care; and

(F) oversight, investigations, and actions taken to address allegations against contracted entities of mistreatment, abuse, or neglect of children under any program under Federal or State law.

SEC. 412. SERVICES TO UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN AFTER PLACEMENT.

(a) **TRAUMA-INFORMED, RISK-BASED, POST-PLACEMENT SERVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out

this section, the Secretary shall assist each unaccompanied alien child in a placement with a sponsor by—

(A) completing an individualized assessment of the need for services to be provided after placement; and

(B) providing such post-placement services during the pendency of all immigration proceedings or until no longer necessary, whichever is later.

(2) **MINIMUM SERVICES.**—The services referred to in paragraph (1)(B) shall include—

(A) for the unaccompanied alien child, at least 1 post-placement case management services visit not later than 30 days after placement with a sponsor and the referral of the child to service providers in the community;

(B) for the family of the child’s sponsor, orientation and other functional family support services, as determined to be necessary in the individualized assessment; and

(C) for each unaccompanied alien child traumatized by separation of such child from the child’s parent or guardian by the Federal Government, comprehensive, trauma-informed services to assist such child.

(b) **EFFECTIVE USE OF CHILD ADVOCATES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) direct the Director—

(A) to identify and track the referral rates of unaccompanied alien children to child advocates by care providers and investigate instances in which such a rate is low;

(B) to ensure that the referral criteria established by the Director are appropriately applied when a care provider determines if such a child is eligible for referral to a child advocate;

(C) to provide technical assistance to care providers to ensure compliance with such criteria;

(D) to establish a process for stakeholders and the public to refer unaccompanied alien children, including those placed with a sponsor, to the child advocate program to determine if such child meets the referral criteria for appointment of a child advocate; and

(E) to refer to a child advocate each unaccompanied alien child described in subsection (a)(2)(C); and

(2) ensure that each child advocate for an unaccompanied alien child—

(A) is provided access to materials necessary to advocate effectively for the best interest of the child, including direct access to significant incident reports, home studies, and similar materials and information; and

(B) is notified when new materials and information described in subparagraph (A) relating to the child are created or become available.

SEC. 413. BACKGROUND CHECKS TO ENSURE THE SAFE PLACEMENT OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) **CRIMINAL AND CIVIL RECORD CHECKS.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—In carrying out the functions transferred to the Director under section 462(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(a)), from amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Director shall perform, consistent with best practices in the field of child welfare, and a prospective sponsor and all resident adults in the home of the prospective sponsor shall submit to the following record checks (which shall be completed as expeditiously as possible):

(A) Fingerprint-based checks (except as described in paragraph (2)) in national crime information databases, as defined in section 534(e)(3) of title 28, United States Code.

(B) A search of the State criminal registry or repository for any State (except as described in paragraph (3)) in which the prospective sponsor or resident adult has resided during the 5 years preceding the search.

(C) A search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under section 119 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16919).

(D) A search (except as described in paragraphs (2) and (3)) of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases for any State in which the prospective sponsor or resident adult has resided during the 5 years preceding the search.

(2) **PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), if the prospective sponsor is the parent or guardian of the child involved, the Director shall have discretion to determine whether the Director shall perform, and the prospective sponsor and resident adults described in paragraph (1) shall submit to, a check described in subparagraph (A) or (D) of paragraph (1).

(3) **WAIVERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary determines that it is not feasible to conduct the check described in subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1) for a State, including infeasibility due to a State's refusal or nonresponse in response to a request for related information, or that the average time to receive results from a State for such a check is more than 10 business days, the Secretary may waive the requirements of that subparagraph with respect to the State involved for a period of not more than 1 year. The Secretary may renew the waiver in accordance with this subparagraph.

(B) **PROHIBITION ON DELEGATION.**—The Secretary may not delegate the responsibility under subparagraph (A) to another officer or employee of the Department.

(C) **STATES WHERE WAIVERS APPLY.**—The Secretary shall make available, on a website of the Department, the list of States for which the requirements of subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1) are waived under this paragraph.

(4) **USE OF RECORD CHECKS.**—The information revealed by a record check performed pursuant to this section shall be used only by the Director for the purpose of determining whether a potential sponsor is a suitable sponsor for a placement for an unaccompanied alien child.

(b) **PLACEMENT DETERMINATIONS GENERALLY.**—

(1) **DENIALS REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CRIMES.**—The Director shall deny any placement for a prospective sponsor (other than the parent or guardian of the child involved), and may deny any placement for a prospective sponsor who is the parent or guardian of the child involved subject to subsection (c), if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of the prospective sponsor was convicted at age 18 or older of a crime that is a felony consisting of any of the following:

(A) Domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment, if the prospective sponsor or resident adult served at least 1 year imprisonment for a crime specified in this subparagraph, or if the prospective sponsor or resident adult was convicted of 2 or more crimes specified in this subparagraph, not arising out of a single scheme of criminal misconduct.

(B) A crime against a child involving pornography.

(C) Human trafficking.

(D) Rape or sexual assault.

(E) Homicide.

(2) **DENIALS CONSIDERED FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES.**—The Director may deny a place-

ment for a prospective sponsor if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of a prospective sponsor was adjudged guilty of a civil offense or was convicted of a crime not covered by paragraph (1). The Director, in making a determination about whether to approve or deny the placement, shall consider all of the following factors:

(A) The type of offense.

(B) The number of offenses the sponsor or resident adult has been adjudged guilty or convicted of.

(C) The length of time that has elapsed since the adjudication or conviction.

(D) The nature of the offense.

(E) The age of the individual at the time of the adjudication or conviction.

(F) The relationship between the offense and the capacity to care for a child.

(G) Evidence of rehabilitation of the individual.

(H) Opinions of community and family members concerning the individual.

(c) **PLACEMENT DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.**—The Director may deny a placement for a prospective sponsor who is the parent or guardian of the child involved if the record checks performed pursuant to this section reveal that the prospective sponsor or a resident adult in the home of a prospective sponsor was adjudged guilty of a civil offense or was convicted of a crime. The Director, in making a determination about whether to approve or deny the placement, shall consider all of the factors described in subsection (b)(2).

(d) **APPEALS PROCESS.**—

(1) **INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall provide information to each prospective sponsor on how such sponsor may appeal—

(A) a placement determination under this section, including—

(i) prompt notice of the opportunity to so appeal; and

(ii) instructions about how to participate in the appeals process; and

(B) the results of a record check performed pursuant to this section or the accuracy or completeness of the information yielded by the record check, as provided in paragraph (2), including—

(i) prompt notice of the opportunity to so appeal; and

(ii) instructions about how to participate in the appeals process.

(2) **APPEAL.**—Each Federal agency responsible for administering or maintaining the information in a database, registry, or repository used in a record check performed pursuant to this section or responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information yielded by the record check shall—

(A) establish a process for an appeal concerning the results of that record check, or that accuracy or completeness; and

(B) complete such process not later than 30 days after the date on which such an appeal is filed.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit the Director from establishing additional checks or procedures (besides the checks required in this section) for sponsors, to enable the Director—

(1) to oversee and promote the health, safety, and well-being of unaccompanied alien children; or

(2) to prevent the exploitation, neglect, or abuse of unaccompanied alien children.

SEC. 414. RESPONSIBILITY OF SPONSOR FOR IMMIGRATION COURT COMPLIANCE AND CHILD WELL-BEING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish

procedures to ensure that legal orientation programs regarding immigration court and rights and responsibilities for the well-being of unaccompanied alien children are provided to all prospective sponsors of unaccompanied alien children prior to an unaccompanied alien child's placement with such a sponsor.

(b) **PROGRAM ELEMENTS.**—The procedures described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that each legal orientation program described in such subsection shall provide information on the sponsor's rights and responsibilities to—

(1) ensure the unaccompanied alien child appears at immigration proceedings and communicate with the court involved regarding the child's change of address and other relevant information;

(2) immediately enroll the child in school, and shall provide information and resources if the sponsor encounters difficulty enrolling such child in school;

(3) provide access to health care, including mental health care as needed, and any necessary age-appropriate health screening to the child;

(4) report potential child traffickers and other persons seeking to victimize or exploit unaccompanied alien children, or otherwise engage such children in criminal, harmful, or dangerous activity;

(5) seek assistance from the Department regarding the health, safety, and well-being of the child placed with the sponsor; and

(6) file a complaint, if necessary, with the Secretary or the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding treatment of unaccompanied alien children while under the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement or the Department of Homeland Security, respectively.

SEC. 415. MONITORING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) **RISK-BASED POST-PLACEMENT SERVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall assist each unaccompanied alien child in a placement with a sponsor by—

(A) completing an individualized assessment of the need for services to be provided after placement; and

(B) providing such post-placement services during the pendency of removal proceedings or until no longer necessary.

(2) **MINIMUM SERVICES.**—For the purposes of paragraph (1), the services shall, at a minimum, include—

(A) for the unaccompanied alien child, at least one post-placement case management services visit within 30 days after placement with a sponsor and the referral of unaccompanied alien children to service providers in the community; and

(B) for the family of the child's sponsor, orientation and other functional family support services, as determined to be necessary in the individualized assessment.

(b) **EFFECTIVE USE OF CHILD ADVOCATES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) direct the Director—

(A) to identify and track the referral rates of unaccompanied alien children to child advocates by care providers and investigate instances in which such a rate is low;

(B) to ensure that the referral criteria established by the Director are appropriately applied when a care provider determines if such a child is eligible for referral to a child advocate;

(C) to provide technical assistance to care providers to ensure compliance with such criteria; and

(D) to establish a process for stakeholders and the public to refer unaccompanied alien

children, including those placed with a sponsor, to the child advocate program to determine if such child meets the referral criteria for appointment of a child advocate; and

(2) ensure that each child advocate for an unaccompanied alien child shall—

(A) be provided access to materials necessary to advocate effectively for the best interest of the child, including direct access to significant incident reports, home studies, and similar materials and information; and

(B) be notified when new materials and information described in subparagraph (A) relating to the child are created or become available.

Subtitle B—Funding to States and School Districts; Supporting Education and Safety

SEC. 421. FUNDING TO STATES TO CONDUCT STATE CRIMINAL CHECKS AND CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.

(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “State” means each of the 50 States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(b) **PAYMENTS TO STATES TO CONDUCT STATE CRIMINAL REGISTRY OR REPOSITORY SEARCHES AND TO CONDUCT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall, in accordance with this subsection, make payments to States, through each agency in each State tasked with administering the State criminal registry or repository required under section 413(a)(1)(B) or the State child abuse and neglect registry required under section 413(a)(1)(D), to assist with searches of such registries, repositories, or databases for prospective sponsors of unaccompanied alien children and resident adults in the home of such prospective sponsors, in accordance with section 413.

