The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who laid the foundation of the Earth, the Heavens are the works of Your hands. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever, and Your years have no end.

Today, use our Senators as they serve You with gladness and awe. May they make pleasing You their first priority. Lord, give them Your guidance so that they will behave wisely, striving to have a conscience void of offense toward You and humanity. May they never forget all Your blessings and benefits.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Iowa. Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS
Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, there is too much secrecy in drug pricing, particularly in who benefits from rebates. Not all rebates are created equal in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.

Rebate obligations for brand-name drugs are currently based on both brand-name and authorized generic drug sales. That means brand-name drug manufacturers pay less in rebate obligations.

The bipartisan legislation I introduced with Senator WYDEN fixes this. It ensures that brand-name drug manufacturers pay—like common sense ought to dictate—brand-name rebates. This reduces gaming in the system to make sure authorized generics come to market for a purpose related to patient access, not just to lower brand-name rebate obligations.

Transparency brings accountability, and with transparency and accountability, the market works better, competition works better, and in the end, gets the price of drugs down.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the Senate took a number of steps forward on our considerable to-do list for the week. We confirmed four well-qualified jurists who are now our country’s newest district court judges and voted to advance the nominations of 10 more—10. That is what you call big progress for the Federal Judiciary. Today, we are going to continue moving these nominations forward.

For too long, thoroughly uncontroversial judicial nominees just like these have been held up and delayed by our Democratic colleagues, even when the vacancy qualifies as a judicial emergency.

Uncontroversial district judges used to be confirmed promptly in big groups by voice vote. These days, in a kind of protest theater, our colleagues across the aisle usually insist that we hold a cloture vote and then a rollcall confirmation vote on each one. But we are getting the President’s impressive nominees on the job one way or another, and we will continue doing just that.

Our work doesn’t stop there. The administration remains in need of a full complement of leaders at the Pentagon and in the diplomatic corps. Last night, we voted to confirm David Norquist, the President’s pick to serve as No. 2 at the Pentagon under our new
Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper. We also voted to advance the nomination of Ambassador Kelly Craft, a very impressive individual, to serve in the critical role of U.N. Ambassador.

Ms. Craft is a fellow product of the Bluegrass State. She has already made a profound impression through significant public service, including as an alternate delegate to the United Nations and, most recently, as Ambassador to Canada.

In every one of these cases, this impressive nominee earned an unopposed confirmation, and, in each case, she repaid the Senate’s confidence by skillfully and effectively advocating for the interests of the United States on the international stage. During her tenure as Ambassador to Canada, America’s relationship with our northern neighbor was tested. A number of challenging policy hurdles threatened to trip up progress on several important issues, including trade negotiations, but, by all accounts, Ambassador Craft’s involvement led to greater cooperation.

She worked on finalizing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, encouraged cross-border participation in joint sanctions efforts, and helped more Americans do business in Canada. As she stands in this new role, she brings the ringing endorsements of peers and counterparts she engaged all along the way.

The Premier of Ontario and a former Canadian Ambassador to the United States has said: “She’s done the job very well.”

And another quote: “Every Premier I know thinks the world of her... . She really proved herself over some tough times.”

Our partners to the north have a healthy respect for the hard work and qualifications of Ambassador Kelly Craft, and so does the Senate. Last week, even in this contentious moment, a wide bipartisan majority of our colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee voted to recommend her nomination to be U.N. Ambassador favorably here to the floor, and before we adjourn this week, we will confirm her.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate needs to pass the bipartisan budget agreement secured by the administration with Speaker PELOSI. The deal we have in front of us is a product of extensive negotiations between President Trump’s team and the Democratic House. I am confident it is not exactly the legislation that either side of the aisle would have written if one party held the White House, the House, and had 60 votes in the Senate. That is what we call divided government, but I am equally confident that this is a deal that every one of my colleagues should support when we vote on it in the near future.

This government funding agreement is the right deal for our national defense. It is the right deal because it ensures the United States maintains its full faith and credit. It is the right deal because it brings predictability and stability through 2020 and moves toward restoring regular appropriations. It is the right deal because it secures the support of our troops without partisan poison pill riders that would take us backward on the issue of protecting human life and curtail central Presidential authorities.

The Republicans’ No. 1 priority was investing in our national defense. After 8 years of neglect and atrophy under the Obama administration, Congress has worked hand-in-hand with the Trump administration to begin writing a new chapter. More of the resources our Armed Forces need, more flexibility for commanders, more cutting-edge tools for U.S. servicemembers, and more investments in modernization will not only rebuild the military that we need today but set us on the trajectory we need to be on to secure our future.

All in all, I don’t think any Senators are actually rooting for a destabilizing continuation resolving. I certainly don’t think any Senators are rooting for a debt limit crisis that could put our full faith and credit at risk. I believe that every one of our colleagues wants this agreement to pass. That means every one of our colleagues should actually vote for it.

The House has passed this deal. The President is ready and eager to sign it. It is our turn to do our job.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over 2 weeks ago, the four congressional leaders in the White House reached an agreement to raise the budget caps and extend the debt ceiling. The House has already passed the legislation that codifies the agreement into law. The President supports it. He is even making calls—evidently, from press reports—asking Republican colleagues to support it. So the last piece of the puzzle here is the Senate.

