The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.

### Senate

**MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019**

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS**

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is a bad practice in pharmaceutical pricing called spread pricing. Spread pricing has historically siphoned money from the State Medicaid Programs and given it to pharmacy benefit managers or what we call PBMs. Drug payments and Medicaid should focus on the beneficiary, not the PBMs.

The bipartisan prescription drug legislation I introduced this month with Senator WYDEN bans spread pricing. This will refocus the system on paying for costs associated with prescribing a drug instead of gaming the system to reap a profit at the expense of the taxpayers.

Medicaid funding should go to patients, not to the pockets of healthcare middlemen.

I yield the floor.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

**MUELLER REPORT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I welcome all Members back to the Senate for a busy week, but first there is something I need to address.

Over the last several days, I was called unpatriotic, “un-American,” and essentially treasonous by a couple of leftwing pundits on the basis of bold-faced lies. I was accused of “aiding and abetting” the very man I have singled out as an adversary and opposed for nearly 20 years: Vladimir Putin. This was less than 24 hours after the outraged industrial complex was disappointed yet again by Special Counsel Mueller.

Partisan Democrats and their media allies were crushed a few months ago, when Mueller’s report cleared the President of conspiring with Russia during the 2016 campaign. Now their frantic hyping of the special counsel’s congressional testimony has fallen flat once again, but the conspiracy theories and reckless accusations had to continue. Too many people had invested too much time in the hysterical echo chamber to simply wind it down and join the rest of us in the real world.

**MEDIA**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the outraged industrial complex needed a new target, and that is where I come in—MITCH MCCONNELL—the hawkish foreign policy conservative who has spent decades pushing back on Russia every way I can think of, was accused of what amounts to treason by multiple media outlets within a couple of hours.

These absurd smears weren’t thrown out there by anonymous Twitter accounts or fringe bloggers. Oh, no. This modern-day McCarthyism was pushed by big-time outlets. The smear that I am “a Russian asset” ran in the opinion pages of the Washington Post. The accusations that I am “un-American” was broadcast on MSNBC.

This is the state of leftwing politics in 2019. It is like an inflationary crisis but with outrage instead of dollars.
These people have worn out the volume knob so badly that they have nothing left but the most unhinged smears. Welcome to modern-day McCarthyism—McCarthy-like tactics out in the open for everyone to see—in Dana Milbank’s only-amer the Washington Post and on a major cable channel run by NBC.

What started all this? Here was my crime—bless me, for I have sinned: Last week, I stopped Democrats from passing an election law bill through the Senate by unanimous consent, a bill that was so partisan it only received one Republican vote over in the House. My Democratic friends asked for unanimous consent to pass a bill that everyone knows isn’t unanimous and never will be unanimous, so I objected.

These theatrical requests happen all the time in the Senate. I promise that nobody involved, including my friend the Democratic leader who made the request, actually thought he would get a Republican Senate to instantly unanimously pass a bill that got one Republican vote over in the House. This is a routine occurrence in the Senate. It doesn’t make the Republicans traitors or un-American; it makes us policymakers with a different opinion, but the outraged industrial complex doesn’t let a little thing like that get in their way. They saw the perfect opportunity to distort, tell lies, and fuel the flames of partisan hatred, and so they did.

It started with the angry lies on MSNBC. The host lied and said I have dismissed Russia’s interference in our 2016 election as “a hoax.” Of course, I have never said any such thing—ever. I have spoken extensively and often about Russia’s unacceptable interference in 2016. I have called out my friends and colleagues who have been doing to correct the Obama administration’s failures to respond more assertively to the Russian threat, including on election security.

So let me make this crystal clear for the hyperventilating hacks who haven’t actually followed this issue. Every single Member of the Senate agrees that Russian meddling was real and is real. We all agree that the Federal Government, State governments, and the private sector all have obligations to take this threat seriously and bolster our defenses.

Claims to the contrary—claims that anybody needs to worry about what Russia is doing on President Obama’s watch—are just lies. They are not partisan distortion, not clever spin, just total fabrications. At least this show is honest about what it offers—and it isn’t journalism. Immediately after this he lashed out against the angry string of false claims and calling me “un-American.” Another panelist chimed in to applaud the remarks, and here is what he said:

We are at war. It’s time for the Democrats to wake up. [And] we’re not necessarily going to play fair. “Not necessarily going to play fair”—well, I should say not. Let’s remember how deep MSNBC waded into the conspiratorial fever swamp over the past 2 years.

They gave airtime to individuals like one guest who has publicly tweeted, among other things, that a former White House consultant was close to being executed for espionage and that Chief Justice Roberts had sent the Marshal of the Supreme Court to the White House to threaten the President. That is utter nonsense. They hosted these kinds of conspiracy theories.

Just a few days ago, one former host at the network pointed out that “MSNBC built segment after segment, show after show on building anticipation for a big reveal” but then the Mueller report took some of their most unhinged stories right off the table.

Then, just last week, the special counsel’s in-person testimony disappointed the political left yet again, progress—deconspiratorial theories needed a new target.

A few hours later came the Washington Post column. It was authored by Dana Milbank, a pundit who spent much of the Obama administration fanning fires for its foreign policies and excusing President Obama’s weakness on Russia. Here is the headline: “Mitch McConnell is a Russian asset”—a shamefule smear and based on more lies.

Mr. Milbank repeatedly claims that I have blocked all efforts to raise our defenses against Russian meddling. The truth is, I have championed the coordinated work between Congress, the administration, and the intelligence community to better secure our elections and the Senate has passed several major provisions on this subject this year.

I have spoken frequently on the floor about the need to keep up the progress and to stay vigilant. What is more, one of the specific pieces of legislation he claims I have blocked is something I literally have never opposed. His online column links directly to a bill, and it is something I have never opposed.

You would think a columnist leveling these kinds of smears would at least consult a fact checker before accusing an elected official of “aiding and abetting” Vladimir Putin, but, alas, it is not even a competent hit piece, just sloppy work.

Ironically, Mr. Milbank has frequently written pieces lecturing Republicans who he feels has impugned other Democrats. Back in 2013, the same guy wrote a piece insisting that “in America, a political opponent is not the enemy.” In 2015, he criticized “mutters” for questioning the President’s patriotism and said that “such criticism . . . is not a recipe to be thrown out “to have a civilized debate.” So you get the picture.

When a liberal politician is being criticized, these leftist pundits become choir boys calling for civility and decency and high-mindedness, but when it is time to smear somebody on the other side, oh, they are delighted to lead the charge.

As recently as 2017, this very columnist wrote:

[Let’s pause to remember: We are all the American people. And we all love our country.

As all of our colleagues know, I have spent the last 30 years defending our elections on the front lines of attacks on American democracy. I worked to ensure that Congress sent hundreds of millions of dollars to the States to improve their defenses and applauded the whole-of-government efforts that the administration continues to carry out with States and localities.

Good news may not sell any newspapers, boost ratings, or help with Democratic fundraising, but the facts are the facts. The facts are that this administration has made huge strides—huge—on election security since 2016. They made a noticeable impact in securing the 2018 election and are vigilant and proactive as we head into 2020.

A few weeks ago, every Senator had the opportunity to attend an all-Members classified briefing. I joined to organize detailing the major work that has been underway since 2016. I have been in a lot of classified briefings over the years. It is not exactly common for Members to break out in spontaneous applause, let alone bipartisan applause, but that is exactly what happened in that classified briefing. Behind closed doors, Democrats joined Republicans in applauding the progress made since 2016.

This administration—thanks in large part to our friend and former colleague, DNI Dan Coats, whom I was very sorry to hear is stepping down—has increased and improved our intelligence collection on these threats. It has built better and more functional relationships with State election authorities. It has enlisted more help from the private sector to identify and counter foreign influence campaigns. It has worked more closely with foreign election officials and partners who face similar threats from Russia. It has imposed real costs on Russia for its misdeeds and cut down on the ability of Russian intelligence to operate inside our country.

In particular, the Department of Homeland Security has employed special capabilities in all 50 States for detecting malign cyber activity. It has deployed cyber security advisers across the country. It operates the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center and supports the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

Among its many offerings to the States, DHS offers cyber security assessments, detection and prevention tools, training, and career development for election officials, all free of charge. Using the hundreds of millions of dollars Congress sent to the States, which I proudly voted for and supported, the authorities who actually conduct our elections across the country’s 5,000 counties have gotten themselves better prepared.

This is a long list of significant achievements—achievements that my
Democratic colleagues applauded and cheered behind closed doors when the administration briefed us a few weeks ago. But in public? In public and in front of the cameras, some of my colleagues quickly pivoted right back into hysterical accusations that only fan the flames of this modern-day McCarthyism.

These pundits are lying when they dismiss the work that has been done. They are lying when they insist I have personally taken no actions, or at least in fact I have championed and the Senate has passed. They are lying when they suggest that either party is against defending our democracy. This work is essential, and it will continue.

Over 2 years ago, I asked Chairman Burr and the Intelligence Committee to take a hard bipartisan look at all aspects of the Russian threat in 2016 and the steps the Obama administration took or failed to take to defend against it. Here was the headline in December 2016 from the New York Times: “McConnell Senate Investigations of Russian Hacking.” We wanted a serious, detailed investigation, and not a political sideshow. I am impressed and grateful for the thorough investigation, and not a political sideshow.

That is the New York Times that serves only to harden partisan divisions. “No chance of passing the Senate,” “Kremlin is traitorous. This Congress and this administration’s policy is his plan to attack stiff political conditions to that aid, ‘linkages’ in Cold War parlance, threatening a cutoff unless Russia stops meddling in its neighbors’ affairs.”

So my differences with Democrats on complicated matters of election law are the kind of disagreements we used to be able to have without mainstream media outlets screaming that one side is traitorous. This Congress and this entire country only works when we can still have that baseless smears displace real debate.

Benjamin Franklin said we have this Republic if we can keep it, and, among other things, keeping our Republic means we can’t let modern-day McCarthyism win.

So here is my commitment: No matter how much they lie and no matter how much they bully, I will not be intimidated. For decades, I have used my Senate seat to stand up to Russia and protect the United States of America. I am proud of my record. I am proud that it is right there in black and white, and liars cannot gaslight it away.

In the 1980s, as a freshman Senator, I proudly stood with President Reagan on missile defense and other aspects of his Soviet policy. While the liberal media was shrugging that the Reagan-Bush foreign policy wouldn’t work, I was honored to support them with my vote and then watch communism crumbling.

Then, in the 1990s, I used my place on the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee to sound the alarm when President Clinton was too soft on Russia. Here is the Wall Street Journal on December 1994: “Kentucky Senator, Handed Keys to Foreign Aid, To Be Most Potent Foe of Clinton’s Russia Policy.” Here is what that article said: “But the real challenge to the administration’s policy is [McConnell’s] plan to attach stiff political conditions to that aid. . . . threatening a cutoff unless Russia stops meddling in its neighbor’s affairs.”

Let me say that again. As early as the 1990s, I was laser-focused on Russia’s meddling beyond its borders and making sure the Russians were held accountable.

I asked unanimous consent that the December 13, 1994, article from the Wall Street Journal entitled “Kentucky Senator, Handed Keys to Foreign Aid, To Be Most Potent Foe of Clinton’s Russia Policy” be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was too important to be printed in the Record, as follows:


**KENTUCKY SENATOR, HANDS KEYS TO FOREIGN AID, TO BE MOST POTENT FOE OF CLINTON’S RUSSIA POLICY**

**PROVISIONS OF BILL WOULD PROHIBIT FUNDING TO RUSSIA, YELTSIN'S DECISION TO SEND TANKS INTO THE RESECTANT REGION OF CHECHNYA.**

**WASHINGTON—Sen. Helms may breathe more fire, but the comparatively understated Mick McConnell is the senator who will be the most potent foe of the Clinton administration’s Russia Policy.**

As new Republican chairman of the key Senate appropriations subcommittee overseeing Russian aid, Sen. McConnell will have his hands on the appropriation levels. He brings to that task a deep mistrust of Russia’s Boris Yeltsin matched only by his skepticism of Deputy Secretary of State and Russia policy architect Strobe Talbott, whom he describes as “the brightest, best-educated man I’ve ever met (who’s been most consistently wrong).”

The senator from Kentucky is determined to weaken the U.S. from what he describes as “Strobe-Talbott-Russia-Firstism.” Just yesterday, McConnell expressed his view of what he has in mind when he unveiled his plan for overhauling the American foreign-aid system. He pledged to earmark spending in the former Soviet Union to ensure that the lion’s share of a shrinking aid package goes to countries other than Russia.

The real challenge for the administration’s policy is his plan to attach stiff political conditions to that aid, “linkages” in Cold War parlance, threatening a cutoff unless Russia stops meddling in its neighbors’ affairs.

Sen. McConnell says that while his efforts to “write Russia policy into the foreign-aid legislation” have been frustrated until now by a Democratic majority, “I think it’s reasonable to assume that that’s not going to happen this year.” Republican skepticism about foreign aid will only increase if Mr. Yeltsin’s decision this week to send tanks into the separatist region of Chechnya.

In a sign of the aggressive role he now intends to play, Sen. McConnell enshrined his proposed changes in the Foreign Relations Committee, and the Clinton administration by releasing his own version of the bill. He proposed doing away entirely with the Agency for International Development, the nation’s principal foreign-aid agency, and making farm programs market-determined. “I am proud of my record. I am proud that it is right there in black and white, and liars cannot gaslight it away.”

But by any standard, the fact is most poor countries are still poor.”