(2) **ALLOTMENTS.**—

(A) **STATE CRIMINAL REGISTRY AND REPOSITORY SEARCHES.**—In each fiscal year, using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section with respect to the program providing payments to States to assist with criminal registry or repository searches, the Secretary shall allot to each State participating in such program, through the agency in each such State tasked with administering the State criminal registry or repository described in section 413(a)(1)(B), an amount that bears the same relationship to such funds as the number of searches of such State criminal registry or repository conducted in accordance with section 413(a)(1)(B) in the State bears to the total number of such searches in all States participating in the program.

(B) **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS.**—In each fiscal year, using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section with respect to the program providing payments to States to assist with child abuse and neglect registry and database searches, the Secretary shall allot to each State participating in such program, through the agency in each such State tasked with administering the State child abuse and neglect registries and databases described in section 413(a)(1)(D), an amount that bears the same relationship to such funds as the number of searches of such child abuse and neglect registries and databases conducted in accordance with such section in the State bears to the total number of such searches in all States participating in the program.

(C) **TRANSITION RULE.**—In the first fiscal year in which funds are made available under this title to carry out this section, the Secretary shall make allotments to each State participating in the programs under this sec-

tion in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B), based on the Secretary's estimate of the number of the searches described in each such subparagraph, respectively, that each of the States are expected to conduct in such fiscal year.

(3) **STATE APPLICATIONS.**—Each State agency described in paragraph (1) desiring an allotment under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include an assurance that the State agency will respond promptly to all requests from the Director, within a reasonable time period determined by the Director, to conduct a search required under section 413 in a timely manner, and a description of how funds will be used to meet such assurance.

SEC. 422. UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS.

(a) **IMMEDIATE ENROLLMENT.**—To be eligible for funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), a local educational agency shall—

(1) ensure that unaccompanied alien children in the area served by the local educational agency are immediately enrolled in school following placement with a sponsor, and any available academic or other records are transferred to such school; and

(2) remove barriers to enrollment and full participation in educational programs and services offered by the local educational agency for unaccompanied alien children (including barriers related to documentation, age, language, and lack of a parent or guardian), which shall include reviewing and revising policies that may have a negative effect on such children.

(b) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to section 403 to carry out this section, the Secretary of Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible local educational agencies, or consortia of neighboring local educational agencies, described in subsection (c) to enable the local educational agencies or consortia to enhance opportunities for, and provide services to, immigrant children and youth, including unaccompanied alien children, in the area served by the local educational agencies or consortia.

(c) **ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A local educational agency, or a consortium of neighboring local educational agencies, is eligible for a grant under subsection (b) if, during the fiscal year for which a grant is awarded under this section, there are 25 or more unaccompanied alien children enrolled in the public schools served by the local educational agency or the consortium, respectively.

(2) **DETERMINATIONS OF NUMBER OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**—The Secretary of Education shall determine the number of unaccompanied alien children for purposes of paragraph (1) based on the most accurate data available that is provided to the Secretary of Education by the Director or the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) **APPLICATIONS.**—A local educational agency, or a consortium of neighboring local educational agencies, desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of Education, which shall include a description of how the grant will be used to enhance opportunities for, and provide services to, immigrant children and youth (including unaccompanied alien children) and their families, provide trauma-informed services and supports (including mental health care services for such children and youth), improve engagement with the sponsors of such children or youth, and provide specialized instructional support services

(which may include hiring specialized instructional support personnel with expertise in providing services to such children and youth).

TITLE V—ENSURING ORDERLY AND HUMAN MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEEKING PROTECTION

Subtitle A—Providing a Fair and Efficient Legal Process for Children and Vulnerable Families Seeking Asylum

SEC. 511. COURT APPEARANCE COMPLIANCE AND LEGAL ORIENTATION.

(a) **ACCESS TO LEGAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMS TO ENSURE COURT APPEARANCE COMPLIANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall establish procedures, consistent with the procedures established pursuant to section 414, to ensure that legal orientation programs are available for all aliens detained by the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) **PROGRAM ELEMENTS.**—Programs under paragraph (1) shall inform aliens described in such paragraph regarding—

(A) the basic procedures of immigration hearings;

(B) their rights and obligations relating to such hearings under Federal immigration laws to ensure appearance at all immigration proceedings;

(C) their rights under Federal immigration laws, including available legal protections and the procedure for requesting such protection;

(D) the consequences of filing frivolous legal claims and of failing to appear for proceedings; and

(E) any other subject that the Attorney General considers appropriate, such as a contact list of potential legal resources and providers.

(3) **ELIGIBILITY.**—An alien shall be given access to legal orientation programs under this subsection regardless of the alien's current immigration status, prior immigration history, or potential for immigration relief.

(b) **PILOT PROJECT FOR NONDETAINED ALIENS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall develop and administer a 2-year pilot program at not fewer than 2 immigration courts to provide nondetained aliens with pending asylum claims access to legal information.

(2) **REPORT.**—At the conclusion of the pilot program under this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that describes the extent to which nondetained aliens are provided with access to counsel.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 512. FAIR DAY IN COURT FOR KIDS.

(a) **APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS; RIGHT TO REVIEW CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.**—Section 240(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “, at no expense to the Government,”; and

(ii) by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

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

“(B) the Attorney General may appoint or provide counsel, at Government expense, to aliens in immigration proceedings;

“(C) the alien, or the alien’s counsel, not later than 7 days after receiving a notice to appear under section 239(a), shall receive a complete copy of the alien’s immigration file (commonly known as an ‘A-file’) in the possession of the Department of Homeland Security (other than documents protected from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code);” and

(D) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking “, and” and inserting “; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) FAILURE TO PROVIDE ALIEN REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.—A removal proceeding may not proceed until the alien, or the alien’s counsel, if the alien is represented—

“(A) has received the documents required under paragraph (4)(C); and

“(B) has been provided at least 10 days to review and assess such documents.”.

(b) CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO APPOINT COUNSEL TO ALIENS IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 292. RIGHT TO COUNSEL.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), in any removal proceeding and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding, the subject of the proceeding shall have the privilege of being represented by such counsel as may be authorized to practice in such proceeding as he or she may choose. This subsection shall not apply to screening proceedings described in section 235(b)(1)(A).

“(b) ACCESS TO COUNSEL FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any removal proceeding and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding, an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act on 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) shall be represented by Government-appointed counsel, at Government expense.

“(2) LENGTH OF REPRESENTATION.—Once a child is designated as an unaccompanied alien child under paragraph (1), the child shall be represented by counsel at every stage of the proceedings from the child’s initial appearance through the termination of immigration proceedings, and any ancillary matters appropriate to such proceedings even if the child attains 18 years of age or is reunified with a parent or legal guardian while the proceedings are pending.

“(3) NOTICE.—Not later than 72 hours after an unaccompanied alien child is taken into Federal custody, the alien shall be notified that he or she will be provided with legal counsel in accordance with this subsection.

“(4) WITHIN DETENTION FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that unaccompanied alien children have access to counsel inside all detention, holding, and border facilities.

“(c) PRO BONO REPRESENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Attorney General shall make every effort to utilize the services of competent counsel who agree to provide representation to such children under subsection (b) without charge.

“(2) DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS.—The Attorney General shall develop the necessary mechanisms to identify counsel available to provide pro bono legal assistance and representation to children under subsection (b) and to recruit such counsel.

“(d) CONTRACTS; GRANTS.—The Attorney General may enter into contracts with, or award grants to, nonprofit agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration-related legal services to children to carry out the responsibilities under this section, including providing legal orientation, screening cases for referral, recruiting, training, and overseeing pro bono attorneys. Nonprofit agencies may enter into subcontracts with, or award grants to, private voluntary agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration related legal services to children in order to carry out this section.

“(e) MODEL GUIDELINES ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES.—The Executive Office for Immigration Review, in consultation with voluntary agencies and national experts, shall develop model guidelines for the legal representation of alien children in immigration proceedings, which shall be based on the children’s asylum guidelines, the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and other relevant domestic or international sources.

“(2) PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES.—The guidelines developed under paragraph (1) shall be designed to help protect each child from any individual suspected of involvement in any criminal, harmful, or exploitative activity associated with the smuggling or trafficking of children, while ensuring the fairness of the removal proceeding in which the child is involved.

“(f) DUTIES OF COUNSEL.—Counsel provided under this section shall—

“(1) represent the unaccompanied alien child in all proceedings and matters relating to the immigration status of the child or other actions involving the Department of Homeland Security;

“(2) appear in person for all individual merits hearings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review and interviews involving the Department of Homeland Security;

“(3) owe the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and competent representation to the child as is due to an adult client; and

“(4) carry out other such duties as may be proscribed by the Attorney General or the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

“(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede—

“(1) any duties, responsibilities, disciplinary, or ethical responsibilities an attorney may have to his or her client under State law;

“(2) the admission requirements under State law; or

“(3) any other State law pertaining to the admission to the practice of law in a particular jurisdiction.”.

(2) RULEMAKING.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to implement section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by paragraph (1), in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 3006A of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 513. ACCESS TO COUNSEL AND LEGAL ORIENTATION AT DETENTION FACILITIES.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide access to counsel for all aliens detained in a facility under the supervision of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Department of Health and Human Services, or in any private facility that contracts with the Federal Government to house, detain, or hold aliens.

SEC. 514. REPORT ON ACCESS TO COUNSEL.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary of Homeland Security,

in consultation with the Attorney General, shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives regarding the extent to which aliens described in section 292(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 512(b), have been provided access to counsel.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (a) shall include, for the immediately preceding 1-year period—

(1) the number and percentage of aliens described in section 292(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 512(b), who were represented by counsel, including information specifying—

(A) the stage of the legal process at which each such alien was represented;

(B) whether the alien was in government custody; and

(C) the nationality and ages of such aliens; and

(2) the number and percentage of aliens who received legal orientation presentations, including the nationality and ages of such aliens.

SEC. 515. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to carry out sections 512 through 514.

(b) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

Subtitle B—Reducing Significant Delays in Immigration Court

SEC. 521. ELIMINATE IMMIGRATION COURT BACKLOGS.

(a) ANNUAL INCREASES IN IMMIGRATION JUDGES.—The Attorney General shall increase the total number of immigration judges to adjudicate pending cases and efficiently process future cases by at least 75 judges during each of the fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

(b) QUALIFICATION; SELECTION.—The Attorney General shall—

(1) ensure that all newly hired immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals members are highly qualified and trained to conduct fair, impartial adjudications in accordance with applicable due process requirements; and

(2) in selecting immigration judges, may not give any preference to candidates with prior government experience compared to equivalent subject-matter expertise resulting from nonprofit, private bar, or academic experience.

(c) NECESSARY SUPPORT STAFF FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES.—To address the shortage of support staff for immigration judges, the Attorney General shall ensure that each immigration judge has sufficient support staff, adequate technological and security resources, and appropriate courtroom facilities.