Speaking for the minority, Democrats have no objection to voting on a deal as soon as possible. I say to my friend the majority leader: Why don’t we vote on the caps deal this morning and send it to the President’s desk? There is no need to wait until later in the afternoon today, tonight, or tomorrow to get this done. Democrats are ready to pass it right now if the majority leader would call it up for a vote.

China

Mr. SCHUMER. As trade negotiations with China continue this week, I want to press the President again to hold tough and hold out for the best possible deal. If China is unwilling to make significant reforms to its economic model, President Trump must be prepared to walk away.

I believe the President’s instincts on China are right. I have not been afraid to say so, despite our vast political and moral disagreements. But if we are going to be successful in these negotiations, it will be up to President Trump—no one else—to keep the pressure on Chinese leaders this week.

There are a few things he can do. The most significant point of emphasis for the President should be Huawei, the Chinese telecom giant. China has responded to the administration’s justified restrictions on Huawei, unlike any other action the President has taken. It is our greatest source of leverage.

President Trump, hold tough on Huawei. Don’t let there be giant loopholes.

I am told that under the purported proposal being talked about, 80 percent of Huawei’s products could still be sold to us. If we have a total boycott of Huawei, then China will beg us to come to the table and make real concessions. It is the best leverage we have—even better than the tariffs. China wants Huawei to dominate the world. They will find a way to do it unless we are tough as can be.

I say to President Trump: I know these multinational corporations are putting pressure on you to cut a deal. The President should not listen to these big corporations who want him to cut a deal quickly. Many of these same corporations are the ones that have shipped jobs overseas through the last decades. They are the ones that took jobs away from American workers and moved them to China. I understand those corporate executives. They are supposed to be totally subservient to their shareholders. Their shareholders say: Whatever you have to do to bring the price up, do it.

That hurts American workers. It hurts American security. It hurts the American economy, especially when it comes to Huawei.

President Trump, don’t listen to the siren call of those same corporations that have created part of the problem with China to now get you to back off. Yes, they will have a little pain. They have made billions at large from dealing with China and letting China get away with stuff like taking jobs away from the United States into much lower paid, lower standard jobs in China.
Trade negotiations with China are far too important to the future of American business and American workers to sacrifice just because a handful of American corporations are worried about their quarterly profits. Their quarterly profits are nothing compared to America’s technological superiority that China keeps trying to steal from us, in some ways legitimate, in many ways not.

Another point of emphasis for the President’s team—this is one the President cares less about, but that is OK—is China’s human rights record. China released a new policy outlining the use of force against Hong Kong’s protest. Its military built up forces along the border. We have seen this movie before at Tiananmen. It was a horror movie—one that resulted in hundreds, if not thousands, of unarmed Chinese citizens being mercilessly slaughtered by their own Army under the direction of the Chinese Communist Party. We cannot have a sequel to this atrocity. The administration should push back against China’s militarism and stand up for the autonomy and democratic rights of Hong Kong citizens.

I have read some of these columns where they say: Can’t we get along? We can’t get along because, first, China doesn’t play fair and has stolen trillions of dollars and millions of jobs from America and seeks to keep doing it. They have been duping our President around, making agreements, and breaking them. Second, we can’t get along with China because of what it does to its citizens—the Uighurs in Western China and now the citizens of Hong Kong.

What we have seen with China is that when we are tough and strong, they back off. When we show any glimmer of weakness—as we are showing in floating a deal, a lessening of the restrictions on Huawei—they take advantage. Let me warn all of those in this administration who are urging the President to back off on Huawei and let them buy some of our products. There is a bipartisan group here in this Senate who will work very hard to prevent that from happening legislatively. The most likely vehicle is the NDAA. I think we will get broad support from Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate. So to those in the administration who are trying to back off, don’t even try it.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Looking back on this work period, it is a shame that the Senate, once again, has made no progress—none—on the issue of election security.

Only a week ago, Special Counsel Mueller called Russia interference one of the greatest threats to democracy he has seen in his 40 years, a threat that he said continues “as we sit here.” Despite Mueller’s warning—a warning echoed by prominent Republicans, Trump appointees, such as FBI Director Wray, Director Coats, and our entire Senate Intelligence Committee led by Richard Burr, a colleague of ours—Leader McConnell has not brought election security to the floor. In fact, he has blocked Democratic requests for debate and voting, dismissing our ideas as a “partisan wish list.” That is political rhetoric to avoid a problem that shouldn’t be partisan at all.

Using paper ballots is not partisan. Making sure that our election machines are safe from hacking is not partisan. Giving the States resources to better manage their elections is not partisan. That is American. Our elections are sacrosanct and these are commonsense, widely agreed-upon reforms that will make our elections safer, particularly in this dangerous new world where powers that have malice toward the United States—Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea—can use new technology to reach into our election structures.

This is not 1940 or even 2005. We need to strengthen our election security, and it should not be a partisan issue. When Leader McConnell calls it a partisan issue and working to avoid it for reasons unknown to almost anybody.