**CUTTING BACK ON AID**

Overall, Sen. McConnell’s program calls for cutting foreign aid by some 25%, with only the Middle East, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe escaping cuts that deep. Sen. McConnell made clear that the one exception is when the former Soviet Union would get $750 million under his plan, just $100 million less than currently, is his intention to send a significant portion of that money to former Soviet Republics such as Ukraine and Armenia, not to Russia.

A well-described Internationalist who has sustained aid to Russia, Mr. McConnell is likely to have great credibility in a Republican-controlled Congress fearful of being tarred isolationist but also deeply skeptical about foreign aid and Messrs. Yeltsin and Talbott.

Mr. McConnell and the Appropriations Committee may also have more real power than Sen. Helms and his Foreign Relations Committee, which is supposed to write foreign-aid bills but hasn’t succeeded in getting one passed since 1988. The job won’t get easier under a divisive figure such as Sen. Helms. That leaves the task of actually parceling out foreign aid to the appropriating committee, Mr. McConnell’s House counterpart, Alabama Rep. Sonny Callahan, who has tried to kill Russia aid before, will be supportive.

**TASTE OF BATTLES TO COME**

The administration got a taste last summer of battles to come with Mr. McConnell. At his urging, the Democratic-controlled Senate voted to cut off all U.S. funds to Russia unless its troops pulled out of Estonia by their promised withdrawal date of Aug. 31.

The provision was struck in a conference committee, but only after franticky lobbying by administration officials who warned that...
brinksmanship would actually harden nationalist feelings in Moscow and make a withdrawal less likely. The Russians pulled out on time, with both Sen. McConnell and the White House calling it a victory.

Mr. Talbott says that he’s puzzled by the charges of Russia-firstism. He notes that some 3% of U.S. aid to the former Soviet Union this year will be spent outside of Rus-

sia. In particular, will receive about $200 million, significantly more than the $850 million appropriation proposed earlier this year by Sen. McConnell.

Mr. Talbott also makes no apologies for his enthusiastic support of Russian reform, which he says “will make life better for Russia’s neighbors and the U.S. ‘It’s not a question of ‘what’s good for Rus-
sia,’ but whether Russia continues to develop in a way that’s good for American inter-
est and values and standards of inter-
national behavior,’ he says. ‘If Russia does not continue to develop in that manner it also will be good for the other countries in the region.’”

Mr. Talbott and others also warn against “mechanistic and punitive linkages,” which he says are unlikely to alter specific Russian actions and could end up souring what he de-
scribes as a fundamentally sound relation-
ship.

REPUBLICAN INTERNATIONALISTS

Despite all the Russia-bashing and Talbott-bashing on Capitol Hill, and a recent boast of U.S.-bashing by Mr. Yeltsin, Presi-
dent Bush has signs of giving up on the Russian leader. The administration’s fis-
cal 1996 foreign-aid request for the former Soviet Union, which goes to Congress next month, will likely be close to this year’s $850 million appropriation, with Russia again re-
ceiving about 45% of the total.

To get their package through, officials say they will rely, as they have for the previous two packages, on the support of a large cadre of Republican internationalists including in-

But whether that support is still there is far from certain. Indeed, anti-Russian senti-
ment has been growing on both sides of the aisle ever since Russian nationalists scored two big wins in last December’s Parliamentary elections, the Central Intelligence Agen-
cy unmasked longterm Russian spy and sen-
tor CIA analyst Aldrich Ames. Ongoing quar-
rels with Moscow,_a recent poll by Russia and the White House claiming victory.

The Russian military has been playing a bigger role in the Balkans in recent months, I helped to lead the charge against the Obama admin-
istration’s completely reckless Russia poli-
cies. President Obama mocked his 2012 opponent for taking Russia too seri-
ously. His administration sought a naive reset with the Kremlin, and for 8 years, I helped to lead the charge against that weakness.

In 2010, I stood with John McCain and Jon Kyl to oppose the New START Treaty, a watered-down placeholder for the sort of tough stance we knew was necessary. As Vladimir Putin was building up his missile arsenal, we even had to push President Obama to com-
mit to deploying capable missile de-
fenses to Europe.

In 2012, I firmly supported sweeping legislation to authorize heavy sanc-
tions following the killing of Sergei Magnitsky in a Russian prison. The Obama administration flinched and tried to tiptoe around our legislation to avoid messing up their charm offen-
sive, but we backed into a corner, and the President signed the bill into law.

In 2014, I and other Republicans con-
stantly pressed President Obama to get tougher on Russia with respect to Putin’s aggression in Ukraine.

Mr. McConnell’s reaction to the news article dated March 4, 2014, enti-
tled “McConnell: Obama’s ‘Passive’”

FOREIGN POLICY ‘Is A Mistake’” be

printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the mate-
rials was ordered to be printed in the REC-
ORD, as follows:

[Mar. 5, 2014]

MITCH MCCONNELL: OBAMA’S ‘PASSIVE’
FOREIGN POLICY ‘Is A Mistake’

(By Sabrina Siddiqui)

WASHINGTON—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) laid into President Barack Obama’s grasp of foreign policy Wednesday, although he stopped just short of blaming Obama for the crisis in Ukraine.

In recent days, a growing number of Re-
pUBLICANS have directly pointed fingers at Obama over Russian President Vladimir Putin’s aggression in Ukraine.

In April 2000, Senate Com-
mittee on Appropriations, Sub-
committee on Foreign Operations hear-
ing be printed in the RECORD.

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

CHAMPION. Sen. McConnell: Mr. President, re-
gardless of who was in the White House and regardless of which party was in power in Washing-
ton, one thing remained true: President Bush’s handling of foreign policy was a total disaster. And he’s acted in such a way, almost amounting to passivity in many instances, he continued. ‘We’re not suggesting here that the use of force is appropriate on very many occasions . . . there’s a widespread kind of lack of respect of U.S. opinion.’

‘It’s no wonder that Putin looks at the United States and sort of concludes that no matter what he does, he doesn’t pay a price for it,’ McConnell added.

The Kentucky Republican was pressed again about whether he believed Obama is to blame for Putin’s move to heighten Russia’s military activity in the Crimean region. Once again, McConnell im-
plicated as much without explicitly holding the president responsible.

‘I think a passive approach to foreign policy, which basically means not asserting American interests, is a mistake,’ he said. ‘Some leaders are going to exercise power [and] will push limits as far as they can if they think that there’s no push back.

McConnell added that he is “very clear in my mind with respect to thinking about foreign policy successes” under the Obama administration, but nonetheless emphasized the need for Congress to work with the White House on providing economic assistance to the Ukrainian people.

“We need to work with the administration to try to understand, if you will, reinforce the administration in Ukraine in every way that we can,” he said.

Moments after McConnell spoke, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) came to Obama’s defense and pointed to former President George W. Bush’s infamous decla-
ration that he had looked into Putin’s eyes and seen his soul.

‘I’ve not heard Obama say that. In fact, I’ve heard Obama speak out very clearly
The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 165, H.R. 3877, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3877, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 402.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.


CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America in the United Nations, to the extent that the Senate is unable to sustain the cloture vote.

Lamar Alexander, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Susan M. Collins, Tom Cotton, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, }
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
July 29, 2019

S5126

Bill Cassidy, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 394.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

Veto message to accompany S.J. Res. 36, 37, and 38, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

Providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of France of certain defense articles and services—VETO

Providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Italian Republic of certain defense articles and services—VETO

Providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of France of certain defense articles and services—VETO

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.
The opioid addiction crisis is one of the greatest public health emergencies of our lifetime, and it is crystal clear Big Pharma, through deliberate and unscrupulous means, has helped to cause it, and the Federal Government gave them tax breaks and continues to give them tax breaks to do it. We need to hold these corporations accountable, and we need to make Big Pharma pay. 

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday President Trump announced that after nearly 2 years of dedicated service, our former Senate colleague Dan Coats would be stepping down from his post as Director of National Intelligence. 

Director Coats has led the intelligence community during a turbulent time for our country, and with our country continuing to face persistent threats from rogue and hostile states, as well as the ongoing war against terrorism, he has done a magnificent job and one that deserves all the accolades we can possibly bestow upon him. We know he entered the job on the tail of the Obama administration and deliberately helped to cause it, and the Federal Government gave them tax breaks and continues to give them tax breaks to do it. We need to hold these corporations accountable, and we need to make Big Pharma pay.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on another matter, during the first 2 years of the Trump administration, the list of vacancies across the Federal Government was a long one, particularly on the Federal bench. The administration worked swiftly to fill well-qualified nominees who were eager to serve our country and our Federal judiciary. Once those nominees were submitted to the Senate, the chairman quickly held confirmation hearings and advanced the vast majority of these nominees to the floor for a vote. That process came to a screeching halt. But from there, the process came to a screeching halt. Our colleagues on the other side pulled every trick in the book to bog down and slow down the nominations process.

Last week, we added more names to that impressive list. We confirmed two district judges, inspector general for the Department of Homeland Security, and both the Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. In addition, we approved two leaders whose experience and who were eager to serve our country but now they have additional tools like social media and propaganda as well as the complicity sometimes of the mainstream media in writing unverified and unsourced stories that create more and more and more and more to make this atmosphere in which we currently live.

Let me talk again about Director Coats because his remarkable career as a public servant included, at times, a Congressman, an ambassador to Germany, a White House aide, and Director of National Intelligence.

I know I speak for others in this Chamber in saying that we are grateful for Dan Coats’ dedicated service to our country, and I am honored to be one of those who can call him a friend. I wish him and Marsha the best in whatever the next chapter brings, hopefully starting with a well-deserved vacation.

I was also glad to see that the President has chosen a worthy successor to that position. Mr. John Ratcliffe. For 4½ years, John has faithfully and diligently served Texas’ Fourth District in Congress for the people of Texas.

Prior to that, he served with distinction as U.S. attorney, prosecuting cases that spanned a wide spectrum of issues, including counterterrorism and national security.

Mr. Ratcliffe is a Member of the House Intelligence, Homeland Security, and Judiciary Committees, a pretty good portfolio for somebody who would be the next Director of National Intelligence. So he already has an understanding of the threats facing our country and the challenges that lie ahead. I am confident he will continue Dan Coats’ strong leadership as a non-partisan strong leader for the intelligence community.

Sadly, though, we can already begin to see our Democratic colleagues beginning to play their partisan games, threatening to defeat this nomination at the expense of the American people.

This position is simply too important to the security of our Nation to be bogged down in partisan politics. Since this job was created, every single Director has been confirmed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. In fact, none of these men received the support of fewer than 85 Senators. This one should be no different.

I look forward to the President formally nominating John Ratcliffe to be the next Director of National Intelligence.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

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Let me talk again about Director Coats because his remarkable career as a public servant included, at times, a Congressman, an ambassador to Germany, a White House aide, and Director of National Intelligence.

I know I speak for others in this Chamber in saying that we are grateful for Dan Coats’ dedicated service to our country, and I am honored to be one of those who can call him a friend. I wish him and Marsha the best in whatever the next chapter brings, hopefully starting with a well-deserved vacation.

I was also glad to see that the President has chosen a worthy successor to that position. Mr. John Ratcliffe. For 4½ years, John has faithfully and diligently served Texas’ Fourth District in Congress for the people of Texas.

Prior to that, he served with distinction as U.S. attorney, prosecuting cases that spanned a wide spectrum of issues, including counterterrorism and national security.

Mr. Ratcliffe is a Member of the House Intelligence, Homeland Security, and Judiciary Committees, a pretty good portfolio for somebody who would be the next Director of National Intelligence. So he already has an understanding of the threats facing our country and the challenges that lie ahead. I am confident he will continue Dan Coats’ strong leadership as a non-partisan strong leader for the intelligence community.

Sadly, though, we can already begin to see our Democratic colleagues beginning to play their partisan games, threatening to defeat this nomination at the expense of the American people.

This position is simply too important to the security of our Nation to be bogged down in partisan politics. Since this job was created, every single Director has been confirmed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. In fact, none of these men received the support of fewer than 85 Senators. This one should be no different.

I look forward to the President formally nominating John Ratcliffe to be the next Director of National Intelligence.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on another matter, during the first 2 years of the Trump administration, the list of vacancies across the Federal Government was a long one, particularly on the Federal bench. The administration worked swiftly to fill well-qualified nominees who were eager to serve our country and our Federal judiciary. Once those nominees were submitted to the Senate, the chairman quickly held confirmation hearings and advanced the vast majority of these nominees to the floor for a vote. That process came to a screeching halt. But from there, the process came to a screeching halt. Our colleagues on the other side pulled every trick in the book to bog down and slow down the nominations process.

Last week, we added more names to that impressive list. We confirmed two district judges, inspector general for the Department of Homeland Security, and both the Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. We also confirmed two leaders whose experience and who were eager to serve our country but now they have additional tools like social media and propaganda as well as the complicity sometimes of the mainstream media in writing unverified and unsourced stories that create more and more and more and more to make this atmosphere in which we currently live.

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bipartisan support, with 90 Senators voting for him. I am glad he is now on the job, leading America’s national security.

We also confirmed another important senior Department of Defense official last week—Gen. Mark Milley. He has resoundingly confirmed to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with only one Senator voting against him. I can’t think of anyone more prepared for the job than General Milley, a former Army Ranger and Green Beret. He has a remarkable military resume, including commander officer of the III Corps in Fort Hood, TX, where I first got to know him years ago. I know he and Secretary Esper will continue to have a strong working relationship, and I look forward to continuing to work with both of them in their new roles.

This week, we intend to keep our progress on nominations going strong, and we have seven Texas district court judge nominees on the docket. Among those well-qualified nominees is a former Army paratrooper and Marine JAG officer, former and current intermedium court judges, former and current Federal and State prosecutors, and a Texas Supreme Court Justice—a job I know he will do well. We all proudly served the Lone Star State in a variety of capacities.