(d) ANNUAL INCREASES IN BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS PERSONNEL.—The Attorney General shall increase the number of Board of Immigration Appeals staff attorneys (including necessary additional support staff) to efficiently process cases by at least—

(1) 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2019;

(2) an additional 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2020; and

(3) an additional 23 attorneys during fiscal year 2021.

(e) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study of the hurdles to efficient hiring of immigration court judges within the Department of Justice; and

(2) propose solutions to Congress for improving the efficiency of the hiring process.

SEC. 522. IMPROVED TRAINING FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To ensure efficient and fair proceedings, the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall facilitate robust training programs for immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

(b) MANDATORY TRAINING.—Training facilitated under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) expanding the training program for new immigration judges and Board members;

(2) continuing education regarding current developments in immigration law through regularly available training resources and an annual conference; and

(3) methods to ensure that immigration judges are trained on properly crafting and dictating decisions and standards of review, including improved on-bench reference materials and decision templates.

SEC. 523. NEW TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE COURT EFFICIENCY.

The Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review will modernize its case management and related electronic systems, including allowing for electronic filing, to improve efficiency in the processing of immigration proceedings.

Subtitle C—Reducing the Likelihood of Repeated Migration to the United States

SEC. 531. ESTABLISHING REINTEGRATION AND MONITORING SERVICES FOR REPATRIATING CHILDREN.

(a) CONSULTATION WITH UNHCR.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of State shall consult with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as the “UNHCR”), Central American governments, and nongovernmental organizations with expertise in child welfare and unaccompanied migrant children to develop a child-centered repatriation process for unaccompanied children being returned to their country of origin that requires a determination of the best interest of the child before the child is repatriated to his or her country of origin.

(b) COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall collaborate with regional governments and international and domestic nongovernmental organizations to reduce children's need to emigrate again by—

(1) establishing and expanding comprehensive long-term reintegration services at the municipal level for repatriated unaccompanied children once returned to their communities of origin;

(2) establishing monitoring and verification services to determine the well-being of repatriated children in order to determine if United States protection and screening functioned effectively in identifying persecuted and trafficked children;

(3) providing emergency referrals to the UNHCR for registration and safe passage to an established emergency transit center for refugees for any repatriated children who are facing immediate risk of harm; and

(4) ensuring that international and domestic civil society organizations with expertise in child welfare, unaccompanied migrant

children, and international protection needs have access to government-run reception centers for repatriated children—

(A) to identify children with protection needs; and

(B) to offer child services following their return to their communities.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 1453. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide adjustment assistance to farmers adversely affected by reduced exports resulting from tariffs imposed as retaliation for United States tariff increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I rise because I am deeply concerned about what is happening across the country to our farmers as a result of the President's trade war with China.

Let me first say, I agree with the President 100 percent that we need fair trade deals and that we have to make sure American workers and consumers are not being taken for a ride by other countries, especially rogue countries and bad actors like China. Yet, since this trade war began last year, these tariffs are having the complete opposite effect on the people they are supposed to help. That is because tariffs are taxes, plain and simple. Tariffs are taxes, and they are being raised every day by the administration.

The President insists that tariffs force China to pay money to the U.S. Treasury, which is just not true. It is just not factually accurate at all. It is also misleading to the American people. When a tariff is placed on a Chinese good, it is the American company that is importing that product, in addition to the American consumer who ultimately buys it, that pays that additional price. It is just like adding a sales tax to any consumer good or to any commodity on which a tariff has been levied. From businesses to farmers, to consumers, these taxes are being paid for by Americans. That is not politics; that is economics.

The President thinks these tariffs will somehow punish China for its bad behavior, but it is our people who are suffering right now. Last week, we saw a report that showed that the cost of these tariffs had fallen entirely on U.S. businesses and on U.S. households. Just yesterday, China announced it is planning on retaliating, once again, with increased tariffs on \$60 billion worth of American-made goods, which sent the stock market into a tailspin.

Unemployment is incredibly low today, and the economy is doing well today, but across the country, there are so many people who don't always feel the effects of that booming economy. Yes, they have jobs, but they also have families, healthcare costs, and other costs, so they don't always feel the economy is doing as well for them as it is for others whom they see on the news, on TV, and in Washington, DC. Working folks aren't going to feel the true benefits from this economic growth and from the tax cuts of 2017 if

they are paying higher taxes on the products they are buying every single day.

Just yesterday, the President was talking about the tariffs and feeling a little bit of pain but about how great a deal this is going to be and how our government will be happy. The President said: “[O]ur government is happy because we're taking in tens of billions of dollars.” Yet that money is being brought into the Treasury on the backs of working people—hard-working American taxpayers. It is not the Chinese companies; it is not the Chinese people; it is not the Mexican people; and it is not the Canadian people. It is the American public that is paying that money into the U.S. Treasury.

Tariffs are taxes, and we are all going to pay because of this trade war. Call them whatever you want, but that is the effect they are going to have on the wallets of American taxpayers. Even the President's own economic advisers admitted this week that it will be the Americans who will suffer as a result of this trade war, with the increased taxes being placed on them every day through the consumer goods they are purchasing.

In Alabama, our farmers, in particular, are hurting, and that is an understatement. Tariffs are affecting a cross-section of our manufacturing workforce. It has our automobile dealers concerned because of the threat of foreign automobile tariffs. Yet, even in the best of times, it is the farmers who are at the most risk. Farming is a risky business, and their margins are very tight. Many farmers in Alabama have already suffered devastating losses from natural disasters, like Hurricane Michael. Quite frankly, they are suffering another congressional disaster right now—in the words of my colleague and friend Senator ISAKSON from Georgia—because we can't put politics aside quickly enough to get disaster aid to farmers in the South, to folks who have suffered from flooding, or to folks who have suffered from wildfires. We can't do this because of politics, so now they are suffering. The farmers whom I visited back in South Alabama after Hurricane Michael are suffering now from the congressional disaster.

The last thing in the world they need is another administration disaster that is being manufactured because of the Chinese tariffs on their crops. In particular, soybeans are being hit. Soybean farming supports more than 11,000 jobs in Alabama, but soybean prices are at the lowest they have been in a decade. You can see from this chart how they started up. It was over \$10 just in April of 2018—over \$10. Now it is just above \$8, and it is continuing to slide. The longer this goes on, the more it hurts.

Cotton farmers have been hit. Cotton has had an almost 25-percent reduction in the market price since these tariffs took effect. We have record low unemployment in the country right now; yet

we have a growing number of bankruptcies in farm country. I was looking at reports just today that showed the rise in the number of bankruptcies, the point being that these are hitting people now.

We all want a great deal. We all want to make sure the President gets a good deal for the American public, for the American consumer, but this is hurting people right now, and they will not be able to recover if this does not end soon. Unless the President can reach a deal soon, we can expect prices to continue to deteriorate and for the economic conditions in farm country to get even worse, which will put in jeopardy generations of farmers who may get run out of business.

This is a dire situation. I am not trying to just light fire somewhere. This is really serious for these folks. You only have to watch the news every day. These are people who have supported the President of the United States and who voted for the President of the United States. They want a good deal, and they want a fair deal, but this has been going on for a long time, and there does not seem to be any end in sight. Many of my State's farmers—probably most of my State's farmers—support the President, as do others around the country. They have had his back over the last 2 or 3 years, even during the campaign. Yet, in return, these trade policies have taken money out of their pockets.

When this first started over a year ago, they believed they would get a good deal soon. They believed they could get crops in the field, that they could get their loans paid, and that they could recover from the disasters that had hit them, but it has just dragged on and on. Every time we see a new round of tweets or a new press conference, we talk about what a great deal this is going to be. Yet, when you look behind the curtain, everything is different, and the trade war goes on and on and on.

I fear he is not listening to these farmers or to the Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle—like our Finance chairman—who are telling him that these policies are hurting farmers, that they are devastating farmers. I am not sure how much longer they can hang on in this trade war. Many will. Many can hang on. Yet others cannot. Whether the next generation of farmers will take up the mantle of farming remains to be seen.

This is one reason I am introducing a bill today to update the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, which was originally created by my colleague Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, a Republican from Iowa, to provide help for farmers and producers who have been hurt by these retaliatory tariffs. TAA was originally created to help provide assistance to workers who were impacted by trade, but it was updated in 2002 to include assistance to growers, producers, and fishermen. This bill that I introduce today, as well as a com-

panion bill that has been introduced in the House, would, once again, update the program to help folks who are hurting because of trade actions that have been carried out by our government—not by another government but by ours.

Look, the fact is, no matter how many legislative stopgaps my colleagues and I propose or bailouts the President offers, the massive losses from which farmers and producers suffer are not going to end until the President calls off this trade war.

We all want better trade deals, and farmers want access to global markets. China has, without a doubt, been a bad actor on many trade issues—a rogue country on trade issues. We should be working with our allies in Europe and elsewhere to hold China accountable. Instead, the administration has decided to go it alone. We are picking fights with friends over our own trade issues with them rather than working through diplomacy to try to work those deals. We are picking fights with them, and we are going it alone against China when we so desperately need our friends to help us. China is a growing concern around the world, and we need global partners to help us with our trade issues to try to make sure the global economy stays stable.

I will be absolutely thrilled if the President of the United States negotiates a great deal. I hope he negotiates the best deal ever—the one that he says he is going to negotiate. I hope and pray we get that great deal and that we can do a trade deal with China that is fair and better for America than it has ever been in the history of this country. For all of our sakes, I hope it happens. I really do. This is not a partisan issue. This is about where we are as a country. I hope for the best for him, but, right now, these tariffs are having the opposite effect, and it is hurting so many people.

What many of us fear is going to happen in the cynical world we live in today—and we all get caught up in it, including Members of this body—is that when the President finally wakes up and realizes he has done irreparable harm and irreparable damage to so many of his own supporters with these tariffs and when he wakes up and approaches 2020 and understands that his support may be eroding among those who form the core backbone of his support, he will scramble to make a deal regardless of whether it will be a good deal or not but a deal nonetheless and regardless of whether America will come out on top.

When all is said and done, we can claim victory, but it may be a very hollow victory because, in going forward, we may have a little bit better deal or we may have a much better deal, but it will not change what is happening today or what has happened over the last year. Even if a deal is struck, we have already lost.

Farmers will still have to be digging themselves out of this financial hole

for a very long time. Many will have to declare bankruptcy and lose their farms because they couldn't wait out the President's trade gamble and his tough talk.

To mitigate the tariffs' harmful impacts, the administration is providing some aid to help farmers who are struggling as a result of the trade war. They did so last year, and they need it, but those government bailouts—and that is what they are, they are bailouts—are being paid by other American taxpayers in order to alleviate the pain inflicted by the administration's policies.