Recent Republican opposition to election security has been disappointing. I say to my Republican colleagues: Where are you? Why aren’t you telling the Republican leader that we ought to do something? Every one of our Republicans is complicit when Leader McConnell blocks election security because they could join with us. If they began to join with us, my guess is that Leader McConnell might put some legislation on the floor. We want to debate it. We want to discuss it. Leader McConnell and our Republican colleagues may not exactly agree with us on some things, we are not exactly bipartisan—but we should at least bring things to the floor, discuss them, and get something done. Unfortunately, we don’t see much action.

It was precisely a year ago that the Democrats last sought to secure funding for election security when the Senate Republicans voted down our amendments. Unfortunately, it appears that Leader McConnell will not take action before the August work period. Yet I assure the American people and Leader McConnell that this issue is not going away. The Democrats will press for election security when we return and again when the Senate debates appropriations bills.

This is about protecting the wellspring of our democracy, the vitality of our democracy, and the sacrosanct nature of our democracy. To call it political demeans everything. Young men and young women from Bunker Hill or the hundreds of thousands who have marched to protect our elections. You have to protect them in a different way now with there being technology and cyber threats, but the idea of protecting them burns just as brightly in the American heart, and Leader McConnell is somehow imperious to all of that.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on climate, I am pleased to share that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works did something amazing and groundbreaking yesterday. It passed the first ever climate title in a transportation reauthorization bill.

Thanks to the Senate Democrats on the committee and to particularly Ranking Member CARPER’s hard work, the highway bill actually includes $10 billion that will be dedicated to climate-focused programs and policies in order to reduce emissions and improve the resiliency of our transportation infrastructure to climate change and natural disasters. It includes funds for States to reduce carbon emissions, support for electric and alternative-fuel vehicles, reductions in emissions from ports and roadways, and investments in climate-resistant infrastructure.

Less than a year ago, I said, in moving forward, the Democrats would demonstrate that climate change was addressed in any infrastructure bill. This bill, with its $10 billion investment in climate, is a product of that demand. This will be the first time serious money has been included in an infrastructure package to fight climate change, but it certainly will not be the last.

The clock is ticking when it comes to climate change. We need to make progress whenever we can and as quickly as we can. If the Republican leader will not bring legislation to the floor, the Democrats will be prepared to take the lead and fight for climate progress at every opportunity we get. That is precisely what this $10 billion climate investment in the highway bill represents. Again, I thank Senator CARPER for his leadership, his skill, and his persistence in getting it done.

Protecting our country and the world from the threat of climate change is no less than a moral obligation. When we return from the recess, the Democrats will continue to look for more opportunities to make progress on climate change.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, during the debate last night, when it came to healthcare, half of the Democratic Presidential field engaged in a healthy debate, a great deal of which was focused on the No. 1 issue to American voters—healthcare.

Despite different policy proposals, the debate shows that the Democratic Party is completely united on the idea of universal healthcare coverage as well as on the importance of improving the quality of healthcare for every American. Yet one point that should have been made during the debate but unfortunately wasn’t should
have been the fact that the Republicans are actively sabotaging our current healthcare system. Whether you are one of the more moderate Members on healthcare or are one of the ones who have a more broad, more sweeping proposal, it is the difference between the parties. Yet those differences almost pale compared to the differences between every Democrat on that platform and the Republicans, because the Republicans are seeking to undo healthcare, to sabotage healthcare, and to have fewer people covered. As a result of their ideas, thoughts, and lawsuits, costs are going up.

There is a huge gap between the parties on healthcare, and I am glad we are having an active debate on how to move forward to cover more people and have it cost less. While we are doing that, the Trump administration is doing the opposite. It is expanding junk insurance plans, reducing funds to help Americans locate and sign up for the right insurance, and ending cost-sharing payments that help low-income families afford care.

The congressional Republicans have tried and have, thankfully, failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The coup de grace, of course, is the fact that now the Trump administration— with the support of many Republican attorneys general and the complicity of just about every Member of the Senate on the Republican side—is supporting a lawsuit that would invalidate the Affordable Care Act entirely, which would kick tens of millions off of their insurance and eliminate the protections for preexisting conditions for the over 100 million Americans who have those preexisting conditions, and just about every Republican is going along with that.

The difference in the 2020 elections between the Democrats and the Republicans on healthcare will be apparent and glaring, and it will far and away subsume any differences we may have on policy. I yield the floor.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Sasse). The Senator from Colorado.

BLM HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, several years back, at a committee hearing of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Director Neil Korneze testified that Land Management under the Obama administration was testifying before our committee on a regulation that was coming out of the BLM that most, if not all, of the county commissioners and various organizations in Colorado were opposed to. In fact, the opposition was so uniform in Colorado and throughout the West that I couldn’t understand why the BLM was going forward with that regulation.

Out of frustration, at one point during the committee hearing, I said: Director Korneze, if you were just located in the West, if you were just out west, you would understand why this rule is a bad idea.

The response at the time, several years ago, was kind of a chuckle and a laugh, and, yes, well, we should talk about that.

It planted the seeds of an idea that actually was made into reality last week with the announcement that the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management will be moving out west and, indeed, to Grand Junction, CO.

This announcement was made on July 16, and I commend the efforts of Secretary Bernhardt and the Department of the Interior for listening to the people of the West.