I am, again, impressed by the outstanding nominees that the President has recruited to fill these important judicial positions. When these nominees are confirmed, we will finally break down two barriers in the Texas district courts. Ada Brown will be the first African-American woman to sit in the Northern District of Texas, and Jason Pullman will be the first African-American in the Western District of Texas. Each of these nominees has shown their legal acumen, clear judgment, and unwavering commitment to the rule of law. I look forward to voting for their nominations later this week.

In addition to confirming these Texas and a dozen other district court judges, the Senate will confirm a critical Cabinet-level position in the administration. When Nikki Haley announced that after 2 years of dedicated service, she would leave her post as Ambassador to the United Nations at the end of last year, we knew it would leave a major hole in that organization. But the President didn’t have far to look for well-qualified nominees. Two years ago, the Senate unanimously confirmed Kelly Knight Craft to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Canada. Looking back on that 2 years now, it is safe to say it has been a dynamic time during our relationship with our neighbor to the north, a fact that made Ambassador Craft’s job all that much more important.

Through each challenge and difference between our leaders, Ambassador Craft has demonstrated her tact and diplomatic skills. In addition to the usual duties of the office, Ambassador Craft facilitated the renegotiation of NAFTA—the North American Free Trade Agreement—and helped broker the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement—the USMCA. She helped build consensus on this agreement, which will benefit North American workers, farmers, and businesses, and won friends from both countries in the process.

Once Trump nominated Ambassador Craft to represent the United States in the U.N., we heard glowing endorsements from both of those Canadians. Canadian officials praised her role in NAFTA negotiations and border conditions, and U.S. diplomats who served under Republican and Democratic administrations spoke of their confidence in Ambassador Craft and her ability to represent our country on the world stage.

For the last 2 years, Ambassador Craft has made our country proud as the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, and I am confident her outstanding record will continue at the United Nations. I appreciate her willingness to serve in this important role and look forward to voting for her nomination later this week.

As we prepare to head home for the August recess to spend time with our constituents, I am glad to know these important positions throughout the Federal Government will not be left vacant for much longer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming?

The PRESIDENT. Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor. Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few minutes ago, the majority leader came to the floor to express his frustration at being accused of blocking election security legislation. I would make three factual points. First, Russia did interfere in our 2016 elections. Every intelligence agency, everyone who has looked at this is 100 percent clear Russia interfered.

Two, Russia will attempt to interfere in the 2020 elections and is already doing it. That is not only what Special Counsel Mueller said but FBI Director Wray and many other appointees in the intelligence and counterintelligence agencies appointed by President Trump recognized.

Three, the Republican majority has done nothing—absolutely nothing—to deal with this problem.

So here is an easy way for Leader McConnell to silence the critics who accuse him of blocking election security: Stop blocking.

Leader McConnell doesn’t have to put the bills that we Democrats have proposed on the floor. The House has passed—they were bipartisan bills—and we can debate the issue.

America’s democracy is at risk when a foreign power interferes. So if Leader McConnell doesn’t like being criticized on election security, he can challenge him: Let’s debate it on the floor with amendments. I challenge him: Support additional appropriations for States to harden their election systems. In both cases, Leader McConnell has not done that. In fact, he has said he opposes money to the States even though they say—I believe there are 21 attorneys general who have said they need more money.

Despite our requests, Leader McConnell has not only blocked unanimous consent requests but has not put any other legislation on the floor to deal with this.

Again, I repeat, this should not be a political issue. This should not be a political issue. Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, whether you are a liberal, a conservative, in between, you should despise the fact that any American should despise the fact that Russia has interfered in our elections and is attempting to do so again.

I challenge all Republicans to think about it. He resents that we are a free and open and wonderful democratic society. And for us to sit here with our arms folded and do nothing? Unheard of in previous years.

I still don’t have a really clear idea why Leader McConnell is so adamantly opposed to doing anything on election security. Maybe it is because President Trump, in his childlike way, resents the fact that people point out that Russia interfered. He thinks it delegitimizes his Presidential election. But that is not a good enough reason, if that is the case. We have an obligation, a duty. Do you know whom we have an obligation to, Mr. President? We have an obligation to the hundreds of thousands of Americans—the millions of Americans who laid down their lives to defend our right to vote in our free and open democracy throughout the centuries. But that is not a good enough reason, if that is the case. We have an obligation, a duty. Do you know whom we have an obligation to, Mr. President? We have an obligation to the hundreds of thousands of Americans—the millions of Americans who laid down their lives to defend our right to vote in our free and open democracy throughout the centuries.

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is absolutely not true. Twenty-one at-
torneys general say they need it. Nine
States don’t have backup systems with
complete paper balloting.

So if Leader MCCONNELL takes um-
brage at his election security critics, I
challenge them to defend President
Trump, and former Special Counsel
Mueller, who did an extensive inves-
tigation, have all made clear, when it
comes to Russian interference in our
elections, the case is certainly not
closed.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, yesterday the Director
of National Intelligence, Dan Coats—a
former Member of this Chamber who is
renowned for his integrity and his bi-
partisanship—announced his resigna-
tion. In the turbulence, the circle of
advisers who are unafraid to speak
truth to President Trump continues to
shrink. It seems that if you are going
to speak truth and tell the President
something he doesn’t want to hear, you
are facing a frosty and unresponsive
administration.

Mr. President who is the President
proposed replacing this longtime,
diplomat, Senator, and sergeant in
army—a mistake for the country we
love.

The DNI—Director of National Intel-
ligence—handles some of the most sen-
sitive responsibilities in the Federal
Government. It requires a high level of
expertise. It requires trust from the in-
telligence community. And it requires
a track record of independence, an abil-
ity in the closed confines of the White
House to speak truth to power and tell
the President what is happening, not
just what the President wants to hear.

On all these measures, it seems Rep-
resentative RATCLIFFE falls short of
that bar.

John Negroponte became the DNI
after decades of working in the Foreign
Service. Dennis Blair, James Clapper,
and Mike McConnell all had decades of
military experience. Dan Coats served
as a diplomat, Senator, and sergeant in
the Army before assuming the post.
Representative RATCLIFFE, on the other
hand, is a three-term tea party
Congressman. When he rose on TV
sort of appeals to the President’s sense
of stridency and partisanship.

Representative RATCLIFFE lacks the
experience required to lead an intel-
ligence agency, much less the entire
intelligence community. His time in
Congress—particularly over the past
several weeks since it was rumored he
might be picked for the post—has been
alarming and partisan. He has been a
fierce critic of the Russia investiga-
tion. He earned praise from deep state
disavowed theorists.

During the Mueller hearings, Rep-
resentative RATCLIFFE badgered and
harassed the former special counsel
with a baseless line of questioning and
repeatedly interrupted him when he
was trying to respond. He showed little
regard for the seriousness of Putin’s in-
terference in our election and the need
for election security in this country.

Watching Representative RATCLIFFE’s
performance in the Mueller hearing, I
was reminded of how I felt watching
General Flynn. In the summer of 2016, I
saw this three-star general lead chants of people
“Lock her up”—at the Republican con-
vention and at rallies. I said: Who is
this guy? How does someone become a
three-star and do something like this?
At the time I thought: There is some-
thing seriously wrong with General
Flynn here.

Well, I had the same feeling watching
Representative RATCLIFFE at the Mueller hearing.
The same twisting and subversion and
flatout ignorance, the same partisan
demagoguery to appeal to the worst in-
clinations and the need to be loyal to his
MO. There is something wrong here.
The DNI is supposed to be the least
partisan member of the President’s
Cabinet. It would be a grave mistake
for the Senate to elevate this partisan
warrior to that position.

I have to wonder, are my Republican
colleagues comfortable with their par-
ty’s direction on national security? Are
they comfortable going along with
Leader McConnell as he blocks legis-
lation to protect our elections and
deter foreign adversaries from interfer-
ing? Are they comfortable with a po-
larizing, partisan candidate taking
charge of our national intelligence
community? Are they comfortable
knowing that this nominee may well
not tell the President the truth when
there is evidence from our brave intel-
ligence operatives around the world
that something we are doing is wrong?

I would hope my Republican col-
leagues are uncomfortable with these
developments. Ten years ago, I have
doubt, Mr. RATCLIFFE wouldn’t have even
been nominated, let alone approved by
this body. So I hope that is the case
today. I hope we haven’t gone so far away and in such
obedience to a President who only likes
to hear what he wants to hear that we
would nominate someone like this. It
would be a shame and it would weaken
America because if we don’t know the
truth, we can’t act on the truth.

Will our Republican colleagues
start speaking up and doing something
about this? When Mr. RATCLIFFE comes be-
fore the Senate, he will have to answer
for his long history of partisan state-
mements and blind fealty to President
Trump. Mr. RATCLIFFE will have to an-
swer tough questions about Russia’s
meddling in our election, about his ap-
parent disinterest in election security,
and about his inability or unwilling-
iness to speak independence from the
President. If he has an answer, I hope
he did while questioning Mueller, Sen-
ate Republicans would be making a
grave mistake by advancing his nomi-
nation—a mistake for the country we
love.

Mr. President, finally, on China,
starting today, the United States will
resume trade negotiations with China,
which have recently stalled over Chi-
na’s equivocation on a number of
issues.

Anyone who has viewed China’s be-
havior over the past year of negotia-
tions—or for that matter, the past dec-
dades—knows that China is always
reluctant to make concessions that
would put its businesses on a level
playing field. China will resist, delay,
and offer bare-bones concessions and
then retract them in hopes that it can
avoid meaningful reforming its econ-
omy and playing fair on trade.

So, as negotiations begin again, I
urge President Trump and his team not
to back down but to put unrelenting
pressure on China to make significant,
concrete, and enduring commitments
to trade fairly.

I don’t agree with President Trump
on much, but he has been tougher on
China than any of the previous admin-
istrations, and that is good to be
tough on China and then surrender
our leverage at the last minute for
nothing in return would be terrible.

One of our greatest leverage points
against China is Huawei, a state-
sponsored Chinese telecom giant that
our intelligence agencies have labeled
nothing less than a national security
threat. The Trump administration has
correctly sought restrictions on
Huawei, even while they have some-
times waved on their severity.

Now, as negotiations are set to re-
sume, the President must not give up
leverage on Huawei in exchange for
anything less than concrete commit-
ments on market access, intellectual
property theft, and forced technology
transfers.

These are issues paramount to the
competitiveness of American business
and will cause us to lose millions of
jobs and trillions of dollars in the fu-
ture, as we have lost in the past and as
the President correctly points out, to
China’s rapaciousness.

I am concerned enough now about
the possibility the administration will
sell out, particularly in the wake of re-
ports that President Trump has agreed
to soft pedal criticism of China over its
Hong Kong policy, hoping for smoother
trade talks.

The administration is wrong on two
fronts. First, it is always crucial for the
United States to stand up for de-
ocracy, human rights, and civil lib-
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President of the United States would
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Hawaii. Don’t sell out. Don’t give Huawei half or three-quarters of what it wants. Hold tough, and the Chinese in a few months will come to us with real concessions. It is a game of who is stronger and who can last longer. I hope it is not, as the President’s previous actions on China will be wasted and go down the drain.

9/11 VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND

There are two more things, including the VCF bill signing. There are some good ways that happened in the past week in Washington. People think nothing good comes out of Washington. Once in a while, we do something good. Once in a while, our Republican colleagues will go along with something that needs to be done, instead of block- ing everything and putting it in a graveyard, which they usually do. That happened last week when this body finally passed the bipartisan 9/11 Victim Compensation bill, and today the President signed it into law, closing the book on nearly two decades of advocacy to provide the care and compensation that 9/11 first responders deserve.

Nothing, nothing should or can get in the way of our first responders getting their due. Finally, at last, these brave first responders had to spend too much time here in Washington, often in their wheelchairs, often dying of cancer, begging Senators to give them the help they need—the same help we give to veterans who, like our first responders after 9/11, in a time of war, rushed to danger and suffered injury. We help them. We help our veterans, our soldiers, and our Armed Forces, in the same way we should be helping 9/11 first responders. At last, at last, we are doing that. It has been a long struggle, but because of the courage of many who joined the cause, the memory of people like James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, Luis Alvarez, and so many others will live on in this law. Their parents—and I know Mrs. Pfeifer and I know Mr. Alvarez family: I have met them—can know, despite the pain in their hearts at their grave, that the deaths of their loved ones will not be in vain.

BIPARTISAN BACKGROUND CHECKS

Finally, my heart is filled with sadness and anger today after reports of deadly shootings at festivals on opposite coastlines, one in my hometown of Brooklyn and another across the country, in Gilroy, CA. There are no words for the horror of these tragedies, which continue unabated while the majority leader once again refuses to even debate commonsense gun laws.

Put the bill the House passed on the floor. We have had bipartisan efforts in this in the past. The gunショルはloop hole. Let’s close the loopholes and have universal background checks. Almost no Americans object to preventing felons or spousal abusers or those adjudicated mentally incompetent from getting a gun. The gun show loophole is all talked about, and the Republican majority does, and we have made no progress and these awful events continue.

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 called the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Your resolution will be received and appropriately referred.

The Senator from New Jersey.

VETO OVERRIDE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to join me in voting to override the President’s veto of three resolutions of disapproval on arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

As we all know, several weeks ago, the Secretary of State attempted to bypass this Congress on 22 separate arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—all on the pretext of an urgent physical threat from Iran that was, at best, ill-defined and, at worst, completely false.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

The remarks of Mr. CARPER per-

The Senator from Montana. (The remarks of Mr. DAINES pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 289 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. DAINES. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Your resolution will be received and appropriately referred.