That is right. Working families across the country are being asked to step up. We do those things. We are charitable people. If somebody is in pain, we want to do that and help, but when the pain is being caused by the very person who is causing us to then step up, that makes no sense.

Folks, these handouts will not come close to making up for the losses these farmers have suffered, and it is sure not a long-term solution for a healthy trade market.

The biggest problem for these farmers is that they don't want handouts. They don't want government subsidies. They don't want handouts to them for the problems they are facing because of these trade policies. They want their markets. They want to go to China. They want to go to places around the world and share their products. They are proud of their products. We should be proud of those products.

We should not be just simply telling farmers: Do not worry because we will pay for you to grow your product. We are not worried about your markets because we will buy your soybeans. We will buy the cotton. We will buy those things if China doesn't do it. That is not what these farmers want. They don't want that charity. They want their markets. They work hard for those markets.

So how much more can our farmers take? How much more? How long can they go on like this? At what point will they be forced to cut their losses and find another way to support their families while we negotiate with China, while we tweet the fact that a good deal is coming?

At what point will Members of this body and the House of Representatives who ignore the math and the suffering of their constituents—at what point will those in this body and the House of Representatives who ignore the suffering of their constituents by supporting these harmful trade policies, at what point do they stand up?

There are so many people I have talked to who do not support these trade policies, but yet they are silent, and they say: Give the President time. He is going to get a good deal.

At what point does it come where they recognize the suffering of the farmers of the United States and my State of Alabama? At what point do they finally stand up and say enough is enough?

Over the years, the Congress of the United States has ceded a lot of authority to the executive branch of government, and now it is coming home to roost. We can't do much of anything except give speeches like this. We can try to introduce bills that probably will never get to the Senate floor. We can go home and listen to the pain, listen to the suffering, listen to people who so badly want to support the President and what he is doing, as all of us do for these new trade deals, but the fact is, we have ceded so much power to the executive branch of government. It is time for Congress to stand up. It is time for people to speak out to help their farmers, to let the administration know that this cannot go on much longer. We have to stand up and stop this pain as quickly as we can.

We can do it. The President can do it. He has smart people surrounding him. They need to explain to him again that these tariffs are being paid by the American people, not another country. Let's get this negotiated, and let's stop the bleeding for the American farmer as soon as we possibly can.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1469. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering in elections with agents of a foreign government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Prevent Foreign Interference with Elections Act of 2019. This bill provides enhanced criminal penalties and additional safeguards to prevent foreign interference in our elections.

To be clear, there are already laws on the books to prosecute those who interfere in U.S. elections. Indeed, Special Counsel Mueller charged Russian intelligence officers who hacked into U.S. computers and stole documents, for the purpose of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections.

Special Counsel Mueller also charged the Russian Internet Research Agency and several of its employees for their role in the social media campaign that was designed to manipulate American voters.

This bill, however, makes election interference a separate criminal offense. It makes clear that those who conspire with foreign actors to interfere in U.S. elections will be punished appropriately for striking at the bedrock of our democracy.

This bill does five main things.

First, it explicitly makes it a crime to conspire with foreign nationals to interfere in U.S. elections.

Interference can be accomplished through breaking a federal criminal law, such as committing fraud, or by hacking into someone's computer, or by violating federal, state, or local election laws.

As I mentioned, this bill simply leaves no doubt that working with a foreign actor to commit these offenses with the goal of interfering in a U.S. election is a crime.

And it requires that those who break this law will be sentenced separately, and in addition to any other laws that were broken.

Second, it makes it so that people convicted of interfering in our elections would be inadmissible into the United States.

There is, however, an important exception. Those who cooperate with law enforcement to help catch those responsible for interference would be eligible for an S visa.

Third, it creates a civil action, allowing the Attorney General to immediately address foreign interference once U.S. law enforcement learns of it.

This is important because foreign interference can then be stopped as soon as it is discovered.

Fourth, it prohibits foreign-financed elections ads, including foreign-financed issue ads and foreign-financed digital ads.

These expansions will help protect the integrity of our electoral process.

Fifth and finally, it prohibits providing "substantial assistance" to foreign nationals trying to interfere in our elections.

It is important that we also hold ourselves accountable by not providing aid to those wishing to do us harm.

To be clear, there was foreign interference in the 2016 Presidential election.

The Intelligence Community unanimously concluded that the Russian government interfered by "blend[ing] covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or 'trolls.'" After a nearly two-year investigation, Special Counsel Mueller confirmed these core conclusions.

Along the way, his office indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers in connection with Russian hacking operations and three companies, including the Internet Research Agency and 13 of its employees for their role in the social media campaign to influence American voters.

Unless we do something, this interference will happen again. And to stop it, we need to not only make clear that interference will result in criminal punishment, we must also update our election laws so that they can combat these new cyber-attacks. This bill does both.

I am introducing this bill today with strong Democratic support, and I would particularly like to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for his leadership on this issue.

It is my sincere hope, however, that my Republican colleagues will join us in this important effort as well.

The issue I speak about today is one that goes to the core of our democracy.

It is a bi-partisan issue that I hope both Democrats and Republicans can join in addressing.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 205—EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE SENATE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO OPERATE OR SUPPORT DIAPER BANKS AND DIAPER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 205

Whereas the lack of a sufficient clean diaper supply can adversely affect the physical, mental, and economic well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas diapers are a material basic need of every infant and toddler;

Whereas an infant requires up to 12 diapers per day, at a cost of \$70 to \$80 per month;

Whereas low-wage families and families living in poverty often rely on community donations for diapers;

Whereas addressing diaper need in local communities can improve health conditions and economic opportunities for infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas many families delay changing a diaper to extend their diaper supply, thereby increasing the incidence of diaper dermatitis, urinary tract infections, and other health ailments;

Whereas families displaced by natural disasters experience an acute need for diapers, particularly as diapers are not consistently provided through relief efforts;

Whereas diapers provided by diaper banks and volunteer distribution projects amplify the impact of resources deployed by larger disaster relief organizations;

Whereas, in September 2011, the National Diaper Bank Network was created to support children and their families and to raise awareness of diaper need among the general public;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 diapers were distributed along the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma by nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network;

Whereas the National Diaper Bank Network coordinates ongoing diaper supply efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the California wildfires, and the Midwestern floods; and

Whereas, during 2017, the more than 300 nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network distributed more than 64,000,000 donated diapers, helping ensure that each month more than 225,000 children in need received diapers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities;

(2) supports the important efforts made by diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in response to natural disasters; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to address diaper need by donating generously to diaper banks, diaper pantries, diaper drives, and organizations that distribute diapers to families in need.

SENATE RESOLUTION 206—MARKING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW ON CONTEMPORARY BATTLEFIELDS, AND ENCOURAGING UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN ENSURING GREATER RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN CURRENT CONFLICTS, PARTICULARLY WITH ITS SECURITY PARTNERS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 206

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, along with their Additional Protocols, are the foundation of international humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the law of armed conflict, the body of law that seeks to ensure wars have limits;

Whereas 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and serves as a reminder of the importance and continued relevance of IHL in a world with proliferating and protracted armed conflicts, unprecedented displacement, and immense suffering;

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 reflect more than just law; they reflect the universal recognition that wars must be fought humanely;

Whereas, at its core, IHL sets out a fundamental obligation that people, even in times of armed conflict, must be treated with humanity;

Whereas IHL requires all parties to armed conflicts, whether states or non-state armed groups, to comply with rules and basic principles that seek to preserve the lives and dignity of human beings, such as that: civilians and civilian objects must not be targeted; hospitals and medical personnel must be respected and must not be attacked; no one shall be subjected to torture or other forms of ill treatment; and rape and other forms of sexual violence are prohibited;

Whereas today's conflicts are marred by significant violations of IHL, the effects of which are apparent across armed conflicts, from restrictions on humanitarian access contributing to the world's worst cholera outbreak in Yemen, to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, in addition to attacks against civilians, and attacks on medical personnel and health facilities; to the Islamic State's use of civilians as human shields; to widespread killings, sexual violence, and forced displacement in countries such as Nigeria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and elsewhere;

Whereas people detained in armed conflict, including prisoners of war (POWs), often suffer torture, abuse, and inhumane living conditions, such as insufficient food, water, and health services;

Whereas, while many states have taken significant steps to ensure humane treat-

ment of detainees, and adequate living conditions, many others still fail to comply with basic standards of treatment and care as required by IHL;

Whereas, as mandated by the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plays a vital role in visiting detainees in situations of armed conflict with a view to preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, preventing disappearances, improving overall detention conditions, maintaining family contacts, and promoting judicial guarantees;

Whereas the United States has an expressed preference for pursuing its military objectives "by, with, and through" its security partners in some parts of the world, but state militaries and non-state armed groups with which the United States partners may lack sufficient commitment to IHL principles or capabilities to conduct their operations in a manner that effectively minimizes civilian harm;

Whereas it is essential, as a critical component of its policies and diplomatic relations, that the United States affirms its commitment to not only respect the rules of IHL but to ensure respect by its partners and adopt policies conditioning its security assistance in this regard;

Whereas, as the nature of warfare changes, IHL remains relevant to ensure wars are fought with limits;

Whereas IHL was created to respond to new developments and domains in warfare, such as cyber operations, and new challenges do not undermine the importance or relevance of IHL, but rather call for affirming, applying, and ensuring compliance with IHL;

Whereas sweeping counterterrorism measures and country-based sanctions have sometimes impeded neutral, impartial lifesaving humanitarian action in countries like Somalia and Syria;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of implementing and upholding IHL, not just as a matter of legal obligation but also because respect for human life and protecting the vulnerable reflects the best traditions of a professional military force;

Whereas United States senior military leadership often publicly recognizes that minimizing civilian harm is central to mission effectiveness and therefore serves the United States national security interests; and

Whereas, as long as armed conflict remains a reality, there must also be a limit to suffering, and IHL, as outlined 70 years ago in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, sets out these limits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) upon the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) remains critical to upholding humanity in war, protecting people affected by war, and preventing suffering;

(2) the Executive branch and Congress must ensure that the United States Government, as the largest donor of lifesaving humanitarian aid—

(A) does not employ counterterrorism measures or other sanctions that unduly impede lifesaving humanitarian action and thereby jeopardize vulnerable people's access to resources critical to their survival; and

(B) upholds the longstanding United States commitment to supporting principled humanitarian action; and

(3) the United States must continue to be a global leader in promoting and ensuring compliance with IHL by upholding high standards of conduct within the United States Armed Forces, taking stronger measures to ensure compliance with IHL by United States security partners, holding per-

petrators of violations of IHL accountable, and seeking compliance with IHL by all parties to armed conflict.

