

The bill also authorizes an increase in funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, for a total of \$300 million, of which \$100 million is available only for lethal assistance. This sends an important signal to Russia that its aggression against Ukraine, including its attack on Ukrainian naval vessels in the Kerch Strait, has consequences. The bill also renews an authority to provide security assistance to the Baltic countries for a joint procurement program.

With regard to Turkey, the committee worked closely with Senators LANKFORD, SHAHEEN, VAN HOLLEN, and TILLIS to include a provision that prohibits the transfer of the F-35 aircraft to Turkey, which can only be waived if the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, can certify to Congress that Turkey has not accepted delivery of the Russian S-400 air defense system and has provided reliable assurances that it will not do so in the future. This sends a strong message to President Erdogan that he will not have both the Russian S-400 and the F-35 co-located on Turkish soil.

The bill also includes provisions that prioritize defense investments to deter Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific region, including adding Pacific Island nations to the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Initiative and supporting a multi-domain task force to develop capabilities and operational concepts to improve our posture in the region.

To conclude, this bill authorizes \$665.7 billion in base funding, which is roughly \$90 billion above the Budget Control Act, or BCA, caps. I want to applaud the chairman's decision to move about \$98 billion of funding the President requested for base requirements in OCO back into the base budget where it belongs.

The Department needs additional resources, particularly to restore readiness, to invest in emerging technologies, and to address unforeseen situations, such as hurricane damage, but as it stands now, this bill, if fully funded, would trigger sequestration. Until Congress either repeals the BCA or reaches a new budget agreement, the extra \$90 billion is aspirational, but not real money. I think we are creating difficulties for ourselves and the Department if suddenly this funding must be stripped out.

Of all the issues we are considering in Congress, the budget situation is, to my mind, the most critical and urgent one, and I hope my colleagues are as eager as I am to address this issue.

Again, let me commend Chairman INHOFE for his efforts in getting us to this point. Let me also thank our staffs, who did a superb job and continue to do a superb job. Let me thank my colleagues on the committee, including the Presiding Officer, for their thoughtful, creative, responsible, and very hard work in getting this bill done.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you and to an open de-

bate on the floor, voting on the bill, and getting this legislation passed and moving forward.

I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me say also that Senator REED and I worked together on a lot of these over the years, and this is not going to be any different than before. We can get it done. We will get it done on time. We will get it done to put us back in the position we should be in, the United States of America with our military capability.

With that, I appreciate it and look forward to working together.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 253, 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. 253) designating June 19, 2019, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. INHOFE. 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. 253) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MONAGHAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 1901, superintendent of Joliet Township High School J. Stanley Brown and University of Chicago president William Rainey Harper committed themselves to an historic experiment. They founded Joliet Junior College, the Nation's first public community college with six students as the initial enrollment. Brown and Harper designed the school for students who wanted to remain in the community, but also wanted to pursue a college education.

The community college system is vastly different than Harper and

Brown's initial work today. Community colleges are helping millions of Americans carve a pathway to middle-class prosperity and a chance to fulfill the American Dream.

Earlier this month, Mike Monaghan, a champion of Illinois community colleges with more than 40 years of legislative and higher education experience, retired from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. During his time there, he worked hard to make sure Illinois has some of the finest colleges in the country. Mike will certainly be missed.

Originally from Springfield, he earned an associate arts degree from Lincoln Land Community College, a bachelor's degree in political science from Bradley University, and a master's degree in legal studies and administrative law from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

I have known Mike for decades from our days as staffers in the Illinois State Senate. Mike was fighting for improving education in the State as the principal staff to the State senate's higher education committee when I was legal counsel to the State senate judiciary committee. He also was my neighbor, living a block away from me. I might add Mike also was a precinct captain for a couple of my races, too.

In 1989, Mike became the Illinois Community College Trustees Association's director of government relations. In this role, he developed a statewide advocacy program and regularly organized trips to Washington, DC, with students. One of his major efforts was the successful implementation of a State insurance program for community college retirees. In 1998, the Illinois Society of Association Executives awarded him with their Government Relations Award for the program.

Mike's hard work led him to become the ICCTA's executive director in 2005. For the past 14 years, he has continued fighting for resources for community colleges. He earned the Cook County College Teachers Union 2008 Innovation in Education Award for his leadership in promoting community colleges.

When community colleges are not funded properly, the costs fall on students. When Mike started, some remarked that community colleges were 13th and 14th year schooling and dismissed them as "Tinker Toy Tech." This is certainly not the case today.

Today, 35,000 students are enrolled at Joliet Junior College, and Illinois has 519,000 students enrolled in community colleges. More and more students know community colleges are one of the best investments in education for students and are the best alternative in the competitive college marketplace.

Americans hold more than \$1.4 trillion in student debt, making it the largest household debt after mortgages. Community colleges, with low tuition rates and quality educational programs, are a key to breaking the debt stranglehold of our current higher education system.