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Let me be clear. Iran has and will continue to pose a threat to U.S. interests and allies in the region, and I have and will continue to approve arms sales to partners and allies that address legitimate security threats and advance American interests.

From the start, this administration has failed to demonstrate what kind of national security threat or “emergency” from Iran warranted fast-track ing the sale of these weapons to Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E.

Indeed, Secretary Pompeo’s own May 21 justification for the sales lacked any persuasive information explaining how these sales would address an Iranian threat. He was so nervous that it justified bypassing Congress on an “emergency” basis.

That is why I introduced resolutions to disapprove these sales, and that is why 6 weeks ago, this body came together in a bipartisan way to reassert the role of Congress in reviewing arms sales and passed 22 separate resolutions of disapproval.

Today I ask that we come together again. In fact, not even President Trump’s own veto messages mention the word “emergency.” It is clear this administration has had other motives from the start. We continue to hear officials invent new reasons for pushing through these sales. We heard these sales are necessary for “sustaining the global supply chain,” for preventing “loss of sale to peer competitors,” for maintaining U.S. “credibility as an arms supplier,” and so on.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

(Continued on next page.)
the Saudis. That is right. With this sale, the Trump administration has authorized Raytheon to allow the Saudis to begin manufacturing part of the electronic guidance system for these precision-guided munitions. In other words, the administration is not only selling these weapons but also portions of the blueprints for building these weapons.

This work has always and always should be done by American workers right here in the United States. America’s industry produces by far the most sophisticated systems in the world. Yet the Trump administration is opening the door for the Saudis to manufacture their own similar weapons in the future or transfer our American-made technical know-how to other countries.

Disturbingly, we also know that if the Trump administration gets its way, this transfer will not be a one-time thing. State Department officials have actually sought to aproach the Foreign Relations Committee to assure them that this will be the first of many sales authorizing the Saudis to manufacture even larger, more sensitive portions of these highly advanced weapons.

My colleagues is that simply madness. Not only is this sale a Saudi jobs program, but it is also a giveaway of sensitive U.S. military technology. The President’s own veto message claims that this will not give away American jobs and sensitive military technology to Saudi Arabia would “abandon” them. I am guessing by “them,” he means the royal family the President is intent on praising and courting.

I ask my colleagues who oppose stopping this sale or are thinking of allowing the President’s veto to stand: Do you want to be on record supporting a Saudi jobs program? Do you want to be on the record as aiding and abetting the transfer of sensitive U.S. military technology to Saudi Arabia, a source of extremism and bloodstream in the world?

S.J. Res. 37 disapproves a sale of precision-guided munitions to the UAE at a time when the UAE is pulling its military forces out of Yemen. Yet the President’s veto message says that stopping this sale would somehow prolong the suffering in Yemen, which goes against any logic with which I am familiar.

S.J. Res. 38 disapproves a sale of fuzes for Saudi bombs. Yet the President argues that stopping this sale will again prolong the suffering of the innocent in Yemen, presumably by denying the Saudis the ability to target them indiscriminately. It doesn’t make sense.

Finally, I think all of my colleagues can agree that the United States and Saudi Arabia need a course correction. The brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi, an American resident and journalist in a Saudi consulate, may have been the final, violent straw that broke the camel’s back, but we must reexamine this relationship. Beyond the Khashoggi killing and the atrocities in Yemen, the Saudi-led blockade of Qatar and the ongoing rift within the GCC are not in the interests of the United States. The Saudis kidnapping of the Lebanese Prime Minister is not in the interest of the United States.

Finally, we must reexamine the attention and torture of human rights activists calling for the same exact rights the Crown Prince himself pretends to support—its suppression of dissent and speech—this behavior does not reflect American values or our long-term interests.

My colleagues: America is better than this. This Senate and this Congress must continue to stand up for reason, for decency, and for the actual foreign policy and national security interests of the United States—not the personal interests of the Trump family and their misguided willingness to put profit over principle and profit over people.

This administration’s willingness to turn a blind eye to the wholesale slaughter of civilians and the murder of journalists and move forward with the sale of these weapons will have a lasting implication for America’s moral leadership on the world stage.

That is why, 6 weeks ago, in a bipartisan fashion, the Senate came together to approve an unprecedented 22 bipartisan resolutions of disapproval. That is why 5 weeks ago, the Committee on Foreign Relations approved my bipartisan bill—the Saudi Arabia False Emergencies, or SAFE Act—to prevent similar abuses of emergency authority at home.

That is why, 3 weeks ago, the House passed several amendments to their National Defense Authorization Act to stop these same arms sales, and, 2 weeks ago, the House passed three of the Senate joint resolutions of disapproval and sent them to the President. It is the first time, since 1988, that any such resolution has passed the Congress, and it is the first time multiple resolutions of disapproval had done so.

Finally, just last week, the Foreign Relations Committee approved on a bipartisan vote the Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act, legislation I introduced with Senators Young, Murphy, Graham, Reed, Collins, and Shaheen that would finally impose real sanctions, including on arms sales, on Saudi Arabia for its atrocities—legislation I hope Senator McConnell will swiftly bring to the floor.

I hope this administration appreciates the gravity of these actions and those to come.

Today we have an opportunity to again demonstrate to the President, the Secretary of State, and the Congress our strong opposition to Saudi Arabia’s detention of the butchers of Saudi Arabia that the U.S. Senate will stand up for our values, will stand up for our long-term national security interests, and will put country over short-term business interests.

I urge my colleagues to take this stand today, override these vetoes, and stop the Saudi arms sales.

There are few days in this body where we can say that our votes will save lives. Today is such a day.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to address an important issue, that the Secretary of State did not comply with the law when he made an emergency declaration on May 24 to bypass the Congress and issue export permission for 22 separate arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Because of this, a case can be made that some or all of the export licenses and the letters of offer are not valid because they did not comply with the Arms Export Control Act.

We have made clear in this body that there is strong bipartisan opposition to the President and Secretary of State’s reckless disregard for the law, for common sense, for human rights, for basic human decency, and even for our national security, when it comes to matters involving Saudi Arabia. We voted to disapprove each and every one of these 22 “emergency” sales, and I have no doubt, we will continue to attempt to correct the President’s self-serving myopia on Saudi Arabia and its murderous leadership.

But the Secretary of State’s failure to comply with statutory obligations is a serious matter that we cannot allow to go unchallenged in a moment where we must assert our authority and over the Secretary’s incredible contentions that these sales respond to an Iranian emergency. At the risk of losing some in the minutia, let me briefly lay out how the Secretary’s “emergency” declaration fails to comply with the basic requirements of the emergency provisions in Arms Export Control Act and degrades congressional prerogatives.

The Secretary’s failure to comply with the statute materially and adversely impacts the Senate’s institutional interests. It undermines the clear and intentional statutory balance between Congress and the executive branch designed to govern individual arms sales, and it impedes the Senate’s ability to understand, conduct oversight, and respond to each sale. As laid out below, in this instance, the blanket approach taken with regard to these 22 sales demonstrates precisely why a generalized determination and certification is insufficient to protect the Senate’s role in arms sales.

Mr. President, allow me to explain further. The Secretary indicated that he determined that, pursuant to sections 36(b)(1), (c)(2), and (d)(2), an emergency exists that requires the immediate sale of defense articles and services to Saudi Arabia and UAE and thereby purported to waive the congressional review requirements for the 22 certifications. In support of this action, the Secretary offered one determination and one memorandum of justification. The emergency authorities cited above and upon which the Secretary relies, however, do not allow
Clarke Cooper, reinforced this concern in a briefings to Senate staff when he cited justifications other than Iran for the 22 sales, including the possible loss of arms sales to China and Russia, the need for "interoperability" of weapons systems, viewing the Secretary as a reliable arms supplier, and supporting the global supply chain for weapons sales.

By lumping all 22 certifications together with only one determination and justification, the Secretary sought to mask obvious deficiencies in his position that there is an actual and articulable emergency applicable to each of the 22 sales. This tactic runs directly counter to senators' ability to conduct oversight and the body's ability to consider resolutions of disapproval in an informed manner. Unfortunately, we must conclude that the Secretary intentionally took this approach, given that he and the Department were not forthcoming with the letters of offer relating to 13 of the 22 sales. For example, just 2 days prior to the submission of the certifications, the Secretary briefed all Senators on the enhanced threat from Iran and the steps the United States is taking to counter that threat, yet did not mention the arms sales or pending emergency certifications, which he now justifies as necessary due to the Iran threat. Other Iran briefings by the administration similarly omitted this issue.

In fact, while the statute explicitly references the NATO + 5 satellite launch emergency authority, it omits (c)(2)(C), the catchall, from the scope of emergency authority. Mr. President, let me explain in further detail. Section 36(c)(2) does not provide statutory authority for emergency determinations covering a specific sale, with a justification and determination required in each instance such authority is exercised. The relevant statutory references are only in the singular, and not in the plural, leaving no doubt as to what the law requires.

If the President states in his certification that an emergency exists which requires the proposed sale in the national security interest of the United States, thus waiving the congressional review provisions of this subsection, he shall set forth in the certification a detailed justification for his determination, including a description of the emergency circumstances which necessitate the immediate issuance of the letter of offer and a discussion of the national security interests involved.''

The structure and text of 36(c)(2) and (d)(1) are analogous in requiring a specific determination and justification to accompany each emergency certification.

Mr. President, given the extraordinary nature of the emergency authority and the national security sensitivities involved in arms sales, it is not surprising that Congress did not give the President blanket authority to invoke an emergency and bypass Congress. The requirement for a case-by-case exercise of such authority protects congressional interests by ensuring that the Senate has sufficient information on each sale to understand the sale, conduct oversight, assess whether use of the emergency authority is consistent with the AECA, and determine whether a resolution of disapproval is warranted.

The case-by-case approach set out in the statute was designed to protect against the very situation the Senate faced as a result of the Secretary's blanket use of the emergency authority to cover 22 sales at once. The Secretary was abusing the emergency authority by invoking it to cover sales for which there is no actual emergency need, e.g., the manufacture of F–18 fighter aircraft side panels in Saudi Arabia for export outside the region, when Saudi Arabia doesn't even need F–18. Further, the senior State Department official responsible for arms sales, Assistant Secretary of State R....
Section 36(c) governs direct commercial sales, e.g., Raytheon to Saudi Arabia, as opposed to government to government sales under 36(b)(1). In the case of direct commercial sales, the executive branch has less insight and control over actions that would if the U.S. Government were the seller and engaged directly with a foreign government. It follows, then, that Congress would be willing to allow extraordinary emergency authority with regard to a small set of our closest allies and partners, as well as in certain highly limited situations where there is a direct commercial need—satellite launches. Given that level of control does not exist for direct commercial sales, however, it also follows that Congress had a powerful incentive to narrow the scope of the emergency authority so that it no longer authorized the President to bypass congressional review. We are almost every country in the world.

We have heard through the grapevine that the Secretary’s position may be that Congress screwed up in the 2000 amendment, neglected to specify that the emergency authorities continued to apply to the catch 11 category. This counterargument is problematic for several reasons. It ignores the plain language of the statute; it presumes congressional error where the presumption should be that Congress knew what it was doing and intended the result absent clear evidence of an error; there is no contemporaneous documentation or statements of intent of which we are aware that would corroborate this counterargument; and it serves only the interest of the executive branch at the expense and diminishment of Congress’ role in arms sales. Furthermore, the Secretary has never even made this argument to us, indicating that even he does not believe it.

We are in dangerous territory, my friends. The Secretary has moved forward, seeking to eliminate Congress’s role in arms sales, based on an extraordinary emergency authority that we believe does not exist in statute and for which we are aware that would not add to any possible confusion. If we adopt these resolutions, we risk inadvertently encouraging Iranian miscalculation.

I remain highly concerned with the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, the devastating impact of the war on Yemeni civilians, and the terrible human rights violations, by setting the stage for a peaceful settlement. I urge my colleagues to sustain the President’s veto.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I yield the floor.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Sasse), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

If present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted “Nay.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 40, as follows:

YEA—45

Alexander
Balzine
Barrasso
Blackburn
Burr
Cassidy
Cornyn
Cramer
Crapo

NAY—40

Aldrich
Bennett
Crus
DeWitte
Gardner
Gillibrand

Note: Senator Kaine has been noted as not voting.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 45, the nays are 40. Two-thirds of the Senators voting or voting present not having voted in the affirmative, the bill on reconsideration fails to pass over the veto of the President of the United States.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the Liburdi nomination, the Senate vote on the cloture motion on the Welte nomination; I further ask consent that if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on the confirmations of these nominations in the order listed at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, July 30, and that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON VETO OF S.J. RES. 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall S.J. Res. 37 pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays are required.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. TRUMPE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPRO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "nay," the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) would have voted "nay," the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "nay," the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) would have voted "nay.," the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) would have voted "nay."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 40, as follows:

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 38—VETO

The question is, Shall S.J. Res. 38 pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays are required.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. TRUMPE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPRO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 41, as follows:

[Role Call Vote No. 233 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin
Blumenthal
Booher
Brown
Cantwell
Casey
Cassidy
Coons
Cortez Masto
Durbin
Feinstein
Graham
Hassan
Heinrich
Hirono
Jones
Kaine
King
Lee
Menendez
Merkley
Morgan
Nurse
Peterson
Reed
Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Shah\n
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
UDAL
Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Wyden
Young

NOT VOTING—13

Bennet
Cassidy
Crabio
Cramer
Daines
Emi

Risch
Gardner
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Saase
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Shupe
Tillis
Toomey
Portman
Wicker

NAYS—41

Bennet
Cassidy
Crabio
Daines
Emi

Gillibrand
Klobuchar
Sullivan
Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Wyden
Young

NOT VOTING—16

Benet
Crapo
Gardner
Menendez
Portman
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Saase
Schatz
Schumer
Shahen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
UDAL
Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Wyden
Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 41.