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—CONGRATULATING THE SENATE GLASS CAUCUS STAFF ASSOCIATION FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER SENATE STAFF ON THE 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, on April 23, 2004, several Senate staffers joined to form a first-of-its-kind staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (referred to in this preamble as "LGBT") Senate staff and the allies of LGBT Senate staff;

Whereas that staff association, known as the Gay, Lesbian, Allies Senate Staff Caucus, and commonly referred to as the "Senate GLASS Caucus", continues to serve the Senate community by raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBT community;

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus continues to promote the welfare and dignity of LGBT Senate employees;

Whereas, for the first time in the 15-year history of the Senate Glass Caucus, the Senate GLASS Caucus celebrates the fact that 2 openly LGBT Members are serving simultaneously in the Senate; and

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus strives to provide a safe environment for social interaction and professional development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the association;

(2) commends the late Senator Frank Ra-
leigh Lautenberg of New Jersey for—

(A) the critical role that Senator Lautenberg played in the formation of the Senate GLASS Caucus; and

(B) the steadfast support of Senator Lautenberg for equality; and

(3) recognizes the members of the inaugural Senate GLASS Caucus Steering Committee for the vision and hard work of those members in establishing the Senate GLASS Caucus, including—

- (A) Lynden Armstrong;
- (B) Brett Bearce;
- (C) Josh Brekenfeld;
- (D) John Fossum;
- (E) Jason Knapp;
- (F) Jeffrey Levensaler;
- (G) Kelsey Phipps; and
- (H) Mat Young.

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY AS "AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH"

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 208

Whereas cut flower growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and greens grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend almost \$27,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, nearly 30 percent of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and greens from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the “Certified American Grown Flowers” logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers from domestic producers;

Whereas, as of April 2017, millions of stems of domestically grown flowers are now “Certified American Grown”;

Whereas domestic flower farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, and larkspur in Texas;

Whereas the five flower varieties produced in the largest quantities in the United States are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolas, and irises;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers, yet only one in five flowers sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower industry creates almost \$42,000,000 in economic impact daily and supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas more people in the United States are expressing interest in growing flowers locally, which has resulted in an increase of approximately 20 percent in the number of domestic cut flower farms between 2007 and 2012;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and greens are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother’s Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine’s Day;

Whereas flowers are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers in the United States by domestic flower farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July as “American Grown Flower Month”;

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and greens in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and greens grown in the United States in order to show support for the flower farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States as well as agriculture in the United States overall.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2019, AS “NATIONAL POLICE WEEK”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BURR, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. JONES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. REED, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 209

Whereas Federal, State, local, and Tribal police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers across the United States serve with valor, dignity, and integrity;

Whereas law enforcement officers are charged with—

(1) pursuing justice for all individuals; and
(2) performing the duties of a law enforcement officer with fidelity to the constitutional and civil rights of the public the officers serve;

Whereas law enforcement officers swear an oath to uphold the public trust even though, through the performance of the duties of a law enforcement officer, the officers may become targets for senseless acts of violence;

Whereas, in 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 (36 U.S.C. 136) (referred to in this preamble as the “Joint Resolution”), which authorizes the President to proclaim May 15 of every year as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of the Federal, State, and local officers who have been killed, disabled, or otherwise injured in the line of duty;

Whereas the Joint Resolution also authorizes the President to designate the week in which Peace Officers Memorial Day falls as National Police Week;

Whereas the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, dedicated on October 15, 1991, is the national monument to honor those law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty;

Whereas the 38th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service honors the 159 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2018, including—

- (1) William H. Allee;
- (2) Michael J. Anson;
- (3) Christopher T. Bacon;
- (4) Daniel S. Baker;
- (5) Thomas J. Barnitt;
- (6) Mark J. Baserman;
- (7) Paul R. Bauer;
- (8) Steven Belanger;
- (9) Benton H. Bertram;
- (10) Justin T. Billa;
- (11) Edward R. Bollman;
- (12) John J. Brant;
- (13) William H. Briggs;
- (14) Jermaine T. Brown;
- (15) Samuel N. Bullard;
- (16) Lonnie V. Burton;
- (17) Amy S. Caprio;
- (18) Terrence F. Carraway;
- (19) Gregory Casillas V;
- (20) Michael C. Chesna;
- (21) Anthony L. Christie;
- (22) Nicholas F. Clark;
- (23) Eugene P. Cole;
- (24) Timothy D. Cole, Sr.;
- (25) Jarate D. Condit;
- (26) Kevin K. Conner;
- (27) Jesus M. Cordova;
- (28) Thomas M. Coulter;
- (29) Mark A. Cox;
- (30) Brian L. Crews;
- (31) Kevin F. Crossley;
- (32) Brian S. Cuscino;
- (33) Glenn A. Doss;
- (34) Micheal R. Doty;
- (35) Christopher J. Driver;
- (36) Keith O. Earle;
- (37) Tyler J. Edenhofer;
- (38) Hunter A. Edwards;
- (39) Kyle L. Eng;
- (40) Timothy A. Ensley;
- (41) Pedro Esponda, Jr.;
- (42) William P. Farley;
- (43) Micah L. Flick;
- (44) Edgar Flores;
- (45) Jeffrey W. Francis;
- (46) Jared W. Franks;
- (47) Jarrod K. Friddle;
- (48) Mark S. Gado;
- (49) Sean M. Gannon;
- (50) Conrad C. Gary;
- (51) William J. Gentry, Jr.;
- (52) Earl J. Givens III;
- (53) Joseph B. Gomm;
- (54) Walter Greene, Jr.;
- (55) Kirk A. Griess;
- (56) Heath M. Gumm;
- (57) Richard W. Hale;
- (58) Dale S. Hallman;
- (59) Scotty Hamilton;
- (60) Ron L. Helus;
- (61) Christopher D. Hill;
- (62) Tony Hinojosa III;
- (63) Toshio Hirai;
- (64) Garrett W. Hull;
- (65) Jerry L. Hurd, Jr.;
- (66) Charles G. Irvine, Jr.;

(67) Samuel Jimenez;
 (68) Raymond B. Jimmerson;
 (69) Adam E. Jobbers-Miller;
 (70) Eric J. Joering;
 (71) Bronson K. Kaliloa;
 (72) Theresa S. King;
 (73) James L. Kirk, Jr.;
 (74) Gary L. Koch;
 (75) Robert K. Kunze III;
 (76) Christopher M. Lawton;
 (77) Andres Laza-Caraballo;
 (78) Michael L. Ledek;
 (79) David J. LeValley;
 (80) Taylor F. Lindsey;
 (81) Alexis T.E. Locklear;
 (82) Richard Lopez;
 (83) Chase L. Maddox;
 (84) David Manning;
 (85) Tawanna V. Marin;
 (86) Eduardo Marmolejo;
 (87) Larry E. Marrero;
 (88) Mathew J. Mazany;
 (89) Dennis P. McCarthy;
 (90) Daniel A. McCartney;
 (91) Francis A. McClelland, Jr.;
 (92) Phillip L. Meacham;
 (93) Deidre I. Mengedoh;
 (94) Michael J. Michalski;
 (95) Kevin M. Miller;
 (96) W. Zachery M. Moak;
 (97) Anthony P. Morelli;
 (98) Diego Moreno;
 (99) Matthew T. Moreno;
 (100) Emmett P. Morris;
 (101) Melissa S. Morrow;
 (102) Christopher R. Morton;
 (103) Stephen J. Mullen;
 (104) Paul Murphy;
 (105) Robert E. Nagle;
 (106) Mark J. Natale;
 (107) Vu X. Nguyen;
 (108) Kathleen O'Connor-Funigiello;
 (109) Joel A. Pantojas Fuentes;
 (110) Joseph M. Parise;
 (111) Jacob M. Pickett;
 (112) Robert S. Pitts;
 (113) Jason B. Quick;
 (114) P. Scott Ragsdale;
 (115) Noel Ramirez-Beltran, Jr.;
 (116) Mujahid A.M. Ramziddin;
 (117) Dennis W. Reichardt;
 (118) Nole E. Remagen;
 (119) Oscar A. Reyes;
 (120) Kirt R. Ricks III;
 (121) Christopher Robateau;
 (122) Aaron P. Roberts;
 (123) Patrick T. Rohrer;
 (124) David P. Romrell;
 (125) Alex I. Sable;
 (126) Charles R. Salaway;
 (127) Rogelio Santander, Jr.;
 (128) Jason M. Seals;
 (129) David C. Sherrard;
 (130) Casey L. Shoemate;
 (131) Fadi M. Shukur;
 (132) Basilio A. Simons;
 (133) Leann Simpson;
 (134) Ronil Singh;
 (135) Michael W. Smith;
 (136) Rodney S. Smith;
 (137) Kevin J. Stanton;
 (138) Mark V. Stasyuk;
 (139) Kent D. Swanson;
 (140) Sally A. Thompson;
 (141) David A. Tinsley;
 (142) Antwan D. Toney;
 (143) Farrah B.G. Turner;
 (144) Harry Valentin;
 (145) Loren Y. Vasquez;
 (146) Dennis B. Vincent;
 (147) Benjamin D. Wallace;
 (148) William H. Wanser;
 (149) Darren M. Weathers;
 (150) Lance C. Whitaker;
 (151) Chase S. White;
 (152) James K. White;
 (153) Charles M. Whites, Jr.;
 (154) Ayrian M. Williams;

(155) Malcus Williams II;
 (156) Tamby Yagan;
 (157) Kristopher D. Youngberg;
 (158) Benjamin L. Zirbel; and
 (159) Ryan D. Zirkle; and

Whereas, since the beginning of 2019, 41 law enforcement officers from across the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, as “National Police Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for law enforcement officers across the United States in the efforts that those officers undertake to build safer and more secure communities;

(3) recognizes the need to ensure that law enforcement officers have the equipment, training, and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the officers while the officers are protecting the public;

(4) recognizes the law enforcement community for the continual selfless acts of sacrifice and bravery carried out by the members of that community;

(5) acknowledges that police officers and other law enforcement personnel, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, should be remembered and honored;

(6) expresses condolences to the loved ones of each law enforcement officer who has made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and

(7) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Police Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the vital role that law enforcement officers perform in service to the United States and the communities in which those officers serve.