This isn’t a Republican issue. This isn’t a partisan issue. In fact, this idea to move the BLM headquarters out to the land that it regulates and oversees has been embraced by Democrats and Republicans across Colorado and throughout the West.

They also have applauds about their intention in this announcement to reorganize the Bureau of Land Management and to relocate a significant number of headquarters jobs throughout the West, not just in Grand Junction but in Lakewood, CO, in Montana, in Utah, and beyond.

I think it is important to talk about the reasons why it makes so much sense to have this particular Agency located in Colorado and, particularly, right here, in Colorado, surrounded by public lands, in a community that is defined by the public lands that they oversee.

I believe government is going to work better when it is local, when local decision makers are closest to the land that the decisions they are making are affecting the most. That why this decision is so important—whether it is issues of withdrawal of locatable minerals or the reduction of grazing permits; the concept of multiple use over time; the idea that we can use this land for preservation, conservation, or that we can use it for energy development, or that we can use it for water, or that we can use it for recreation.

My friend Greg Walcher, who is a former Senate staffer for Senator Armstrong, who used to head the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, miles of wild and scenic rivers, pointing out that the multiple-use mandate includes managing 18,000 grazing permits, 220 wilderness areas, 27 national monuments, 600 national conservation areas, 200,000 miles of streams, 2,000 lakes, 6,000 miles of national scenic trails, 63,000 oil and gas wells, 25,000 mines, and 50 million acres of forests.

That somehow fallen out of favor.
Not a square inch of that is in Washington, DC. It is in the 12 Western States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It has never made the trip to Washington, D.C. miles away from these States, insulated by the inevitably different perspectives of life inside the beltway. That is what is so important about this decision.

Why you don’t live in the communities that are among and surrounded by these lands, it is easy to make decisions that close off energy development or close cattle ranches and grazing opportunities, because the consequences are felt out west instead of in Washington, DC.

But this strong push by westerners—Scott Tipton, myself, Secretary Zinke, and others—began the conversation about modernization and the organizations formed the next year by the Bureau of Land Management, and the Interior for doing what is right by our Western States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It has never made the trip to Washington, D.C. miles away from these States, insulated by the inevitably different perspectives of life inside the beltway. That is what is so important about this decision.

Grand Junction, where the new BLM will be located, is a beautiful place, with people who are so supportive of this decision—a community that knows that when these decision makers are in their community, they are not going to have to drive hours or take a flight for 4 hours out of Washington to see BLM lands. Just to look out the window and to see the lands they manage will result in better decision making.

Now, the Interior of the United States, located in the county seat. It is 73 percent Federal land, 60 percent of which is managed by the BLM. In total, the BLM manages 8.3 million acres of surface in Colorado and 27 million acres of Federal mineral estates in Colorado.

But we are not the only State that will benefit, obviously. There are a lot of other positions that will be moving across the country to the State and to the location where those jobs are a best fit. It makes sense.

I know sometimes people think that Washington is the only place where people can do government’s work or where people can find the kind of skilled workforce. That is one of the arguments that has actually been made against the BLM move—that only Washington has the skilled workforce. That is one of the arguments that has actually been made against the BLM move—that only Washington has the skilled workforce.

Look, I am sorry, if you don’t want to live in the counties and communities surrounded by public lands. Then, why are you working for a public land management agency?

So I am excited about this. I thank the Interior for making this decision happen and the community of Grand Junction, which supported this from day one.

In the same op-ed that Mr. Walcher wrote, he opened with a quote and said this: “There is something more powerful than the brute force of bayonets: It is the idea whose time has come.”

That is where we have finally arrived today, an idea whose time has come, locating the decision makers who affect our Western communities the most out in the western United States.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the opportunity to put forward this decision. I commend the Secretary of the Interior for doing what is right by our public lands, and I will continue to stand up for public lands throughout the process.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, an unusual event occurred yesterday in the Environment and Public Works Committee—a major bill reauthorizing America’s transportation infrastructure for 5 years passed the committee by a 21-to-1 vote. That is the way we should be able to operate on a subject that I think enjoys universal support in the Senate; that is, making sure the Federal partnership for infrastructure is not only reauthorized but also in the interest of ensuring that the infrastructure needs of this country have only gotten more challenging.

I want to start by complimenting the leadership of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper worked very closely together on this bill, including the input of all members of the committee as well as Members of the Senate.

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, chaired by Senator Capito, and I am the ranking Democrat on the committee, also worked very well in developing this Transportation Infrastructure Reauthorization Act.

As I pointed out originally, the needs are urgent, and the leadership of the committee recognized that. In every one of our States, we know the unmet needs; the infrastructure needs of our existent infrastructure, and replacing our bridges that are falling down, dealing with our transit systems, dealing with the needs to deal with congestion.

We know there are so many issues out there, and it is important for us to give a clear signal that we intend to have a long-term reauthorization, 5 years, so there is predictability, so our States and local governments know that they can plan. I think that long-term planning will have a Federal partner that is available and reliable.

It also increases the funding, the first year by 10 percent and increases it by certain percentages thereafter, recognizing there are several new initiatives building on existing programs that I think are worthy of mentioning.