Two-thirds of the Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, the bill on reconsideration fails to pass over the veto of the President of the United States.

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, are hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.


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 Michael T. Liburdi, of Arizona, be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 41, as follows:

[Role Call Vote No. 233 Leg.]
from Louisiana (Mr. Cassidy), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Paul), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Perdue), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth), the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin    Heinrich    Schatz
Blumenthal Hirono    Schumer
Booker     Kaine     Shaheen
Brown      King      Smith
Cantwell   Leahy     Stabenow
Cardin     Menendez  Udall
Casey      Merkley   Van Hollen
Coons      Murphy    Warner
Cortez Masto Murray    Whitehouse
Crapo      Peters    Wyden
Feinstein  Reed     Wyden
Hassan

NOT VOTING—12

Bennet     Harris     Perdue
Cassidy    Isakson    Sanders
Duckworth  Klobuchar  Sullivan
Gillibrand Perdue

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 37.

The motion is agreed to.

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 Peter D. Welte, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.


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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the nomination of Peter D. Welte, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota, 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 Georgia (Mr. Isakson), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Paul), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Perdue), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth), the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand), the Senator from California (Ms. Harris), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Alexander    Fischer    Murphy
Barrasso    Gardner     Peters
Blackburn    Graham     Portman
Blunt       Grassley    Risch
Boozman     Hawley     Romney
Braun       Hoeven     Rounds
Burr        Hyde-Smith  Rubio
Capito      Inhofe     Rounds
Collins     Johnson     Scott (FL)
Cornyn      Jones      Scott (SC)
Cotton      Kennedy    Shelby
Cramer      Lankford   Sinema
Crapo       Lee       Thune
Cruz        Manchin     Tillis
Daines      McConnell  Toomey
Emmanuel   McSally    Wicker
Ernst       Moran      Young

NAYS—21

Baldwin    Hirono     Schumer
Blumenthal Markey     Smith
Booker     Menendez   Stabenow
Brown      Murray     Udall
Cardin     Reed      Van Hollen
Casey      Schatz    Whitehouse
Heinrich    Sinema     Wyden

NOT VOTING—13

Bennet     Harris     Sanders
Cassidy    Isakson    Sullivan
Duckworth  Klobuchar  Warren
Gillibrand Perdue
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 $55 billion in loans 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 we got/linking together 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, where these 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 need 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 sacrifice in the short run for long-term prosperity. Until we do this, we must invest 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 ofinclement 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 enough, independent oversight and accountability from Congress and Homeland Security inspector general is imperative to change the deplorable treatment of immigrants. 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 facilities. As I emphasized, 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 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. 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 employment 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; and

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 any other Senator who has made a reimbursement or complete reimbursement in compliance with the requirement of section 1.3.2 of this 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 7th 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 1.3.2 of this Act to reimburse the account.

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—

2.2.2.1 amounts payable through payments directly from the Senator, withholding from the Senator’s compensation and transfers from the Senator’s Thrift Savings Fund; and

2.2.2.2 the timing of these 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.

Notice of Agreement. Within 2 business days of submission of the agreement to reimburse, the Office shall provide a copy of the
agreement to reimburse to the Committee on Rules and Administration and, if the agreement specifies withholding, the Senate Disbursing Office.

2.4 Failure to Enter Into Agreement to Reimburse.

2.4.1 Should a Senator fail to enter into an agreement to reimburse within 30 days of the covered payment, the Office shall notify the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Senate Disbursing Office within 2 business days.

2.4.2 After receiving notice pursuant to subsection 2.4.1, the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Senate Disbursing Office and the Office shall determine a reimbursement schedule for the Senator within 60 days of the covered payment.

2.4.3 The Office shall provide a copy of the reimbursement schedule to the Senator within 2 business days.

2.5 Changes to Reimbursement Agreement. Nothing in these regulations shall prohibit a Senator from making additional reimbursement payments. If the Office receives additional reimbursement payments from a Senator, the Office shall adjust the agreement to reimburse and provide notice pursuant to section 2.3.

2.6 Garnishment or Other Collection of Wages. Pursuant to section 417(d)(4) of the Act, at the expiration of the 270-day period which begins on the date of the covered payment, the Office shall transfer any remaining reimbursable amounts to the Secretary of the Senate for the collection of other collection of wages as permitted by the Act.

2.7 Final Disposition of Reimbursement. The Office shall provide the Committee on Rules and Administration with a copy of the certification that reimbursement is complete pursuant to the Act, or a copy of the transfer to the Secretary of Treasury under section 2.6.

3.0 Definitions.

For the purposes of these Regulations, the following terms shall have the meaning specified—

3.1 Account. The term “account” refers to the account described in section 415(a) of the Act.


3.3 Covered Payment. The term “covered payment” refers to a payment from the account described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(9) of the Act.

3.4 Employing Office. The term “employing office” refers to the employing office as described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(9) of the Act.

3.5 Information on the Employing Office. The term “information on the employing office” refers to, in the case of an award or in the case of a settlement where reimbursement is required under section 416(d)(3)(C) of the Act, the name of the employing office. In the case of a settlement where reimbursement is not required under section 416(d)(3)(C) of the Act, “information on the employing office” refers to the employing office described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 101(a)(9) of the Act.

3.6 Office. The term “Office” refers to the Office of the Expenditure Review and Collection.

3.7 Reimbursable Portion of any Covered Payment. The term “reimbursable portion of any covered payment” refers to the portion of the cover payment to which a Senator is required to reimburse the account pursuant to section 415(d)(1) of the Act.

TRIBUTE TO DICK HISER

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Dick Hiser, who is being inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Every year since 1992, Wyoming has recognized individuals who have made substantial contributions to agriculture in our great State. With nearly 60 years of involvement in the agriculture community in Wyoming and beyond, Mr. Hiser is well deserving of this accolade.

A native of Saratoga, WY, Mr. Hiser spent the early portion of his career working for the University of Wyoming as an extension agent in Carbon County. During his time in this position, Mr. Hiser led the Wyoming 4-H program in Carbon County to much success. His leadership was critical in helping Carbon County students succeed, encouraging their efforts in everything from judging livestock to earning valuable academic scholarships. He is remembered by many in Wyoming that participated in the 4-H and the Agriculture industry.

Fortunately for Wyoming, Mr. Hiser’s contributions include not only his involvement in youth programs, but Wyoming’s ranching community as well. Many know him for his stalwart commitment to sustainable and high-quality cattle and remaining true to his three goals: ensuring cattle were well tended in their environment, structurally sound to compete in the marketplace, and would grade well once prepared for final sale.

This commitment to Wyoming’s agriculture community was reflected in Mr. Hiser’s many successes in national cattle shows like the National Western Stock Show and the Arizona National Livestock Show. He has also been recognized as an outstanding alum of the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and is honored in the Carbon County 4-H Hall Of Fame. Mr. Hiser has dedicated his time to agriculture interest groups across the State, including the Wyoming Live- stock Board, Wyoming Beef Council, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and Wyoming State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition to his tremendous contributions to Wyoming agriculture, education, and 4-H communities in Wyoming, Mr. Hiser showed what it means to be a truly upstanding member of the community while serving as a Carbon County commissioner.

Mr. Hiser’s values, dedication, and work ethic exemplify the Wyoming way of life. He has congratulated many of the awards he was judged at county fairs and encouraged young producers to be engaged in State associations. Put simply, Jim is a mentor who leads by example.

When he served as president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Jim kept his sights set firmly on the future. As the association approached its 150-year anniversary, Jim knew the association would soon be in the hands of the next generation of producers. He worked to draw younger producers into the association that combines experience and innovation to make the association stronger. When Jim’s presidency concluded, he became chairman of the 150th anniversary campaign that sought to raise $1.5 million before 2022. We all know that, when Jim Wilson sets his sights on something, he cultivates and leads an unstoppable team to get the job done.

Working in agriculture is not simply a job. It is a vocation, a way of life, a calling for which Jim, his wife Terry, their daughter and her family are in tirelessly effective ambassadors. They share their struggles and their victories, they look for creative solutions.
and they inspire others to act purposefully. They know there is a better future ahead, as long as good people are willing to put in the work to make it happen. There is no question Jim has put in the work.

In a short while, Jim Wilson will be honored as one of the 2019 inductees to the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. He joins the elite ranks of other incredible individuals who have forever changed the future of this way of life in the great State of Wyoming. Then Nuckolls said it best when she said her late husband JW “saw Jim as a model of integrity, having a spirit of generosity, the heart of humility, and a devoted family man.”

It is with great appreciation and honor that I rise today to recognize the incredible contributions of Jim Wilson. My wife Bobbi joins me in congratulating Jim and his family on this well-deserved honor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF MCKENZIE, TENNESSEE

- Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the city of McKenzie, Tennessee’s sesquicentennial anniversary.

McKenzie has come a long way since her first settlers followed the Natchez Trace to the tall grasses and fertile soil of western Tennessee’s “Barren Lands.” What emerged as a cluster of fiercely competitive trading posts flourished into a bustling center of commerce with the arrival of the area’s first railroads. The city withstood family rivalry, natural disasters, and the ravages of the Civil War, until it was finally incorporated by the State of Tennessee on January 22, 1869.

Today, the roads are paved, and cattle no longer roam the city square, but McKenzie’s residents still live and work with an unimitable volunteer spirit as those who fought for their homes and livelihoods through two great fires, a yellow fever epidemic, and the Great Depression.

Congratulations to the Honorable Jill Holland, Mayor of McKenzie, the members of the McKenzie City Council, and most importantly, the people of McKenzie. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them 150 more years of progress and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING THE URBAN AFFAIRS COALITION

- Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate the Urban Affairs Coalition in recognition of their 50th anniversary. Founded in 1969 as the Philadelphia Urban Coalition, the Urban Affairs Coalition works tirelessly to tackle a number of diverse issues that immediately affect communities throughout the Greater Philadelphia Region.

A robust group of organizations, the Philadelphia Urban Coalition was founded after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the goal of solving their communities’ social and economic problems. In 1991, the group merged with the Urban Affairs Partnership to create the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition and in 2010 shortened their name to the Urban Affairs Coalition. They have managed over $1 billion of social investment since their founding.

Today, the Urban Affairs Coalition consists of organizations working to achieve unity among government, business, neighborhood, and individual initiatives to improve the quality of life in the region, build wealth in urban communities, and solve emerging issues. The coalition works towards this mission in three different ways: backing nonprofits through fiscal sponsorship, capacity building, and professional development; working to improve life chances for the youth and young adults; and providing economic opportunity to low-income households, working families, and disadvantaged businesses.

Through their extensive work, the Urban Affairs Coalition helps children and young adults climb the economic ladder, educates the community on job opportunities and financial advice, and provides access to capital for minority entrepreneurs. The coalition is committed to supporting nonprofits by helping them run backroom operations, allowing nonprofits to focus on public service.

In addition to helping their community, the Urban Affairs Coalition recognizes local leaders at their annual banquet. They present the Doer Award, the Living Legacy Award, and the Community Leadership Award to those who make efforts to improve and support their communities. The Urban Affairs Coalition consistently looks to form new partnerships and is working to raise $1 million from their 2020 fiscal year to create a UAC Legacy Fund, which will further support educational and charitable activities.

Additionally, I wish to commend Ms. Sharmain Matlock-Turner, the president and chief executive officer of the Urban Affairs Coalition. This year marks Ms. Matlock-Turner’s 20th anniversary in her role. She also serves as the cofounder and chair of the West Oak Lane Charter School, a school in Northwest Philadelphia that 92 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. West Oak Lane prides itself on strong ties with higher education organizations. These relationships begin by focusing on educating the next generation of innovators. Ms. Matlock-Turner was one of three Philadelphia leaders to win a scholarship to Harvard Business School’s Nonprofit Leaders’ Summer Program in 2005, and she has since won awards from CASA Philadelphia, the American Red Cross, and many other organizations.

The work of the Urban Affairs Coalition and Ms. Matlock-Turner have been crucial to providing countless children and young adults a fighting chance at a brighter future. Community improvement is their continuing mission, and I thank them for their hard work on behalf of Pennsylvanians. I wish them the best of luck on their future efforts.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PENLEY

- Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of congratulating Thomas Penley of Helena, MT, for his hard work representing Montanans at the 2019 meeting of Boys Nation.

The process to be a delegate at Boys Nation is highly competitive, with only a few students per high school allowed to receive a nomination. Mr. Penley successfully earned a nomination to attend the Montana Boys State meeting at Carroll College in Helena. At this meeting, Mr. Penley was one of the two attendees selected by the conference to represent Montana at the national meeting.

Mr. Penley’s achievements do not stop at his nomination to be part of the Montana delegation at the Boys Nation meeting. At the assembly, Mr. Penley was elected by his peers to serve as vice president of the session. This tremendous honor speaks volumes to Mr. Penley’s work ethic and leadership. In the 73 years of Boys Nation, only one other time has a Montanan been elected vice president.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Penley for his continued success and wish him the best. I look forward to following all the future accomplishments Mr. Penley will achieve.

TRIBUTE TO JIM TUFTS

- Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I would like to congratulate Mr. Jim Tufts of Exeter, NH, on his retirement, after his long, productive, and impactful career of making a difference for young people and their families throughout our region and country.

After graduating from the University of New Hampshire, Jim spent 2 years as an assistant coach at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, NH. In 1977, he joined Exeter High School as the physical education teacher and varsity hockey head coach of both the boys soccer and hockey teams.