SENATE RESOLUTION 210—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 15, 2019, AS “NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FRAUDULENT SCHEMES TARGETING SENIORS IN THE UNITED STATES, TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO PREVENT THOSE SCHEMES, AND TO IMPROVE PROTECTIONS FROM THOSE SCHEMES FOR SENIORS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 210

Whereas, in 2035, there will be an estimated 78,000,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United States (referred to in this preamble as “seniors”), compared to an estimated 76,700,000 individuals under the age of 18;

Whereas senior fraud is a growing concern as millions of seniors in the United States are targeted by scams each year, including Internal Revenue Service impersonation scams, identify theft or identity fraud involving Social Security benefits and other identity theft, sweepstakes and lottery scams, grandparent scams, computer tech support scams, romance scams, work-at-home scams, charity scams, home improvement scams, and fraudulent investment schemes;

Whereas other types of fraud perpetrated against seniors include health care fraud, health insurance fraud, counterfeit prescription drug fraud, funeral and cemetery fraud,

“anti-aging” product fraud, telemarketing fraud, and internet fraud;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has estimated that seniors lose a staggering \$2,900,000,000 each year to an ever-growing array of financial exploitation schemes and scams;

Whereas, since 2013, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 8,200 complaints reporting possible scams from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the ease with which criminals contact seniors through the internet and telephone increases as more creative schemes emerge;

Whereas, according to the Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2018, released by the Federal Trade Commission, people age 60 or older were defrauded of approximately \$391,000,000 in 2018, with the median loss to defrauded victims age 80 or older averaging \$1,700 per person, more than double the average amount lost by victims between the ages of 50 and 59;

Whereas senior fraud is underreported by victims due to embarrassment and lack of information about where to report fraud; and

Whereas May 15, 2019, is an appropriate day to establish as “National Senior Fraud Awareness Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 15, 2019, as “National Senior Fraud Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes National Senior Fraud Awareness Day as an opportunity to raise awareness about the barrage of scams that individuals age 65 or older in the United States (referred to in this resolution as “seniors”) face in person, by mail, on the phone, and online;

(3) recognizes that law enforcement, consumer protection groups, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in preventing scams targeting seniors and educating seniors about those scams;

(4) encourages implementation of policies to prevent scams targeting seniors and to improve measures to protect seniors from those scams; and

(5) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against scams targeting seniors.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at time coinciding with votes, to conduct a business meeting.

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, May 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 10:15 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, May 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION AND SPACE

The Subcommittee on Aviation and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy, and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Yu and Laura Cannon, who are legislative fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 986 AND H.R. 2157

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 986) to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect.

A bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 209, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) designating the week of May 12 through May 18, 2019, as "National Police Week."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 15, 2019, AS "NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 210, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) supporting the designation of May 15, 2019, as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Day" to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent schemes targeting seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those schemes, and to improve protections from those schemes for seniors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 210) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

REAUTHORIZING THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 82, S. 1231.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1231) to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 1231

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

SECTION 1. BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

[(a)] IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(23)) is amended by striking "part Y" and all that follows and inserting "part Y, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter."

[(b) PROGRAM NAME.—Part Y of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10531 et seq.) is amended by inserting before section 2501 the following:

["SEC. 2500. PATRICK LEAHY BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

["The program under this part shall be known as the 'Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program'."]]

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments 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 amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 1231), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1231

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

SECTION 1. BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(23)) is amended by striking "part Y" and all that follows and inserting "part Y, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter."

(b) PROGRAM NAME.—Part Y of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10531 et seq.) is amended by inserting before section 2501 the following:

["SEC. 2500. PATRICK LEAHY BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

["The program under this part shall be known as the 'Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program'."]]

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

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

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 15; 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 Lee nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 our Democratic colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

NOMINATION OF WENDY VITTER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, later this week, Wendy Vitter will receive a vote on her nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Once our votes are cast, she almost certainly will be confirmed by a slim margin on largely partisan lines, and she will join the Federal judiciary for a lifetime tenure. My hope is that my Republican colleagues will think again and that some of them will demonstrate some conscience and conviction based on principles that I think are more important than any single district court judge and indeed more important than any of us individually, because Ms. Vitter will never again face public accountability for her fitness, her moral character, and her fidelity to the bedrock norms of our time. She will be insulated from all political process.

That is what we afford our judiciary. It is the right thing to do. They ought to be, in effect, guardians of the Constitution with lifetime appointments that protect them from political vindictiveness or revenge. But that independence must be earned. It is earned by vetting through a public confirmation process. The Founders placed that responsibility in this body with us, and for nearly a century, these confirmation hearings have helped the American public judge our would-be judges and weed out our wildly radical or unfit nominees. The confirmation process is a vetting that includes a hearing and then a committee vote and then a vote here in the Senate.

On the most basic principles of the confirmation process, Ms. Vitter fails to pass muster. She failed to produce more than 100 speeches, interviews, and press articles to the Senate Judiciary Committee for review. She defiantly declined to answer my question on one of the baseline notions of constitutional liberty—the correctness of the

Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I ask these questions to every nominee when they appear because I believe it is unquestionably an important reason for considering whether to vote for these nominees—their beliefs as to whether *Brown v. Board of Education* and other well-established precedents are indeed correctly decided.

This iconic ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court is special even among those well-established decisions. Anyone who fails to endorse such a sacrosanct decision is clearly out of the legal and societal mainstream and unworthy of confirmation.

When I asked Ms. Vitter if she thought *Brown v. Board* was correctly decided, here is how she responded:

I don't mean to be coy, but I think I can get into a difficult, difficult area when I start commenting on Supreme Court decisions which are correctly decided and which I may disagree with. Again, my personal, political, or religious views I would set aside. That is Supreme Court precedent.

I was stunned by her answer. I am still stunned to read it back. I am tempted to read it again out of disbelief. *Brown* is woven into the fabric of our Nation. How could anyone suggest disagreeing with *Brown*, as she did, and then say: Well, even though I disagree with *Brown v. Board of Education*, I would follow it. That answer says something very profound about the person giving it.

In 2019, the only reasonable answer to my question—“Do you think *Brown v. Board of Education* was correctly decided?”—is a resounding yes. *Brown* is about more than just its historic ruling; a separate but equal school is inherently unequal and unconstitutional. A segregated school, even if it is called equal, is inherently unequal. That is *Brown*. It is about core values and principles deeply embedded in the constitutional consensus that binds and bonds our constitutional democracy. It is about more than just the words on paper; it is about our values and our principles, what holds us together as a nation.

When nominees like Ms. Vitter refuse to say that a seminal case like *Brown* was correctly decided and instead merely says that it is precedent, that it is a binding decision, what they are asserting essentially is that a case that is decided is only a decision, that it is only good law until it is reversed.

The reason for giving such an answer is that Ms. Vitter and the vast majority of President Trump's nominees do not really think that a lot of Supreme Court precedent is correct, and they would be perfectly happy for reversals.

We know that the President has a litmus test for his judicial nominees. He has told us repeatedly that he will appoint judges who will overturn another landmark Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*.

What is particularly striking and pernicious about Ms. Vitter's answer to

my question on *Brown* is that her extreme views on *Roe*, abortion, and reproductive rights are already well known and authoritatively established.

In May 2013, at an anti-choice protest outside the future site of a Planned Parenthood clinic, Ms. Vitter said:

Planned Parenthood says they promote women's health. It is the saddest of ironies that they kill over 150,000 females a year. The first step in promoting women's health is to let them live.

This is a radical view. It is wrong on the facts. It makes no secret of what Ms. Vitter thinks about the precedent of *Roe*, and it is worth noting that Ms. Vitter initially didn't even disclose this speech to the Senate.

In November of 2013, Ms. Vitter moderated a panel at the conference for Louisiana Right to Life titled “Abortion Hurts Women's Health.” Again, Ms. Vitter did not disclose this to the Senate. On the panel was a so-called “expert” who falsely claimed that contraception pills are linked to cancer, an absurd and very dangerous lie. Ms. Vitter advocated that viewers download this speaker's brochure and ask their doctors to display it saying: “Each one of you can be a pro-life advocate.”

At her confirmation hearing, a number of Senators asked Ms. Vitter whether she believed the claims made in the brochure. She refused to answer and insisted she had not studied the details of the brochure. How strange that she asked the audience of her panel discussion to have their doctors display it. At the same Louisiana Right to Life event, Ms. Vitter applauded Texas for the “great strides in making it very difficult to get abortions in Texas.”

Ms. Vitter was applauding a law that requires physicians who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, and it required abortion clinics in the State to have facilities comparable to an ambulatory surgical center. The Supreme Court struck down the law as unconstitutional because it would have closed most clinics in Texas and placed an undue burden on Texas women to access safe, legal abortion services.

As a district court judge, Ms. Vitter undoubtedly would have upheld this unconstitutional restriction of a woman's right to choose. She celebrated a Louisiana law that forced women to look at an ultrasound before having an abortion. These kinds of requirements serve no medical purpose, which is why they have been struck down. They are only an obstruction to a woman's right over her own reproductive health, and they conflict with basic Supreme Court principles about the rights of privacy under the Constitution.

Federal judges are entrusted with this kind of lifetime appointment because they will be neutral arbiters. They will give everyone a fair, impartial hearing and rule on the facts and the law. That is the theory. Ms. Vitter, despite her best efforts to hide her

record, despite her continuing suggestion about different views and her refusal to answer questions on bedrock principles, has showed what her true beliefs are in her writings, her statements, and her activities. We know about Wendy Vitter, for sure. She will not be an unbiased umpire. When it comes to abortion and reproductive rights, we know that she is too ideological to simply call balls and strikes. That is why she was nominated, and that is why she was chosen. She passed that litmus test imposed by this administration and this President. She is part of those efforts to remake the Federal judiciary in the image of the far-right, extremist fringe.

I cannot support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to oppose her. I will be voting against her on Thursday of this week when her confirmation vote is scheduled.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. MCSALLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, climate change is already wreaking havoc on the American economy, and anyone who cares today about having a strong economy in 10, 20, or 30 years needs to be committed to acting now.

We are already seeing the economic risks related to climate change. Temperatures are rising, sea levels are rising, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe.

Ask families in California whose homes and businesses have been burned to the ground in record-setting fires or construction workers in Texas who have to cut their hours because of the heat or farmers in Nebraska, where the State Farm Bureau estimates that this spring's flood will cost ranchers \$500 million and will cost grain farmers \$400 million. Farm bankruptcies were already at a 10-year high even before the flooding.

We are getting closer to long-term tipping points. Within 30 years, which is a typical span of a mortgage, nearly 400,000 existing homes in the U.S. coastal areas are at risk of being uninhabitable. These homes collectively are worth about \$210 billion. That is more than four times the estimated insured losses of Hurricane Katrina.

The "National Climate Assessment" says that \$1 trillion worth of coastal real estate in the United States is threatened by the effects of climate change. The assessment also shows that labor productivity will take a hit. Under one scenario, the Southeast

United States alone could lose \$47 billion in productivity each year.

The "National Climate Assessment" also predicts that maize and soybean yields will each be down as much as 25 percent across the Midwest by midcentury, mostly due to hot temperatures. In other words, we are looking at a real estate bubble, massive changes in productivity, and increased disaster costs for State and Federal governments.

It is no wonder that experts say that climate change is the top economic risk facing our planet today. The World Economic Forum has warned us that we are "sleepwalking into catastrophe." Citigroup estimates that world economies could lose at least \$44 trillion in economic activity between now and the year 2060. Actuaries name climate change the No. 1 risk to insurers in North America.