Let me just go over a few of the real highlights of this infrastructure bill. First, it has a climate change title. This is the first time we have done this—a separate title to deal with the realities of climate change.

I need only remind my colleagues of what happened this month in Maryland when we had 4 inches of rain that flooded Maryland roads. We have to deal with the realities. We have to deal with resiliency and adaptation in regard to what is happening with climate change. This title does that.

Transportation is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions. We need infrastructure that deals with the realities of reducing carbon emissions. This title provides for financial help for developing an infrastructure of electric and alternative fuel vehicles. That is a reality of consumer desire as well as dealing with the realities of climate change.

We give local discretion for funds to initiate emission reduction strategies. That could include simple things like providing alternatives for the use of our cars for people who want to walk and bike rather than having to get into their cars. It is a major commitment for which we are going to use resources, in partnership with local governments, to deal with the realities of our responsibility in the transportation sector to reduce carbon emissions.

We also deal with the realities of congestion. I can tell the Presiding Officer, as I told my colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee, that I face it every day twice a day. I commute from Baltimore here to work and have to deal with the realities of congestion.

It has been estimated that the delays caused by congestion and the excessive fuels that are used by congestion cost our economy over $300 billion every year. So there is not only a quality-of-life issue involved in our taking on congestion, there is also an economic reason to take on the issues of congestion.

Of course, it is also linked to our commitment to deal with the climate change issues by reducing unnecessary fuel consumption, which adds to carbon emissions.

The legislation provides funding for new initiatives so that we can get solutions to deal with the problems of congestion, the multimodal solutions that are available in many communities. We work and allow the locals to give us ideas and help fund those to reduce congestion.

As I mentioned earlier, we have a real challenge on dealing with our bridges. Many of our bridges are in need of replacement. Many are in need of desperate repair. I can mention many in Maryland. In the southern part of our State, we have the Nicet Bridge and the Johnson Bridge, both in need of replacement or repair. This legislation provides additional resources to deal with bridges in our country.

There are certain highways that have been built that no longer really serve the function—or may never serve the function—of moving people from one area to another but instead are dividing communities. So the legislation
I know we have other committees that need to act on a comprehensive transportation bill. Many of us serve on those other committees. If we follow the example of the Environment and Public Works Committee—21 to 0—if we listen to each other, if we do that, we can get a strong success on a reauthorization of surface transportation that will help modernize America’s transportation needs, which will be good for our economy, good for our environment, and good for the quality of life of all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to follow that example, and let’s get this work done. With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as those who are following on C-SPAN have probably noted, we are not overwhelmed with business on the floor of the U.S. Senate, nor have we been during the course of this year. We have considered several bills—you could count them on one hand—including the Defense authorization bill, and, of course, the momentous, historic legislation 2 weeks ago, the tax treaty with Luxembourg, which had been pending before the U.S. Senate for 9 years. It finally made it to the floor of the Senate. That was the highlight of the week, as we have watched the U.S. Senate ignore some of the most important issues of our time.

Let me tell you one that strikes at the heart of our democracy, which we should be focused on today and until it is resolved. Last week, former FBI Director and Special Counsel Bob Mueller testified before the House Judiciary Committee about his report on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The hearing clarified several important things. For example, President Trump loves to claim that the Mueller report completely exonerated him. Trump’s tweets are just another take on how he was exonerated by that report. Director Mueller made clear that “not what the report said.” When asked by the House Judiciary chairman “Did you actually totally exonerate the President?” Director Mueller answered “no.”

President Trump likes to say the Mueller investigation was a witch hunt. He has said that about 1,000 times. But the investigation actually led to 37 indictments and over $42 million in assets forfeited to the government. If this were a witch hunt, it certainly found a lot of wealthy witches.

Some Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee tried to attack Director Mueller’s credibility, but Mueller has a lifetime record of being a straight shooter, by-the-book investigator, and prosecutor. He did this country a service when he took on the role of special counsel.

One Thing Director Mueller tried to remind the American people of is the reason the investigation was necessary. He said:

Over the course of my career, I have seen a number of challenges to our democracy. The Russian government’s effort to interfere in our election is among the most serious.

Mueller went on to say: “This deserves the attention of every American.”

One of the most important takeaways from the Mueller report is that Russia did successfully attack our democracy in 2016. Page 1 of the Mueller report says: “The Russian Government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion.”

The report detailed numerous examples, including an “intelligence-gathering mission” that employees of the Internet Research Agency, known as the IRA, took in June of 2014.

The IRA was the Russian troll farm that waged information warfare against the 2016 election by using stolen identities, fake social media accounts, and fake campaign events.

The Mueller report and the earlier indictment of several IRA employees demonstrated that two of the Russians arrived in the United States for a 3-week trip “for the purpose of collecting intelligence to inform the [IRA’s] operations.”

That report also detailed the Russians’ attack on my own home State board of elections. In July 2016, the Illinois State board of elections discovered that it was the target of a malicious, month-long cyber attack that enabled the intruder to access confidential voter information and view the registration data of approximately 76,000 voters in my State of Illinois.

These efforts to influence the election and attack campaign organizations and State and local election administrators and vendors continue to this day. What are we going to do about it?

What has been the response so far of the U.S. Senate, the body sworn to uphold the Constitution and to protect our democracy, our freedom, and our homes?