Jim has coached over 1,650 games, and his teams have accumulated almost 1,000 career wins and won a combined eight New Hampshire Inter-scholastic Athletic Association, NHIAA championships. He has also served as chairman of the Physical Education Department at Phillips Exeter Academy for the summer school program. In 1989 he became the coach and local program coordinator of the Exeter Area Athletics and runs the Learn to Play Hockey Program to introduce hundreds of young people to ice hockey.
MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED
Under the authority of the order of the House, on January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 26, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 504. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED
Under the authority of the order of the Senate, on January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 26, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 549. An act to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes.
H.R. 693. An act 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
At 3:02 p.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 bill, without amendment:

S. 2249. An act to allow the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on the date of enactment of this Act to continue to serve as such Deputy Administrator.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 549. An act to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes.
H.R. 693. An act 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.

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

H.R. 549. An act to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 693. An act 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
H.R. 3670. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure access to appropriate temporary shelter, food, and water for individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR
The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3877. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED
The Secretary of the Senate reported that today, July 29, 2019, he had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 504. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine requirements for membership in The American Legion, 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–2128. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notification of Decision to Authorize the Importation of Fresh Raspberry Fruit From Morocco Into the Continental United States” ((7 CFR Part 319) (Docket No. APHIS-2015-0053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2129. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Change in Membership and Nominations” ((7 CFR Part 1222) (Docket No. AMS–SC–18–0072)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2130. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of U.S. Grade Standards” ((7 CFR Part 51) (Docket No. AMS–SC–18–0081)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

For 50 years, Jim has volunteered with the New Hampshire Special Olympics, which was first organized in the State in 1970 by his mother, Jean Tufts. He has served as the director of the Exeter Special Olympics Program for 32 years, and in 2003 he was named Special Olymics Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. Jim has organized students from Exeter High School and surrounding high schools to get involved as peer coaches for the athletes, making the Exeter Special Olympics an incredible community event.

It is Jim’s devotion to Special Olympics athletes—and the example he has set for the athletes he coaches in all of his different roles—that has made a unique and life changing difference for thousands of young people and their families.

Jim, accompanied and guided by his wife, Leslie, and sons, Matt and Kyle, has been a tremendous asset to Exeter High School and to the entire Seacoast region. He has given back to his community in countless ways with humility and an exceptionally positive attitude. Jim has taught all of us that talent and compassion, strength and kindness, go hand in hand. His town, State, and country are better because of his example.

Mr. President, I hope you will join me in honoring a dedicated Granite Stater, Jim Tufts.
PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–122. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri calling on the President of the United States to undertake a full and transparent investigation by the United States Department of State into organ transplant practices in the People's Republic of China, and to call for the prosecution of those found to have engaged in such unethical practices; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 6

Whereas, extensive and credible reports have revealed records of violent killings of prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of China, primarily practitioners of the spiritual based exercises of Falun Gong, but also other religious and ethnic minority groups, in order to obtain organs for transplants and whereas, the organ transplantation system in China does not comply with the World Health Organization’s Principles of Traceability and transparency in organ procurement pathways, and the government of the People’s Republic of China has resisted independent scrutiny of its system; and whereas, traditional Chinese custom requires bodies to be preserved intact after death. With rare voluntary organ donation, however, organ transplantation is not permitted and the industry significantly increased since 2000; and whereas, the 2017 Freedom House Report “The Battle for China’s Spirit” states that “Available evidence suggests that forced extraction of organs from Falun Gong detainees for sale in transplant operations has occurred on a large scale and may be continuing”; and whereas, an investigative report, published in June 2016, conducted by human rights activists, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the Department of State under the direction of Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, James F. Gilligan, and journalist Ethan Gutman, estimated that China is performing 100,000 to 150,000 organ transplant surgeries per year, with more than 10,000 transplants claimed by the Chinese government, which is “an industrial-scale, state-directed organ transplantation system, controlled through national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and civilian healthcare systems”; and whereas, China’s Liver Transplant Registry (LTTR) confirmed that 29% of cases were emergency transplants, for which an organ was found within days or even hours. Wait times for non-emergency transplants adopted in 2004. Most patients in other countries have to wait years for a transplant; and whereas, Chinese government claims that 90% of China’s organ transplant sources come from executed prisoners. However, the number of executions has dropped 10% annually since 2002 and is far less than the number of transplants taking place. The government has never acknowledged the sourcing of organs from prisoners of conscience; and whereas, organ transplantation in the People's Republic of China, and face an elevated risk of dying or being killed in custody; and whereas, Freedom House reported in 2015 that Falun Gong practitioners comprise the largest portion of prisoners of conscience in China, and face an elevated risk of dying or being killed in custody; and whereas, the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have expressed concern over the allegations of organ harvesting from Falun Gong prisoners, and have called on the Government of the People's Republic of China to increase accountability and transparency in the organ transplant system and punish those responsible for such crimes; and whereas, in June 2016, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 913, condemning the systematic, organ transplantation conducted from Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience; and whereas, organ tourism to China should not be shielded by medical confidentiality, but openly monitored. No nation should allow their citizens to go to China for organs; and whereas, according to the Chinese government, organ harvesting into organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience, both past and present: Now therefore be it Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, One-Hundredth General Assembly, first Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring thereon:

1. Call upon the Government of the People’s Republic of China to immediately end the practice of organ harvesting from all prisoners of conscience, explicitly from Falun Gong prisoners of conscience and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups; and
2. Call upon the Government of the People’s Republic of China to immediately end the 17-year persecution of the Falun Gong and the immediate release of all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience;
3. Call upon the President of the United States to undertake a full and transparent investigation by the United States Department of State into organ transplant practices in the People’s Republic of China, and calls for the prosecution of those found to have engaged in such unethical practices; and
4. Encourage the medical community of Missouri to engage in educating colleagues and residents of Missouri about the risks of travel to China for organ transplants so as to help prevent Missouri residents from unwittingly becoming involved in murder in the form of forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and
5. Agree to take measures to ban the entry of those who have participated in illegal organ harvesting into organ transplantation in the People’s Republic of China.

Passed the Senate July 24, 2019; to the House of Representatives.
the President and Vice President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, the chair of the House Committee on Foreign Relations, and each member of Missouri’s Congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with amendment:

H.R. 1388. A bill to take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116––).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Armed Services, with amendment:

S. 2310. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a competitive grant program to repair, improve, rehabilitate, or replace bridges to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridge crossings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. FASTHART, Mr. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. Harkin, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKET, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORA, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2303. A bill to allow United States citizens and legal residents to travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2304. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance efforts to address antibiotic resistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2305. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve home maintenance credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2306. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to allow for the registration of venture exchanges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2307. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make grants to support the study of world languages in elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BLOUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2308. A bill to intensify stem cell research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2309. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit a report on potential benefits and impact to the United States of establishing a joint United States-Israel cybersecurity center of excellence; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. MARKESY):

S. 2310. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a competitive grant program to repair, improve, rehabilitate, or replace bridges to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridge crossings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 2311. A bill to expand eligibility for the My Career Advancement Account program of the Department of Defense to certain military spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 287. A resolution establishing appropriate thresholds for certain budget points of order in the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. Res. 288. A resolution affirming the importance of the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROW:

S. Res. 289. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that socialism poses a significant threat to freedom, liberty, and economic prosperity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 290. A resolution celebrating 50 years of environmental progress in the Cuyahoga River Valley and Lake Erie; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 117 At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 131 At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 131, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 153 At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 153, a bill to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes.

S. 203 At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 433 At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 439 At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan.

S. 479 At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) 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. 569 At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 628 At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include biomass heating appliances for tax credits available for energy-efficient building property and energy property.
At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPPO) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to require the student loan ombudsman of the Department of Education to provide student loan data to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1027, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1027, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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 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.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 756, a bill to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 756, a bill to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 885, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to expand access to school-wide arts and music programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CRAPPO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) 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.

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1027, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) 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 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.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1890, a bill to provide for grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities.

At the request of Mr. GOODeman, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1966, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

At the request of Ms. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1932, a bill to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1969, a bill to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.
authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKET, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2062

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2062, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for the 2026 World Cup unless the United States Soccer Federation provides equitable pay to the members of the United States Women's National Team and the United States Men's National Team.

S. 2068

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. MURRAY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2068, a bill to prohibit the Bureau of the Census from including citizenship data in the legislative redistricting data prepared by the Bureau.

S. 2074

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2074, a bill to amend section 363(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V, such as buprenorphine, for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. ROSENN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2119

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to amend title 26, Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a program to improve health care for veterans.

S. 2197

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2197, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social services to persons with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2198

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2198, a bill to provide labor standards for certain energy jobs, and for other purposes.

S. 2229

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2229, a bill to protect consumers from deceptive practices with respect to online booking of hotel reservations, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to establish American opportunity accounts, to modify estate and gift tax rules, to reform the taxation of capital income, and for other purposes.

S. 2233

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2233, a bill to amend chapter 225 of title 26, Internal Revenue Code, to provide pay equity for amateur athletes and other personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2245

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2254, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2236

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2236, a bill to protect children affected by immigration enforcement actions.

S. 2279

At the request of Ms. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2279, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social services to persons with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2282

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 222, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. Res. 263

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 263, a resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

S. Res. 274

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 274, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and other rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices, and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAFIR, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN)

S. 2293. A bill to allow United States citizens and legal residents to travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about America's highway infrastructure. It is important to every State. I have just come back from Wyoming, and it clearly is important in my home State. It is important in every community. It is important in every Tribe in the country. I see that week after week in Wyoming. Our roads, our bridges, our highways, our tunnels support America's economic growth and our competitiveness. The Presiding Officer, from his home State of Missouri, knows this as well. These are an essential part, really, of everyday life for all of America. We use the infrastructure. We use the roads, the bridges, the tunnels. We use them when we drive to work, when we head to school or we head off to summer vacation. Our economy is built on a well-functioning road system that allows products from rural areas to get transported to population centers. They are used to ship American-made products and goods from one coast to the other. Fortunately in Wyoming, we see a lot of goods coming in then being transported from the coast in California to Chicago, with truck after truck going...
through Wyoming. Interstates, like I-80 in my home State of Wyoming, are critical arteries for commerce in this country. Our roads create jobs. They move products, and they keep our country running and going strong.

In 2013, the Senate Transportation system was a daily average of about 94 million tons of freight—that is, a daily average of 49 million tons of freight worth more than $33 billion—every single day. Our roads and our bridges have to keep pace. These systems are vital to our communities. They need to be taken care of. We must maintain, upgrade, and, when necessary, build new ones.

Since his election, President Trump has called on Congress to act on infrastructure. Last year, Congress answered the President’s call by passing America’s Water Infrastructure Act. He signed it into law. It passed this body 99 to 1. The legislation helped streamline major projects and helped keep red tape to a minimum. It made the largest investment in our Nation’s dams and our locks and our ports and in drinking water systems.

Now is the time to do the same for our roads and for our bridges. That is why, today, I am introducing America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act, and I am doing it along with my fellow leaders of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Ranking Member CARPER and Senators CAPITO and WYDEN.

This legislation will make a historic investment in our roads. It will cut Washington redtape. It will improve safety and will help grow our economy. America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act authorizes $287 billion over 5 years from the highway trust fund. Of that money, $259 billion will go directly to the States through the highway formula funding process. This is the largest investment in America’s roads in more than a decade, and it is supported by Congress. The legislation will help the entire country. It will ensure both rural and urban areas have access to funding.

Formula funding gives each State the flexibility it needs to address specific surface transportation needs. The formula-based approach has a proven track record of efficiently delivering infrastructure money directly to the States. America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act maintains this important approach so that States will get the funds they need faster.

America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act also continues successful Federal loan programs, such as the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, which many people in the business know as TIFIA. TIFIA and programs like it get taxpayers significant bang for their buck. A single taxpay- dollar in the TIFIA program can be leveraged 40 times that much in terms of infrastructure spending. Between new authorizations, leveraging within Federal loan programs, with State-match requirements and likely additions from the Commerce and Banking Committees, our bill’s total impact on infrastructure will be nearly one-half trillion dollars—a historic high. With these investments, it is critical for us to speed up government approvals for important projects.

Last Congress, the Environment and Public Works Committee heard testimony about a highway safety project that I am very familiar with in Wyoming—and from where the President’s Office lives. The interstate north of Sheridan, between Sheridan and Montana. It took a decade to get the permits but actually took only months to build. That has to stop. This was a safety project linking our States together. It was held up for 10 years because of Washington permits. It is unacceptable. America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act cuts Washington redtape so projects can get done faster, better, cheaper, and smarter. President Trump has set a goal for keeping Washington in the game so that procurement and project delivery. For example, the bill supports technologies that allow construction projects to be managed digitally. That will enable project managers to better track projects from design through operation.

The President knows this and sees it, and I saw it this past weekend. We were driving through a snowstorm on another major highway. The highway trust fund is funded through fuel taxes. Because they don’t buy gasoline, these vehicles simply do not contribute. Yet electric vehicles do as much damage to our highways as do traditional gas-powered vehicles. Everyone who drives on our Nation’s roads should contribute to the cost of road maintenance.

Our legislation makes key elements of that policy into law. Instead of having duplicate requirements on the same project, the process is simplified because it needs to be simplified. Our bill gives States increased flexibility so that Federal permitting approvals and so that project construction can get started. It also reduces the amount of paperwork that is needed from the States to complete a project. Our legislation gets long delayed safety projects moving faster. Washington shouldn’t prioritize paperwork over people’s safety, but that has happened in the past, and it is unacceptable.

America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act makes road safety a top priority. Our bill authorizes new research and technology deployment, including new construction technologies that will make roads safer and will expedite project delivery. For example, the bill supports technologies that allow construction projects to be managed digitally. That will enable project managers to better track projects from design through operation.