All of those individuals and institutions and companies and agencies that just described the risks related to climate change—I have no idea how they feel about birds and butterflies. I have no idea if they care about conservation on a personal level. I don't know if they surf or they snowboard or they hike or they bird-watch. I don't know how much they care about the natural environment. I do know they care about money, and they are paid to care about money, and they are very worried about the impact that climate change will have on our economy.

You will notice that this is not a traditional climate speech. I got involved in climate because I care, but I understand that not everybody has the luxury of worrying about the birds and the butterflies and the creatures in the ocean. A lot of people worry every day about whether they are going to be able to put food on the table, and a lot of people worry about the value of their home and value of their 401(k) and whether the government is going to be consumed with these disaster costs.

You should be worried about the new and growing risks of droughts, floods, storms, wildfires, and sea level rise because these events reduce the value of assets. They decrease investment income. They can increase insured and uninsured losses. In other words, they promise to disrupt financial institutions. That means the health of our financial system is at stake.

There are now 36 central banks and financial regulators around the world who are worried about climate's economic impact and how to plan for it, including the UK, Germany, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, and China. They have come together to work on developing the tools to assess climate change risk to the financial system. This is not the ecological system, and these are not communities. This is about money and how much money is at risk when it comes to climate change.

The Bank of England is planning to include climate impacts in its bank's

stress tests as early as next year, and the central bank of the Netherlands is doing more to include climate-related risks in its financial supervision. Yet guess who is not part of this group of 36 countries that is trying to develop the analytic tools to figure out what impacts climate change is going to have on our economic system—the United States.

The three Federal Government Agencies that oversee the financial system are taking a unique approach to this problem by putting their heads in the sand. I know this because I asked them. I was part of a group of 20 Senators who sent a letter to the Federal Reserve, the OCC, and the FDIC, and asked them how they are accounting for climate change risks to our financial system. Their response was basically—listen, extreme weather shocks happen all the time. As for the risks of climate change, since they are so far out and hard to quantify, our regulators book that risk at zero. Now think about the absurdity of this. It is not that they are saying the risk doesn't exist. They are conceding that it exists. They are just saying it is so hard to quantify that they have decided it is nothing.

There are all kinds of risks that all of these supervisory institutions evaluate on a regular basis. That is their job. They have these big manuals that they use—these thick manuals—to supervise banks and financial institutions. They can look at how much excess capital you have, how much exposure you have to a real estate bubble, or how much exposure you may have to a downturn in the economy. They have decided the risk related to climate change is nothing at all.

This is in direct contrast to almost every other industrialized country and its regulatory agency. It doesn't matter what their politics are—whether they are run by rightwing or leftwing governments; everyone else is taking the financial risk related to climate change seriously except the United States. Everyone—the insurance industry, the defense community, the intelligence community—knows that climate is at increasing risk. They all know that climate change is real and that it is impacting our financial system right now, that it is impacting the finances of publicly held corporations and banks and the government itself. The U.S. financial community needs to join them.

Let me end by saying this: We don't have to agree on the many ways in which we should be acting on climate change. It is OK if you hate my bill, with my good friend Senator WHITEHOUSE, on a carbon fee. It is OK if you think we should do the Green New Deal or not do the Green New Deal. It is OK if you think the Paris Agreement is bad or good. You get to think what you want, but you cannot ignore the risk that climate change is imposing on our financial system. You don't get to think that this cost—that this risk—is

not material. You don't get to think that we should do nothing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, let me first thank my friend Senator SCHATZ, of Hawaii, for joining me on the floor today to talk about the financial hazards that are associated with ignoring climate change. He has been a really terrific leader on this subject. I have to say that I am sometimes a little bit embarrassed that Rhode Island is the Ocean State when Hawaii has so much ocean out there in the Pacific. I guess that is what you get for getting there first, but I am delighted that Senator SCHATZ is here.

What I want to do in my time here, in my following up on Senator SCHATZ' remarks, is to go through some of the recent warnings that have come out. One I will go back to from last year, and the other ones I will follow up on quickly. They are all between March 25 of this year and now, just in the last couple of months.

The one from last year is a Wall Street Journal article that documented the increasing climate risk and the insurance industry's need to recalculate. It had the legendary investor—the “Wizard of Omaha”—Warren Buffett warning that if reinsurance contracts—and he is a reinsurance guy—covered 30 years, he would be crazy not to include climate risks. Those were his words.

The article goes on to point out that climate change may be gradual but that its effects are volatile. It is like something steady for a long time and then, in the words of the article, a sudden large, unexpected hit. “You can have an increased potential for an outsized loss in a single year,” and they conclude “there's a cost for inaction.” What we are doing here, which is nothing on climate change, has a very significant cost.

The article points out that after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, 13 insurance companies were ordered liquidated because they were not adequately well prepared. The risks are going up precipitously. The probability of a Texas storm dropping about 20 inches of rain was about 1 percent a year until 2000, and it is expected to increase to 18 percent a year—an 18-times increase in the risk of that level of storm and flooding.

Swiss Re says in the article that coastal flooding could leave certain coastal areas “so exposed, insurance becomes no longer viable. It becomes uninsurable.” Indeed, in this article, it points out that if you take climate change into account, flood losses could exceed \$1 trillion per year by 2050. In saying this, it aligns with Moody's, the famous bond evaluator and insurer, which is going to start evaluating municipal bonds for coastal communities based on their preparation for coastal risk. This is not some green organization. When it is starting to evaluate, something is going on.

Freddie Mac has warned of a coastal property values crash that could be as serious as the 2008 mortgage meltdown. Again, Freddie Mac is not a green or environmental group. It is warning about a coming risk. We will not listen to those risks because too many people here are told what to do and what to think by the fossil fuel industry.

Just recently, on March 25, 2019, a Federal Reserve research paper warned that climate risk could cause a financial crisis: Losses from natural disasters magnified by higher temperatures and elevated sea levels could spark a financial crisis. The article identified the three key forces that are transforming the economy in our time, and one of those three is climate change.

This is not some side-bar issue. It quoted the latest National Climate Assessment. “Without substantial and sustained global mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause growing losses to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century.” The reason, it describes, is due to a fundamental market failure. “Carbon fuel prices do not properly account for climate change costs.” Of course, the fossil fuel industry loves that market failure, but we should not tolerate it if we purport to believe in a market economy.

Senator SCHATZ and I support a carbon fee. They call it a carbon tax, pointing out that it can appropriately incentivize innovations, which we need, and that it should equal the social cost of carbon, which our bill does. It also points out that we are creating a risk for generations to come. We might get off pretty free in terms of the punch that comes back, but our kids and our grandkids are not going to think that we did a very responsible job here.

What are the increasing financial risks the article mentions? They are business interruptions in bankruptcies, unexpected losses in the value of assets or companies, and climate-based credit risk exposure, particularly in my coastal State, which is concerned about loans to affected businesses or mortgages on coastal real estate—again, lining up with what Freddie Mac and others have said about the dangers of a coastal property value crash.

The next article of April 4, BlackRock, which is the world's largest asset manager, warns that investors are underpricing the impact of climate-related risks. The report points out that all major U.S. metropolitan areas were already suffering mild to moderate losses to GDP as a result of climate change—already suffering that—and that the risk of a property being hit by a category 5 hurricane was expected to rise by 275 percent if no climate action were taken.

This is a map from that article of the economic impacts of climate change. All of the reds are in real trouble; the tans are in trouble; yellows are in some trouble; trouble for the light green, and

green is very scarce and is seeing a little bit of GDP improvement. Yet, if you look at the map, that is a country that is hurting economically as a result of climate change.

OK. Four days later, on April 8, EPA scientists published an article that climate change will cost the U.S. hundreds of billions of dollars per year. Unchecked, climate change will cost the United States hundreds of billions of dollars per year. Cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases would prevent a lot of the damage and reduce the annual economic toll in some sectors by more than half. Unmitigated warming could reduce the global GDP by as much as 20 percent, said a related report by the British Government.

Now, think about that. You are going to take a 20-percent hit to the global GDP. What does that do? That is an economic downturn of a very dark order. It also points out that the cost of inaction is really high and that the cost of reducing emissions pales in comparison.

We are taking the more dangerous and expensive path because the group that gets hurt has control over this body, the fossil fuel industry. Yet, as other warnings will point out, it can't change the inevitable. All it can do is postpone it, and the inevitable then gets worse. It warns that damage to coastal property, primarily on the gulf and east coast, will reach \$120 billion per year.

If you are from a noncoastal State, you may think that is funny. I am from a coastal State, and I don't think that is funny at all. I think my colleagues should take a warning like that seriously. The benefits that the country stands to reap by cutting greenhouse gas emissions was another theme. There is an upside here. We win economically by cutting greenhouse gas emissions. If we don't, the cost is hundreds of billions of dollars.

Next, on the same day of April 8, 2019, a CNBC article, in summarizing an Urban Land Institute report, warns that for real estate investors in particular, risk is rising exponentially in the age of climate change to the point at which a new cottage industry of companies has emerged that assess climate risk to real estate. “Climate change,” the article reads, “is likely to have a bigger impact on valuation in the future as asset and market liquidity are affected.”

Asset and market liquidity mean that the market seizes up, that you can't sell your house. Of course, that matches Freddie Mac's prediction because, if the person you are trying to sell your house to can't get a mortgage because the bank thinks, at the end of 30 years, the property is going to be literally underwater or that the bank will not be able to get insurance for its mortgage, suddenly, you have a real problem in selling that house. Now you are only selling to cash buyers, and that is a dramatic shift in the price

you can get. That is why Freddie Mac is talking about the coastal property value crash.

The following day, on April 9, the investment advisory firm Mercer comes out with another report that describes this warning is the latest from the financial sector of the physical and financial risks posed by rising temperatures. Some investment strategists warn of physical and social damage cascading across the economy.

Again, these are not environmentalists. This is an investment advisory firm. It is warning us of financial perils ahead if we don't start paying attention. A part of it is the loss in value or simply the outright loss of wide swaths of coastal property. So, when I come back to rely on mine as a coastal State, I hope my colleagues here can appreciate that this isn't funny when you are talking about the loss of value or simply about the outright loss of wide swaths of coastal property.

The scenarios aren't good. They are negative for global growth, and they aren't really great for anyone. It is a declining global economy that has no big winners spiking up, and it can move fast. Asset prices, they say, could quickly shift to reflect the risk. There could be material impacts, especially at the sector level, in a relatively short period of time. That is how crashes work. They creep up on you, and then they crash. That is why they call them crashes.

Next, on April 18, 2019—9 days later—we have the central banks. Thirty central banks around the world called for a better assessment of the risks from higher global temperatures. As Senator SCHATZ pointed out, the U.S. Fed and the Central Bank of Brazil were among the institutions not involved in the initiative. It is pathetic on our part.