Nothing. We are too busy with the trade treaty with Luxembourg to deal with Russian interference in our elections. In the face of Russia’s threat to our elections, this Senate has been quiet as a graveyard.

Let’s start in 2016. Top officials from the administration’s national security and intelligence community came and warned congressional leadership of Russia’s ongoing attack on our elections, rightly asking for a bipartisan statement to tell Russian dictator Putin to stop. What was Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL’s response to this obvious request to protect our Nation? He said: “No thanks. I am not going to do it.”

History will no doubt look back in infamy at that decision.

What about the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a historically recognized body with keen jurisdiction over the United States? That committee did not even conduct an investigation into Russia’s actions in the last Congress.
Republicans were silent when Trump repeatedly accepted Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's brazen denials over American intelligence experts and all of the evidence to the contrary.

They were silent again after the Mueller report's devastating findings of Russian interference. And they were silent when President Trump subsequently said he would gladly accept election help from a foreign power again.

Now look at the current Congress. Several bipartisan bills have been introduced to respond to this Russian threat, including the Election Security Act. This is a critical, comprehensive bill that would provide States with much needed resources and establish a robust Federal effort to protect our democracy.

Unfortunately, Republican Senate Leader McConnell is blocking all efforts to bring this important legislation to the floor for a debate and vote. This is the worst kind of obstruction. And this is why when the time comes to vote on the election security bill, Senate McConnell refuses to bring it to the floor.

I end with the questions I have asked before. How can the party of Ronald Reagan continue to sit by while this President pursues policies aligned with the former KGB agent, Vladimir Putin? Why didn't the first bills in this new Senate under Republican control deal with this threat to the election process in our democracy? Why isn't the Senate Foreign Relations Committee holding urgent hearings on these stunning dalliances between an American President and a Russian dictator? Why isn't the Senate Foreign Relations Committee moving bipartisan legislation that would protect U.S. membership in NATO?

Quite frankly, we barely do anything in this legislative graveyard of the Senate under Republican control. You would think we would at least focus, on a bipartisan basis, on making certain that the outcome of the next election is not influenced by a foreign power, whether it is Russia or some other malicious force in the world today.

But because it bruises the President's ego and it may invoke a nasty tweet, the Republican-controlled Senate prefers to do nothing. It is time for the Republican majority to stop protecting President Trump at all costs.

But not when the Senate Republican leadership needs to put the country before fear of the President's tweets.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, can you hear it? Can you hear the somber notes, the feet shuffling, and the solemn tones? Can you hear it? It is a dirge, a funeral march, and it is the death knell of a movement—a once proud movement with hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall. It is the death and it is the last gasp of a movement in America that was concerned with our national debt.

Today is the final nail in the coffin. The tea party is no more. The budget deal today allows unlimited borrowing for nearly 2 years—unlimited, no limits—and they are going to borrow what they wish without limit for 2 years. It abolishes all spending caps. Adoption of this deal marks the death of the tea party movement in America. Fiscal conservatives—those who remain—should be in mourning for Congress. Both parties have deserted you.

The national debt now stands at $22 trillion. This year, we will add over $1.2 trillion. We are approaching record deficits, and neither party cares. Both parties have deserted, have absolutely and utterly deserted America and have shown no care and no understanding and no sympathy for the burden of debt they are leaving the taxpayers, the young, the next generation, and the future of our country.

The American people recognize that the findings of our country are being eroded and threatened by this debt. The interest on this debt will be over $400 billion next year—precisely, $455 billion. Interest will surpass all welfare spending in the next 2 years. Interest on the debt will surpass defense spending by 2025.

Social Security is $7 trillion in debt. Medicare is over $30 trillion in debt. Yet a parade of candidates on national television last night said they want to double and triple the government's expenditures where the government is already trillions of dollars short. Whose fault is this? Both parties.

The media completely doesn't get it. The media says: Oh, there is not enough compromise in Washington. That is exactly the opposite of the truth. There is too much compromise in Washington. There is always an agreement to spend more money. There is always an agreement to spend more money and always an agreement to borrow your kids' and your grandkids' money and to put this country further at risk.

Admiral Mullen put it this way. He said the most significant threat to our national security is our debt. Yet all around me on my side of the aisle are those who clamor and say: Our military is hollowed out and can't complete its mission. Well, perhaps the mission is too big for the budget. Maybe, it is not a problem of having enough money; maybe it is a problem of having enough money; maybe it is a problem of making our mission to be everything to everyone around the world, to have spent $50 billion a year building roads and bridges in Afghanistan for the last 20 years and to continue that forever.

When the President goes forward a proposal, a thought that we might try to end and to declare victory in Afghanistan, this body—both parties rose up as one, and the vast majority said it would be precipitous to leave Afghani- stan after 19 years. This is the problem. It isn't acrimony. It isn't both parties fighting each other. It is both parties agreeing to increase the debt. They increase the debt for different reasons, but the only way they get theirs—'give me mine, give me mine'—is what both sides say.

The right wants for the military. Yet we spend more on the military than the next 10 countries combined. We spend more on the military—the United States spends more than all of NATO combined. All of the NATO countries combined spend less than we do on the military.