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Our bill is bipartisan, substantial, and needs to be paid for. As the President’s Office knows, the Committee on Environment and Public Works doesn’t have jurisdiction over revenues for the highway bill. Ranking Member CARPER and I are going to work closely
with Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley and Ranking Member Ron Wyden to responsibly pay for this legislation.

In the process of writing this legislation, we have received extensive feedback from our colleagues in other States and from other Senators. The bill has already received broad support from groups like the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Highway Users Alliance, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, the North American Concrete Alliance, and many more.

We have planned to mark up America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act this week. The business meeting will be a great opportunity in which to strengthen the legislation and even further this important process forward. I am thankful to Ranking Member Carper and to all of the members of our committee for working with me on this important piece of legislation. America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act will grow the Nation’s economy, will improve the safety of our roads, and will enhance the quality of life for the American people.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act, legislation that I introduced today with the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, John Barrasso, along with our subcommittee chair on Transportation and Infrastructure, Shelley Moore Capito, and our ranking member from Maryland, Ben Cardin.

Our legislation reauthorizes our Nation’s surface transportation laws and makes nearly $207 billion investment in our Nation’s roads, highways, and bridges. Our Nation’s first highway bill was enacted just a few years after the world’s first concrete highway was paved outside of Detroit, MI. Henry Ford had just introduced the Model T, and the first stop-go traffic light would soon be installed at the intersection of East 105th Street and Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, OH.

A century ago, the idea of speedy and safe transcontinental travel was beyond our imagination and even further from being realized. We have come a long way since then.

Today, more than 4 million miles of roadway and 600,000 bridges help link our country together. Some 220,000 of those serve to connect the basis of our national highway system. Our transportation infrastructure is essential to America’s economy, to our society, and to our way of life. It connects us to commerce; it connects us to service; and, most importantly, it connects us to one another.

The sad truth, however, is that, as we all know too well, many of these roads, highways, and bridges are in poor condition today. They have been in use for far beyond, for many of them, the intended duration of their original design. A great many roadways and bridges simply need repaving, while some need replacement. On others need to be completely redesigned.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, approximately 20 percent of our Federal-aid roadways are in poor condition, as are 47,000 bridges. That is in large part because, for far too long, our Nation’s highway trust fund has been operating on the brink of insolvency. The highway account is running at an $11 billion deficit, and that deficit is growing.

Meanwhile, despite spending more from the fund than we collect, we still aren’t spending enough to make a dent in the $800 billion backlog of investments needed to significantly improve the legislation’s many State roads, highways, and bridges that millions of Americans—all of us—use and depend on every day.

All of this has contributed to an unacceptable level of uncertainty for businesses, and for families. It has prevented us, as a nation, from addressing serious challenges across our transportation infrastructure that go well beyond simply filling potholes.

For too long, we have failed to make meaningful progress in America toward improving safety, easing traffic congestion, reducing harmful emissions, and enhancing resilience. We can do better than this. The legislation that is before us today, if enacted, will help put our country back on the right track. I am excited about it, and I am grateful to everyone who has contributed in ways both large and small to the drafting of the legislation that Senator Barrasso and I have introduced today.

While this bill will leverage badly needed investments in rebuilding our roads, highways, and bridges, it will do a lot more than that. It will help expedite the movement of people and goods throughout our country. It will support the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs here too. It will help alleviate some of the congestion we face in urban and suburban parts of all 50 States—areas across the country—on an almost daily basis.

America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act will help make real the vision of a safer, more connected, efficient, and environmentally friendly transportation system, one that will endure the test of time and keep up with the evolving demands of the world’s biggest economy. Our bill is a good start. Now we need to build on it and make it better.

With respect to safety, too many people lose their lives every year because of unsafe intersections, pedestrian deaths, and other transportation infrastructure issues.

America’s transportation infrastructure should connect us, not divide us. Let me say that again. America’s transportation infrastructure should connect us, not divide us. It should foster greater economic opportunity, not disparity.

Our legislation seeks to improve connectivity and accessibility by establishing a pilot program for States and cities to measure access to destinations like hospitals, schools, and grocery stores. Our bill also funds a program to help remove barriers, such as chronically underused highways—when appropriate—that create obstacles to access and mobility.

But an even more pressing need to address throughout America is the roadways, highways, and bridges that are actually overcapacity today, where cars and trucks and their passengers sit for hours in traffic. Last year, every American driver lost, on average, 97 hours due to traffic congestion. That is 97 days per year. That is 4 days. It is not just a nuisance for drivers; last year, it cost our country $87 billion in lost productivity—$87 billion. Let’s not forget that all that time we waste sitting in our cars and trucks also degrades the quality of the air we breathe, increases the cost of our healthcare, and raises the cost of the goods we buy.

Our legislation addresses this predicament by authorizing additional funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, which has been used to build carpools and support a number of other alternatives to reduce congestion.

In addition, our legislation recognizes that in many places, it is just not possible to build additional lanes, so we need to manage travel demand through innovative technology, transit, and tolling. That is why we have also created a new

After trending down for many years, in the last decade pedestrian deaths have increased sharply and are now at a 25-year high. In Tribal communities, that fatality rate is even higher. That is just unacceptable.

Our legislation addresses this carnage by investing $5 billion in Federal funds per year in safety improvements and by compelling States and cities with very high rates of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities to do their share as well.

Our legislation also expands funding for bike paths, sidewalks, and other transportation alternatives to $1.2 billion per year. It empowers States and cities to design, implement, and manage those projects so they are better designed to fit the needs of those States and cities.

Too many Americans simply don’t have safe places to walk or bike. In some cases, we build roads in ways that make it impossible for people to walk or bicycle where they need to go, be it a grocery store, a daycare center, a health facility—you name it.

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program for our largest cities to provide new tools—new tools—to help address congestion challenges.

That brings us to the evermore apparent reality of climate change and its ever-worsening impact on, among other things, our infrastructure. The cars, trains—a means that we drive—have become our Nation’s largest source of carbon dioxide emissions, accelerating and exacerbating the effects of climate change and bringing with it increased extreme weather that we are witnessing throughout the world on an almost daily basis. For example, in Europe last week, temperatures exceeded 110 degrees Fahrenheit. And we have examples here too. We have just come off of the hottest 4 years in the history of this country since we have been measuring it, and this year looks like it is going to be the hottest yet. We have to do more than fight, and with this legislation, we will.

I am proud to announce that America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act includes the first-ever climate title in a transportation bill in the history of Congress. Our legislation calls for investing $10 billion over the next 5 years directly in programs and policies that will help change by reducing emissions and improving the resiliency of our transportation networks and infrastructure.

One such program is a $1 billion investment in charging and fueling stations for electric or hydrogen-fueled vehicles traveling in heavily traveled corridors across America. While Henry Ford’s Model T and its internal combustion engine are an important part of our country’s transportation system, zero-emission electric vehicles represent our future.

Unfortunately, in most parts of America today, drivers lack reasonable access to charging or fueling stations for electric or hydrogen-fueled vehicles. America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act includes the first-ever climate title in a transportation bill in the history of Congress. Our legislation calls for investing $10 billion over the next 5 years directly in programs and policies that will help change by reducing emissions and improving the resiliency of our transportation networks and infrastructure.

Meanwhile, increasingly frequent and extreme weather events continue to erode our transportation networks, and sea level rise threatens the structural integrity and longevity of our surface transportation structure. We see that happening now in my home State of Delaware, along major portions of the East Coast, and in the flooding that has occurred in the heartland of our country. It has been reported in the news that in some places in America, the temperature had been so hot that the asphalt roads and highways are bubbling up from the heat. Try driving through that.

Our legislation seeks to help address these threats by investing nearly $5 billion over 5 years in a new formula program available to all States and a competitive resiliency grant program. Both the formula program and the new

PROTECT Grants Program would support projects across America that reinforce, upgrade, or realign existing transportation infrastructure to better withstand extreme weather events and the effects of climate change, like the record-setting temperatures I have spoken of.

Let me briefly mention one other thing. Through the use of natural infrastructure, like the marshes and wetlands that protect roads from storm surges during hurricanes and Nor’easters, our bill also helps harness the power of Mother Nature to improve the resilience of transportation projects.

That gives you at least a glimpse of some of the exciting aspects of the legislation our committee chairman, JOHN BARRASSO, and I are introducing today, again with the help of a lot of people on our committee, throughout the Senate—and from all parts of this country. We introduced our legislation with their help and help from every corner of the country, and it comes from State and local governments as well.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing more stories about how the America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act can tackle complicated issues, improve our daily lives, and help us build the roads, highways, and bridges of the future.

As bright as the chairman and I are on our committee—and our very able staff members like to think we are—I am confident that our bill can be improved as it moves through the legislative process in the months ahead. As I oftentimes say, if it isn’t perfect, let’s make it better. As good as what we have done is—and we are proud of our handiwork—we know it can be better, and we will make it better.

That begins tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. with a markup in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Before I close, I would be remiss if I failed to remind everyone that with respect to surface infrastructure, the 800-pound gorilla in the room is almost always, how are we going to pay for the improvements and the programs we all know we need? The fact is, as I have said, the highway trust fund is going broke, and, if we are honest with one another, our way of paying for it is broken too. So what should we do about it?

It is important to note that our legislation will continue to fund the State-level vehicle-miles-traveled pilot programs established in the 2015 bill. I am especially pleased, however, that our legislation also includes a national vehicle-miles-traveled program—first of its kind. I believe that user fee-based approaches are generally the best way to fund our Nation’s surface transportation system and that vehicle-miles-traveled systems, which seek to ensure that all road users pay their fair share, are the future.

In the meantime, there needs to be a bridge to that future, and that bridge will not rely on a silver bullet but on what I refer to as a lot of silver BBs, some of which are bigger than others.

With that, let me conclude by reiterating that Chairman BARRASSO and I look forward to working closely with our colleagues on the relevant committees of jurisdiction, and I am anxious to work with them and all of our colleagues as we face not just the dawning challenges that lie ahead but the opportunities as well.

Winston Churchill once said, “You can always count on America to do the right thing in the end, after trying everything else.” If we pull together and work together in the House and Senate, as I believe we tend to do in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, then we can reach that goal sooner than Mr. Churchill and a lot of the skeptics might otherwise expect. So why don’t we show those skeptics what we can do? A great many Americans are counting on us to do just that, and we can’t let them down.

Again, I thank my staff, the staff of our Chairman BARRASSO, and the staff of Senators CAPITTO, BEN CARDIN, and others on our committee for their excellent work and for negotiating in good faith throughout. Their spirit and dogged commitment are a big part of what brought us to where we are today.

But we all know that the introduction of a solid bipartisan bill, even when it is followed the next day by a successful markup, we hope, in committee—we must acknowledge that it is just the beginning, but it is a good start, one that we and our colleagues can and I hope will build on, enabling us Americans to go forward. I don’t know a lot of Latin, but I think Latin for “seize the day” is “carpe diem,” or as we say in Delaware, “Carpe diem.”

Thank you.

Mr. LEAHY. Today I am introducing, along with 45 Democratic and Republican cosponsors, the Freedom for Americans to Travel to Cuba Act of 2019. Identical legislation was introduced on July 25th by Representatives Jim McGovern and Tom Emmer in the House.

We are introducing this bill for one reason: so Americans can travel to Cuba in the same way that they can travel to every other country in the world except North Korea, to which President Trump banned travel by executive order. Based on my conversations with other Senators, I am confident that if we were afforded the opportunity to vote on this bill, more than 60 Senators would support it.

It is indefensible that the federal government restricts American citizens and legal residents from traveling to a tiny country 90 miles away that poses no threat to us. At a time when
U.S. airlines are flying to Cuba, does anyone here honestly think that preventing Americans from traveling to Cuba is a wise use of American -ness? Can we sit on the sidelines and allow Cuba’s political dissidents to suffer? What about the human rights abuses in Cuba? Why not Venezuela? Or Russia? Or Iran, or anywhere else? It is a vindictive, discriminatory policy defeating the purpose of freedom. We should not be supporting this policy.

Senators, I and others, including Republicans, have traveled to Cuba many times over the past 20 years, with Cuban officials, with Cuba, who has been persecuted for opposing the government, and with many others. Every one of us wants to see an end to political repression in Cuba. The arrests and mistreatment of dissenters by the Cuban government should be condemned, just as we should condemn such abuses by other governments, including some, like Egypt and Turkey, whose leaders have been welcomed at the White House and the State Department.

The issue is how best to support the people of Cuba who struggle to make ends meet, and who want to live in a country where freedom of expression and association are protected. Anyone who thinks that more economic pressure will force Cuba’s Cuban authorities to stop arresting political dissidents and embrace democracy have learned nothing from history. For more than half a century we tried to use economic sanctions to achieve our policy, without success. Instead, it is the Cuban people who have been hurt the most. And it is Cuba, the people who were hurt the most. And it is Cuba.

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Whereas short-term extensions providing funding to the Highway Trust Fund do not provide the certainty needed by States and local governments to enter into long-term roadbuilding contracts; and
Whereas short-term extensions providing funding to the Highway Trust Fund, based solely on deficit spending, exacerbate the problems precisely in the preceding whereas clause and only serve to postpone solving the problem: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—
(1) the Highway Trust Fund should achieve long-term solvency through user fees; and
(2) any spending on Federal highway programs during the next reauthorization period that exceeds current Highway Trust Fund revenues and balances should be fully offset.