Climate change is identified as a source of financial risk that these financial regulators feel is well within their mandate to begin to address. They considered that the report issued a loud wake-up call for the global economy to act on climate change. Good luck getting through the muscling of the fossil fuel industry around this particular building, but the wake-up call is ringing in the financial community.

Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England—who was warned about this previously—and Villeroy de Galhau, the Governor of the Bank of France, warned that climate change and the poor management of the transition to a low-carbon economy have the potential to trigger a “sudden collapse in asset prices that could devastate the global financial systems.”

“If some companies and industries fail to adjust to this new world,” they argue, “they will fail to exist.”

Again, as others have said, the article argues that the costs of decarbonization are likely to be small compared to the costs of not taking action.

Yet again, we are listening to the fossil fuel industry here. It has a huge

stake in all of this. It has a huge conflict of interest. It has control over a significant part of Congress, and it is blocking us from taking the essential safe, low-cost path.

The last one is from April 17, the Network for Greening the Financial System, which is the comprehensive report by a group of central banks. Again, it points out that these climate-related risks are a source of financial risk.

Indeed, the head of the Bank of England—the regulator for insurance and banking in the UK—has described this as a systemic risk. What is a systemic risk? That means that when the entity collapses, like when the carbon asset bubble collapses, it doesn't just take the carbon asset bubble companies down with it; the rest of the economy pours in behind, and you have a systemic economic meltdown. Just like happened in 2003, it wasn't just the banks with the junk mortgages that failed; a whole bunch of others businesses got sucked into that vortex, and the same is predicted here.

They point out a couple of final things about the nature of this financial risk:

One, it is far-reaching in its breadth and magnitude. That is an ominous description of a financial risk. It is potentially aggravated by tipping points in a nonlinear fashion; i.e., it gets to a certain point and then crashes. We New Englanders appreciate this when we have the snow melt in the springtime. The snow piles up on the roof of your house. It piles up storm by storm and snowflake by snowflake. But one warm spring day, you suddenly hear “woomph” outside because the whole snowpack on your roof has slid off. It is a catastrophic failure of snow adhesion in that case. In this case, it is an example of how quickly a nonlinear tipping point can lead into economic distress.

Two, it is foreseeable. We know it is coming. There is a high degree of certainty that these risks will materialize. We know perfectly well this is coming; we just won't do anything about it because the people who have to deal with it first—the fossil fuel industry—have this place tied in knots.

Three, irreversibility. When it happens, there is no going back. There is currently no mature technology to reverse the process of overheating our climate and acidifying our ocean. For our children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren, that leaves a pretty bleak prospect that we have just discounted away as if they weren't going to be born, as if they didn't exist now, as if this weren't going to happen, as if we shouldn't care. Irreversibility.

Here is the last one: dependency on short-term actions. The magnitude and the nature of these irreversible, foreseeable, far-reaching, future impacts will be determined by actions taken today. It will be determined by actions taken today. If we don't make the right decisions now, our mistakes, our

indolence, our ignorance, our greed, our subservience to this industry—whatever it is—will cascade through the decades irreversibly with far-reaching impact. They will look back at us and say: It was foreseeable. Didn't you guys know this was foreseeable? You were told. You were warned. How could you have done nothing?

I don't have a very good answer.

It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, each year during National Police Week we honor our law enforcement officers and the families who support them and sacrifice alongside them. It is so important to remember that, as much as the sacrifice of the officer or the man or woman overseas fighting for our country, the sacrifice of the family is in many ways just as great.

They all give so much in service to their communities. Too many make the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe.

This year we add the names of four Ohioans to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Ohioans who laid down their lives last year were Officer Eric Joering of Westerville, a Columbus suburb; Officer Anthony Morelli, also of Westerville; Officer Vu Nguyen of Cleveland; and Officer Matthew Mazany, of Mentor, a community east of Cleveland along Lake Erie. Each of these losses is a tragedy for a family, for a community, for their fellow officers.

Sadly, we already know the names of two people who will be added to the memorial next year: Detective William Brewer of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office east of Cincinnati and Officer Dale Woods of the Colerain Township Police Department near Cincinnati. Both were killed in the line of duty in 2019.

We can't begin to repay the debt we owe them and their families, but we can work harder, frankly, to support their families and their fellow officers as they work to keep our communities safe.

It is why I am working with my colleague Senator PORTMAN on our bipartisan POWER Act to get officers the tools they need to screen for dangerous opioids in their communities.

This bill builds on my INTERDICT Act, which the President signed into law last year. That law is getting new, portable, handheld screening devices to Customs and Border Protection agents to detect fentanyl and carfentanil at the U.S. border and stop them before they reach Ohio streets.

The POWER Act will give our local and State law enforcement access to the same high-tech tools.

All of our law enforcement officers know how big of an issue illegal fentanyl has become. They deal with it, it seems, almost every day.

This week I am joining Senator INHOFE to introduce the bipartisan Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act.

We have seen too many officers hurt. We have seen far too many police officers and sheriff's deputies and Federal agents killed responding to people in their communities suffering a mental health crisis. This bill would invest in training to help officers resolve those situations safely for themselves and for the communities they serve.

This National Police Week, let's offer more than gratitude to the people who put their lives on the line to keep us safe. Let's support these women and men by getting them the tools they need to do their jobs for themselves and for our communities.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, over the past couple of months, we have seen State legislatures around the country taking drastic, unconstitutional steps to insert themselves into personal, private healthcare decisions that should be—and have been in the past—between a woman and her doctor.

Ohio and Georgia, two States that wouldn't seem on the surface to have that much in common, have both passed laws that would fundamentally eliminate a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

Who made these laws? It is always the same. It is predominantly men who don't even understand how women's bodies and how preventive care like birth control work.

We have one Ohio legislator, a man, who sponsored a bill banning insurance companies from covering certain types of birth control, and then he admitted he didn't really know how birth control actually works.

When asked about the different kinds of medications and birth control devices, he said: "I don't know because I'm not smart enough to know." But he thinks he should make decisions for women.

You would think he is smart enough to know better. You would think that millions of Ohio women know best how to take care of their own bodies.

He was also making up medical procedures. He actually wrote into a version of the Ohio bill an exception allowing insurance companies to cover a made-up medical procedure where a doctor would reimplant an egg from an ectopic pregnancy.

This is a total fantasy. No such medical procedure exists, yet that is what he did.

He is 1 of 99 votes in the Ohio legislature, and he happens to be in the majority, and he happens to be one of the authors of these bills, and he happens to be a supporter of whatever it takes to put Planned Parenthood out of business.

It is not only idiotic to suggest that those medical procedures exist, it is actively harmful to spread information,

not to mention insensitive or cruel—that might be the better word—to the women and families coping with the very real struggles involved in an ectopic pregnancy. That inaccuracy in the law could create serious confusion about how and when doctors could treat women for ectopic pregnancies and put women's health at risk.

After he was asked over and over again what in the world he was talking about, he said: "That's clearly not my area of expertise."

Yet he was going to legislate in an area where, self-admittedly, he didn't have expertise. He was going to tell women what they had to do—fantasy or not—with birth control. He was going to try to tell women what to do with their own bodies. He thought it was a good idea to legislate on it and to insert himself in the medical decisions of millions of women in my State.

Unfortunately, this administration is only making things worse. President Trump and the men he has put in charge, the judges he has appointed—look at the Supreme Court—put their thumb on the scale of justice, always choosing corporations over workers, always choosing Wall Street over consumers, always choosing insurance companies over sick people and, frankly, increasingly over women's bodies and women's decisions.

President Trump and the men he has put in charge are encouraging these male lawmakers in States like Ohio and Georgia and Alabama, where it may be worst of all—they are taking the country backward when it comes to women's health.

Rather than making it easier for women to get care, they make it harder. This administration put out a new rule 2 weeks ago that would allow healthcare providers to refuse to provide needed care for a woman if the treatment supposedly violates their personal beliefs.

In other words, if a woman had a miscarriage and she came in needing emergency care, the doctor could refuse to treat her simply based on his own personal issues and biases. How does that follow the physician mantra of "do no harm"?

It is not just medical professionals who could refuse care; it is hospitals, and it is insurance companies too. I don't know how anyone could suggest a for-profit insurance company has a conscience, yet, apparently under these kinds of laws, it does.

Under this rule, an insurance company can consider the coverage of some services—and we know these are always services related to women, and they are always services related to LGBTQ people, all Americans—against that corporation's supposed conscience. So if the corporation doesn't believe in human rights, doesn't believe in equality of gay people, of LGBTQ people, doesn't believe women should have control over their bodies, that corporation, licensed under the law—they have a conscience, and they can refuse care.

That is what these legislatures are doing, and that is what this President wants to do.

That conscience clause that these corporations and these insurance companies say they believe—I wish that conscience clause would kick in when they are raising premiums, when they deny people coverage for their medication. When they take away an exclusion for a preexisting condition, where they cancel someone's insurance or never insure them because of a preexisting condition, that is not a conscience thing because they are a corporation, but when it comes to women's health, it is.

One woman from Butler County in Southwest Ohio wrote, and she said:

I'd like to know why insurance companies are allowed to pick and choose the drugs they will and will not cover. Since when did they become doctors?

This is just the latest in a long line of rules that hurt women.

They have rolled back title X protections, instituting a new gag rule that would ban many clinics from talking about birth control and family planning options with their patients, limiting their patients' access to accurate medical information.

I just don't understand. Some of these people don't like abortion. I understand that. They want to take away women's healthcare decisions, but they will not help women get contraceptives, and they will not explain the options women have when they come in and want to talk to the doctor about those kinds of things. I just don't get that.

I get letters from women in Ohio who also don't get that, who are scared about what these changes mean.

One woman from Mahoning County wrote to me:

I am a 24 year old woman living with PCOS, a hormonal disorder. Complications of PCOS include Type 2 Diabetes, high risks of miscarriage and infertility, and even cancer.

It is not curable, but it can be treated with birth control.

This domestic gag order will put millions of women at risk across this country.

Let me read again what she said:

I am a 24 year old woman living with PCOS, a hormonal disorder. Complications include Type 2 Diabetes, high risk of miscarriage and infertility, even cancer.

It is not curable, but can be treated with birth control.

This domestic gag order will put millions of women at risk across the country.

Who said these people can practice medicine when they are without a license and do these kinds of things?

I hope my colleagues will think about these women. I hope my colleagues, especially my male colleagues, will spend a little more time trying to help women get the healthcare they need instead of trying to meddle in decisions that always, always, always should be between a woman and her doctor.

I yield the floor.

May 14, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S2843

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 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THEODORE ROKITA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 3, 2021, VICE DEREK TAI-CHING KAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN LESLIE CARWILE, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

MONICA DAVID MORRIS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 14, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

MICHAEL J. TRUNCALE, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.