People say we are hollowed out and we can't complete our mission. Well, maybe the mission is too big. It isn't that the budget is too small; it is that the mission is too big. Maybe we don't need to have troops in 50 of 55 African countries. Maybe we need to rethink our mission. Maybe the mission of the U.S. military should be to defend our country, not to intervene in every civil war around the world.

Admiral Mullen said the most significant threat to our national security is our debt. Yet we are piling on more debt, saying we need more military. Maybe we need to discuss the mission of our military. We are piling on more debt, some in the name of national security. Yet I think it weakens us with every new agreement.

The vote today will be on a 2-year debt ceiling with no limits. The details do matter. Raising the debt ceiling with no limits would be like telling your kid: OK, you can have a credit card, but there will be no limits on what you spend. Just spend it on whatever you want, in whatever amount, and in 2 years, I will just pay the bill for you.

Nobody would do that with their family money, and no country should act that way. We can't keep going on like this.

Where are all the fiscal conservatives? What happened to the tea party movement, which was bipartisan and was formed out of anger or outrage, saying: I don't want something from government. What is a government that is responsible, a government that spends what comes in, a government that doesn't keep borrowing and borrowing and putting us further at risk.

What happened to that movement? That movement elected some of these people. You heard these people. Don't you remember, when President Obama wanted to increase the debt ceiling, they came and they clamored and saying 'trillion-dollar deficits' for multiple years. Every year, they would say: President Obama wants to spend and borrow and spend and borrow. I heard it in my State. I heard it from the very people who they will vote for this monstrosity.

Some of them will actually vote for my amendment to give themselves cover. They will say: Oh, yeah, I was for the Paul amendment. But then they are also going to vote for the deal that will bankrupt our country. What happened to these people? They all thought debt was bad when it was President Obama's debt, but they are...
Today's vote will be a vote for a monstrosity, an abomination, the ability to borrow money for over 2 years until guess what intervenes. Why are we going to wait 2 years with no limits on borrowing? This is little thing called an election. They don't want to be in public voting to raise the debt ceiling an unlimited amount or a vast amount again, so they are putting it off to beyond the election. Both parties are complicit, though. Nobody wants to vote on this again.

People talk about draining the swamp. You can't drain the swamp unless you are willing to cut the size and scope of government. That is the swamp. The swamp is this morass that is millions of people up here organized to involve themselves in the economy. Most of them could disappear from government, and no one would notice. The only thing you would notice is less money coming to Washington and more money remaining in the States. It is a little bit of what happened to the balanced budget amendment. We want adoption of the balanced budget amendment. If you will cut spending, if you will cap spending, and if you will pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, I will vote to raise the debt ceiling—but only if those things are done. People say: Well, if we don't raise the debt ceiling without any reform, the country—the markets will go into turmoil. We bring in $3 trillion, and we spend $4 trillion. What does that mean? We can pay for $3 trillion on a daily basis without borrowing. So if tomorrow we didn't raise the debt ceiling, what would happen? We would spend $3 trillion. Every Social Security check could go out, every soldier could be paid, and everybody on Medicaid could be taken care of. That is probably about it, to tell you the truth, because we spend too much money. There is less money we don't have. But you could provide the essentials to people—Social Security, Medicare, pay our soldiers, and maybe a few other things—if you just spent what came in.

Isn't that what we should do? Isn't that what responsible people do? Does any American family routinely spend a third—25 percent more than comes in? Does anybody spend $4 for every $3 that comes in? Nobody does that. Nobody in their right mind does that, but your government does it. And who is at fault? Both parties. They are complicit. They scratch each other's backs. They both are terrible on the deficit. Both parties are bad. Both parties are complicit. They are eroding the very foundation that has made America great.

I will vote against this budget deal. I will present cut, cap, and balance. Cut, cap, and balance is a responsible way to raise the debt ceiling by cutting spending, capping spending, and also passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I hope my colleagues will consider that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I love the month of August, and I think I have always loved the month of August going back to the time when I was a kid because, obviously, growing up in South Dakota, August is a great month of the year. It is hot. There are a lot of activities. Of course, it is the month before school, and it is the month of returning to school, but it is a time in which there are lots of things going on in my home State of South Dakota, and especially since becoming a Member of Congress, I really love August.

I head back home to South Dakota almost every weekend to meet with South Dakotans, but August is wonderful and different for two reasons. One reason is, August gives us an extended work period, a time when we get a chance to visit the furthest corners of our State, places that might be hard to visit on just a weekend—places such as Bison, Milbank, Clear Lake, Huron, and Mobridge. I get to meet the people who make their living in production agriculture in some of the most rural parts of South Dakota. There is nothing more valuable than getting to talk to these South Dakotans firsthand and to hear the challenges they face and what we can do here in Washington to help out—not to mention how wonderful it is to spend time in these beautiful parts of our State. If you haven't taken in the rugged beauty of the Badlands or the rivers and prairies of Central South Dakota, then you are missing out.

The other thing I like about heading back to South Dakota in August is not ecumenical, and they are not very much into self-examination. They are not interested in the debt now that Republicans are complicit.