SENATE RESOLUTION 289—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SOCIALISM POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO FREEDOM, LIBERTY, AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Mr. DAINES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 289

Whereas Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines socialism as—
(1) ‘‘any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods’; and
(2) ‘‘a system of society or group living in which there is no private property’’;
Whereas socialism and the policies advocated by self-described socialists and espouse socialist means of production and distribution of goods:
Whereas history has witnessed countless failed Marxist-inspired regimes:
Whereas, because of the perverse incentives and inherent flaws of the Marxist theory, socialism inevitably leads to societal rot, resulting in devastation, economic poverty, and destruction;
Whereas prominent elected officials in the Senate of Representatives have been self-described socialists and espouse socialist proposals:
Whereas socialist policies such as the Green New Deal and socialized medicine would—
(1) eliminate the private property rights of all people of the United States; and
(2) force taxpayers to pay trillions of dollars to implement;
Whereas Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, ‘‘Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude’’;
Whereas Margaret Thatcher once stated, ‘‘Socialist governments... always run out of money’’;
Whereas free-market capitalism is the greatest engine for human advancement in the history of the world, bringing more people out of poverty and into prosperity than any economic model in the history of mankind;
Whereas the United States is the single greatest country in the history of the world, due in large part to its system of government, which protected the private property rights of all citizens through the genius of the Constitution of the United States; and
Whereas, on February 5, 2019, in the State of the Union address, President Donald J. Trump declared—
(1) ‘‘We are alarmed by new calls to adopt socialism in America’’; and
(2) ‘‘America will never be a socialist country’’; Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That—
(1) acknowledges that Marxism and socialism are failed ideologies;
(2) recognizes that socialism poses a significant threat to the freedom, liberty, and economic prosperity of all countries and peoples around the world;
(3) accepts that socialism is a failed experiment of government that inevitably ends in misery and suffering;
(4) declares that, throughout the history, tradition, and national civic spirit of the United States, the United States has been a beacon of light shining like a lighthouse to the rest of the world, demonstrating that freedom and liberty are the surest foundation of government; and
(5) affirms that the United States should never be a socialist country.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, we are at a pivotal time in our great Nation’s history. As stated upon the principles of liberty, the free enterprise system, the promotion of national sovereignty, and a strong national defense. Under these principles, we have built the greatest country in the history of the world. The United States was founded upon the belief that we are a sovereign nation that is an example to the rest of the world and again the genius of American ingenuity and the grit of American determination.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, we are at a pivotal time in our great Nation’s history. As stated upon the principles of liberty, the free enterprise system, the promotion of national sovereignty, and a strong national defense. Under these principles, we have built the greatest country in the history of the world. The United States was founded upon the belief that we are a sovereign nation that is an example to the rest of the world and again the genius of American ingenuity and the grit of American determination.

What makes America so great is not that we are bonded by one ethnicity or one race or one religion or one political party, but that we are bonded together by the idea of liberty. Montanans agree. Montanans want less government. Montanans don’t want the hand of Big Government and Washington, DC, in their pockets, making decisions on their behalf or limiting their freedoms. In Montana, we understand the principles of freedom.

However, a radical, socialist, far-left movement is growing across this country and has taken root as the new voice of the Democratic Party. My Grandpa was a Democrat from Billings, MT. I spent many days out with Grandpa fishing and hunting in certain places in Montana. I love my Grandpa dearly. But if he were around today, he would be appalled as a Democrat at some of the things the far left are saying and advocating for. The words and the actions of certain radical Members of the Democratic House highlight this new standard for the Democratic Party. As a former technology executive, I can speak to the wonders of the free enterprise system because I saw it happen firsthand in my hometown of Bozeman, MT. What was once a small start-up cloud computing business, grew into a billion-dollar company headquartered in Bozeman, MT, and it transformed Bozeman into tech hubs now of the West. It is all because the American free enterprise system thrives in innovation, and it rewards them would be wiped out. What the socialists are calling for is a disbanding of our coal plants, leaving countless Montana communities in the dark and in the cold and putting many more out of good-paying jobs and putting a disad

Another disastrous policy that the radical left is pushing for is this so-called Medicare for All or rather socialized medicine. They are calling for a complete takeover of our healthcare system by the Federal Government, eliminating private insurance and eliminating choice.

This so-called plan will cost the taxpayers another $3 trillion over 10 years—$32 trillion with a ‘‘t.’’ Combine this cost with the cost of the Green New Deal proposal, and the country can expect a more blatant disregard of the law with their open border and their push for open borders. We are a sovereign nation with established borders. We are a nation based on the rule of law.

Lost in this heated immigration debate taking place at our southern border are the stories of the law-abiding, legal American immigrants who have fled socialist regimes for a chance at freedom. Some of these immigrants include the Vietnamese boat people, the Cuban refugees who fled Castro’s murderous regime, and the Chinese Christians persecuted for practicing their faith. You see, in talking to these immigrants—these legal immigrants—they will tell you what socialism looks like. They will also tell you how grateful they are to have freedom here in America. They are proud to be Americans.

As a former technology executive, I can speak to the wonders of the free enterprise system because I saw it happen firsthand in my hometown of Bozeman, MT. What was once a small start-up cloud computing business, grew into a billion-dollar company headquartered in Bozeman, MT, and it transformed Bozeman into tech hubs now of the West. It is all because the American free enterprise system thrives in innovation, and it rewards...
entrepreneurs and employees who pursue their dreams and take that leap of faith. That is what freedom looks like.

In the face of this extremism we see bubbling up right over in that other Chamber, the U.S. House of Representatives, we must stand strong for the values that made America what it is today.

Therefore, today I introduce a resolution—my resolution condemning the growing socialist movement in our country. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in renouncing this ideology taking root in our country and to stand for freedom.

Today we make a choice—freedom or socialism. I choose freedom.

SENATE RESOLUTION 290—CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS IN THE CUYAHOGA RIVER VALLEY AND LAKE ERIE

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

(1) celebrates 50 years of environmental progress in the Cuyahoga River Valley and Lake Erie; and

(2) offers continued support for the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration found that the lower portion of the Cuyahoga River had no visible life; and

(3) recognizes oil-laden debris and pollution on the Cuyahoga River caught fire 13 times between 1868 and 1969, inspiring the ignominious nickname “the burning river”;

(4) acknowledges the rebirth of the Cuyahoga River which was supported efforts led by Representatives Ralph S. Regula and John F. Seiberling to create the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in 1974, which later became the Cuyahoga Valley National Park;

(5) recognizes the transformation of the Cuyahoga River Valley; and

(6) recognizes the transformation of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; and

(7) recognizes the economic benefit of the Cuyahoga River Valley; and

(8) the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(9) the establishment of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; and

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The RESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 290) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that 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 RESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(1) the Cuyahoga Valley National Park;

(2) the State and county parks; and

(3) the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Canalway.

Whereas recreational opportunities are available in—

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 290) celebrating 50 years of environmental progress in the Cuyahoga River Valley and Lake Erie.

Whereas the Cuyahoga River is a 100-mile-long river in the State of Ohio that flows into Lake Erie; 

Whereas the word “Cuyahoga” is a combination of the names given to the river by native peoples in the region and is translated to mean “Crooked River”; 

Whereas, after generations of neglect, a lack of clean-water protections, and decades of industrial pollution in the Cuyahoga River Valley, a 1968 report by the former Federal Water Pollution Control Administration found that the lower portion of the Cuyahoga River had no visible life; 

Whereas oil-laden debris and pollution on the Cuyahoga River caught fire 13 times between 1868 and 1969, inspiring the ignominious nickname “the burning river”;

Whereas on June 22, 1969, sparks from a railroad car passing over the Cuyahoga River on a bridge ignited debris below, starting what would be the last fire on the river; 

Whereas a Time Magazine article on the 1969 fire alerted the public to the extent of industrial pollution in the Cuyahoga River Valley; 

Whereas Carl B. Stokes, then mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, testified before Congress and called for Federal legislation to address pollution; 

Whereas, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, the 1969 fire mobilized public concern across the United States, resulting in—

(1) the enactment of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); 

(2) the Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality, signed at Ottawa April 15, 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), between the United States and Canada; 

(3) the Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality, 1978, signed at Ottawa November 22, 1978 (30 UST 1393; TIAS 9227), between the United States and Canada (commonly referred to as the “Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement”);

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS IN THE CUYAHOGA RIVER VALLEY AND LAKE ERIE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 290, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill (H.R. 2695) was ordered to a third reading, which was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2695) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.
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 Liburdi nomination under the previous order. Finally, I ask that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Hendrix nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:40 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 10 a.m.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 31
9:30 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine perspectives on reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.
SR–328A
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense.
SD–G50
10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 2297, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and S. 2299, to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety and reliability of pipeline transportation.
SH–216
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Justin Reed Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.
SD–226
10:30 a.m.
Committee on Finance
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary, Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel, and Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, all of the Department of the Treasury, and Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.
SD–215
2 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine next steps for positive train control implementation.
SH–216
2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nomination of E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.
SD–628
AUGUST 1
10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1494, to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to protect alien minors and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to end abuse of the asylum system and establish refugee application and processing centers outside the United States, and the nomination of W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice.
SD–226
SEPTEMBER 17
2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold an oversight hearing to examine enforcement of the antitrust laws.
SD–226

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

**Routine Proceedings, pages S5121–S5150**

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2302–2311, and S. Res. 287–290.

Measures Reported:

- H.R. 1388, to take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California. (S. Rept. No. 116–67)

Measures Passed:

- **50 Years of Environmental Progress in the Cuyahoga River Valley and Lake Erie:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 290, celebrating 50 years of environmental progress in the Cuyahoga River Valley and Lake Erie.

- **Richard L. Schafer Dam:** Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2695, to rename the Success Dam in Tulare County, California, as the Richard L. Schafer Dam, and the bill was then passed.

Measures Considered:

- **Bipartisan Budget Act—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mary M. Rowland, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Veto Messages:

**Resolutions of Disapproval of Proposed Transfers of Certain Defense Articles and Services:**

- By 45 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. 231), two-thirds of the Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, S.J. Res. 36, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Italian Republic of certain defense articles and services, upon reconsideration, was rejected, and the veto of the President was sustained.

- By 45 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 232), two-thirds of the Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, S.J. Res. 37, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of France of certain defense articles and services, upon reconsideration, was rejected, and the veto of the President was sustained.

- By 46 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 233), two-thirds of the Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, S.J. Res. 38, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of certain defense articles and services, upon reconsideration, was rejected, and the veto of the President was sustained.

**Craft Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, Department of State.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:
Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.  

Norquist Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.  

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, Department of State.  

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:  

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.  

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.  

Liburdi and Welte Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations of Michael T. Liburdi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Peter D. Welte, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, in the order listed, at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, July 30, 2019.  

Liburdi Nomination—Cloture: By 51 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 234), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.  

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, under the order of Monday, July 29, 2019.  

Welte Nomination—Cloture: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Peter D. Welte, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.  

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:  

By 66 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. 235), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.  

Messages from the House:  

Measures Referred:  

Measures Placed on the Calendar:  

Enrolled Bills Presented:  

Executive Communications:  

Petitions and Memorials:  

Additional Cosponsors:  

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:  

Additional Statements:  

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—235)  

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:40 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5149.)  

Committee Meetings  

(Committees not listed did not meet)  

House of Representatives  

Joint Meetings  

No joint committee meetings were held.
NEW PUBLIC LAWS
(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D786)


S. 744, to amend section 175b of title 18, United States Code, to correct a scrivener’s error. Signed on July 25, 2019. (Public Law 116–31)


S. 1749, to clarify seasoning requirements for certain refinanced mortgage loans. Signed on July 25, 2019. (Public Law 116–33)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Armed Services: business meeting to consider pending military nominations, 8:30 a.m., SR–222.

Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine regulatory frameworks for digital currencies and blockchain, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, “America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act”, S. 1992, to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds, and General Services Administration resolutions, 9 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, 10:15 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Erin Elizabeth McKee, of California, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Anthony F. Godfrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, and Herro Mustafa, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, all of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine unprecedented migration at the United States southern border, focusing on what is required to improve conditions, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine solutions to improve Federal hiring, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Copyright Office, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House
No hearings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD
Week of July 30 through August 2, 2019

Senate Chamber
On Tuesday, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, post-cloture.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Michael T. Liburdi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Peter D. Welte, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

Following disposition of the nomination of Peter D. Welte, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: July 31, to hold hearings to examine perspectives on reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Armed Services: July 30, business meeting to consider pending military nominations, 8:30 a.m., SR–222.

July 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

July 31, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 30, to hold hearings to examine regulatory frameworks for digital currencies and blockchain, 10 a.m., SD–538.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 31, business meeting to consider S. 2297, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and S. 2299, to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety and reliability of pipeline transportation, 10 a.m., SH–216.

July 31, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine next steps for positive train control implementation, 2 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 30, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, “America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act”, S. 1992, to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds, and General Services Administration resolutions, 9 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: July 30, to hold hearings to examine the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, 10:15 a.m., SD–215.

July 31, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary, Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel, and Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, all of the Department of the Treasury, and Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, 10:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 30, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Leslie Carwile, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Erin Elizabeth McKee, of California, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Anthony F. Godfrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, and Herro Mustafa, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, all of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 30, business meeting to consider the nominations of Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 30, to hold hearings to examine unprecedented migration at the United States southern border, focusing on what is required to improve conditions, 10 a.m., SD–342.

July 30, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine solutions to improve Federal hiring, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: July 31, business meeting to consider the nomination of E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Judiciary: July 30, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Copyright Office, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

July 31, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Justin Reed Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, 10 a.m., SD–226.

August 1, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1494, to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to protect alien minors and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to end abuse of the asylum system and establish refugee application and processing centers outside the United States, and the nomination of W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 30, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, July 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael T. Liburdi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, post-closure.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Michael T. Liburdi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Peter D. Welte, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

Following disposition of the nomination of Peter D. Welte, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 30

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11:30 a.m.