

States where balance sheets are clean and economies are healthy, they don't look to the Federal Government to lead on it and they lead themselves.

This bill contains a proposal I introduced last week called the Crossroads of America Act, to provide \$150 million that will be competitively awarded to States that will bid for the highest State match for Federal dollars. This concept worked for us in Indiana. We called it the Community Crossings Program, and within 1 or 2 years, even after there was much complaining by cities and counties, it is oversubscribed. Instead of sitting on the sidelines, Indiana communities started to bid up their matches and asking for less State money through the program. Wouldn't it be nice if we had something like that here to stretch the Federal dollar?

It means that the State could approve a greater number of projects, which we have done now into the third year. More projects are being built. More concrete is being poured. More steel is being framed. And more Hoosiers are on the job. This is why this program is so important.

Combined, the America's highway infrastructure act will allow more projects to break ground, like our I-69 bridge over the Ohio River, linking northern Kentucky to southern Indiana. The EPW bill will speed up the permitting process and provide funding opportunities to a project that has been in the works for more than 15 years.

Over the next several weeks, we will continue our robust committee work, starting with a markup of the chairman's bill tomorrow in EPW. In committee, I will stress the importance of fully paying for this 5-year bill—again, unlike we do most things here—and putting the highway trust fund on a pathway to long-term solvency.

We are also going to be considering a budget bill, and for all the reasons that we know, the Federal Government should be there for its own citizens, its stakeholders, including infrastructure. We need to make sure, regardless of what happens to this budget bill, that in the long run we start balancing our own budget and that we quit borrowing from future generations and kicking this stuff down the road. Hopefully, this infrastructure bill will be the beginning of it.

Over 37 years of building a business in my hometown, one principle I have always lived by is this: When times are good, you create a rainy day fund, you pay back what you might have borrowed, and you sacrifice in the short run for long-term prosperity. Until we get back into that mentality here—whether its infrastructure, shoring up entitlements, or whatever people depend on the Federal Government to do—we are not going to be there for our own citizens.

Today, that changes with the introduction of America's highway infrastructure act. We are beginning to put

our Nation's highway system on a path of long-term solvency. The alternative, I am afraid, is another unfunded short-term reauthorization of the highway trust fund. Such a path would be irresponsible, especially after the highway bill comes out of committee this week.

We must continue investing in our Nation's infrastructure. We must incentivize States to get more involved, and we must fully offset our spending and put the highway trust fund on a responsible path to long-term solvency. That is one of the critical obligations facing this Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate majority leader.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. 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.

### NOMINATION OF JOSEPH V. CUFFARI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, viewing the awful conditions at DHS detention facilities in Texas crystalized my belief that continued tough, independent oversight and accountability from Congress and Homeland Security inspector general is imperative to change the deplorable treatment of migrants. That is why I pushed Mr. Cuffari to make two critical commitments.

First, the Inspector General's Office must continue frequent and unannounced inspections of CBP and ICE immigration detention facilities, and second, he must strongly rebuff any attempts by the Acting DHS Secretary, Director of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Acting Commissioner of CBP, or the White House to limit the inspector general's independence or ability to follow the facts of investigations wherever they lead.

The horrid treatment of children and families is the direct result of President Trump's policies, and we Democrats are committed to holding the Trump administration accountable. If confirmed, I fully expect Mr. Cuffari to live up to the personal commitments he made to me.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, in accordance with rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Rules and Administration and pursuant to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, on July 25, 2019, the committee adopted the U.S. Senate Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act Regulations.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this material be printed in the RECORD.

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

### U.S. SENATE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 REFORM ACT REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON JULY 25, 2019

#### 1.0 Reporting by the Office.

1.1 Annual Report Required. The Office shall prepare and submit to Congress, and publish on the public website of the Office, an annual report regarding covered payments.

1.2 Contents of Report. With regard to any employing office for which a covered payment was made in the reporting period, the report shall include—

1.2.1 except as otherwise provided in section 1.3, the amount of any covered payment made in the previous calendar year;

1.2.2 except as otherwise provided in section 1.3, the reimbursable portion of any covered payment made in the previous calendar year, if any;

1.2.3 information on the employing office;

1.2.4 each provision of part A of title II of the Congressional Accountability Act that was the subject of a claim resulting in any covered payment; and

1.2.5 in the case of a reimbursable portion of any covered payment, an acknowledgment of whether the Senator or former Senator has made no reimbursement, partial reimbursement or complete reimbursement in compliance with the requirement of section 415(d) of the Act to reimburse the account.

1.3 Reporting Periods and Dates. The reporting under this section—

1.3.1 for 2019, shall be submitted by the 270th day after the date of enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act and shall include any covered payments made in calendar year 2019 as of date of the report;

1.3.2 for 2020, shall be submitted by January 31, 2020, and shall reflect covered payments made in calendar year 2019 and not previously reported; and

1.3.3 for each subsequent year, shall be submitted by January 31 of that year and shall reflect covered payments made in the previous calendar year.

2.0 Reimbursement by Senators of Amounts Paid as Settlements and Awards.

2.1 Initial Notice. Within 5 business days of a covered payment that includes a reimbursable portion of any covered payment, the Office shall provide written notice to the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Senator or former Senator who has an obligation under section 415(d) of the Act to reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of any covered payment of the date the covered payment was made and the amount of the reimbursable portion of any covered payment.

2.2 Agreement to Reimburse.

2.2.1 Within 30 days of a covered payment, the Senator shall submit a written agreement to the Office specifying the manner in which the Senator will reimburse the account for the reimbursable portion of any covered payment.

2.2.2 The agreement to reimburse shall designate—

2.2.2.A amounts payable through payments directly from the Senator, withholding from the Senator's compensation and transfers from the Senator's Thrift Savings Fund; and

2.2.2.B the timing of those payments, consistent with the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 and subsection 2.2.3 of these regulations.

2.2.3 All payments under the agreement to reimburse must be made within 270 days of the covered payment.

2.3 Notice of Agreement. Within 2 business days of submission of the agreement to reimburse, the Office shall provide a copy of the