But before we make this about Republicans, remember that there is not a Democrat who cares about the debt. The difference between the parties is that the Democrats are honest. They are very honest. They don't care about the debt. Look, they are all over the stage, falling all over themselves, trying to give free healthcare to illegal aliens. They are all on the stage trying to talk about giving Medicare for All when we can't even afford the Medicare for Some. So Democrats don't care. The country should know that Democrats do not care about the debt. But here is the problem: The only opposition party we have in the country is the Republican Party, and they don't care either. They just come home, and they are dishonest and tell you they care, and then they vote to raise the debt ceiling.

Today's vote will be a vote for a monstrosity today. So what I am offering for conservatives today is that we will raise the debt ceiling under a couple of conditions. We will raise the debt ceiling if you adopt, in advance, significant spending cuts, caps on spending, and a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

see, here is the road, and here is, I guess, the beginning and the end of the dishonesty around here. If we had a vote today, we would have some people saying: Why don't we vote on the balanced budget amendment?

We all love to vote for it. We don't really mean it. We don't really care about balancing the budget. We are not for it because we are Big Government Republicans. But we love to vote for the balanced budget amendment because I can go home and tell people: Yeah, I voted for the really crazy, monstrosity budget deal to expand the debt, but I also voted for the balanced budget amendment.

Well, here is our deal. We don't want to vote on the balanced budget amendment; we want adoption of the balanced budget amendment. So if you will cut spending, if you will cap spending, and if you will pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, I will vote to raise the debt ceiling—but only if those things are done.

People say: Well, if we don't raise the debt ceiling without any reform, the country—the markets will go into turmoil. We bring in $3 trillion, and we spend $4 trillion. What does that mean? We can pay for $3 trillion on a daily basis without borrowing. So if tomorrow we didn't raise the debt ceiling, what would happen? We would spend $3 trillion. Every Social Security check could go out, every soldier could be paid, and everybody on Medicaid could be taken care of. That is probably about it, to tell you the truth, because we spend too much money. There is less money we don't have. But you could provide the essentials to people—Social Security, Medicare, pay our soldiers, and maybe a few other things—if you just spent what came in.

Isn't that what we should do? Isn't that what responsible people do? Does any American family routinely spend a third—25 percent more than comes in? Does anybody spend $4 for every $3 that comes in? Nobody does that. Nobody in their right mind does that, but your government does it. And who is at fault? Both parties. They are complicit. They scratch each other's backs. They both are terrible on the deficit. Both parties are bad. Both parties are complicit. They are eroding the very foundation that has made America great.
looks like on a clear night in the Black DC, don't know what the Milky Way sky reflected in the clear blue of sure there is a more beautiful place on should miss the Black Hills. I am not Nobody who visits South Dakota love taking my daughters there on with my parents and siblings, and I visit the lake. 

I cherish my memories of the trips to traveling across the State as an adult, addition to the wonderful memories I made South Dakota, we have it. There is nothing better than a summer height of Black Elk Peak, and hundreds to our current Medicare system.

Part of the problem is, seniors have Over the past several years, and we have heard a lot of talk about Medicare for All. Its Democratic supporters claim this is the panacea that will solve all of America's healthcare woes. They say it will guarantee every person's access to healthcare and simplify our healthcare system, but it doesn't take much effort to see the flaws in their proposal and in their argument—something we are obligated to do, to examine these proposals to see whether they will work or not.

Our Democratic friends proudly own the fact that Medicare for All would completely end employer-based health insurance as we know it. We heard that a lot last night during the debates of the Democratic candidates running for President. It would literally force every American into one government-run plan modeled after our current Medicare system.

Part of our agenda is to simplify our healthcare and guarantee every person's access to high-quality, affordable health care. We believe that Medicare for All is the best way to achieve this goal. It would provide comprehensive coverage to all Americans, regardless of their income or employment status. It would also remove the barriers to care that exist under the current system, such as cost-sharing and deductibles.

But what exactly is Medicare for All? It is a comprehensive health insurance program that would cover all Americans, including those who are currently uninsured. It would be funded through a combination of payroll taxes on employers and employees, and a modest income tax surcharge on high-income households.

Some opponents of Medicare for All argue that it would increase tax burdens on American families. But in reality, the cost of our current healthcare system is already very high. In fact, it is estimated that the average American family spends more than $10,000 per year on healthcare. By contrast, Medicare for All would provide comprehensive coverage to all Americans, regardless of their income or employment status.

There are also concerns that Medicare for All would reduce choices for patients and doctors. But in reality, Medicare for All would provide more choices and options for patients, as it would allow them to select the doctor and hospital of their choice. It would also provide incentives for doctors to provide high-quality care, as they would be paid according to the needs of their patients rather than the number of procedures they perform.

Medicare for All is not a radical policy, but it is a bold one. It is a policy that would provide comprehensive coverage to all Americans, regardless of their income or employment status. It is a policy that would reduce healthcare costs, increase choices for patients and doctors, and improve the quality of care for all Americans.

I urge all Americans to support Medicare for All, and to join us in the fight for comprehensive healthcare for all. It is time for us to come together and work towards a future where all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare.
spending: they certainly don’t want to have to pay $32 trillion in additional taxes to pay for it; and they certainly don’t want Washington bureaucrats dictating their families’ healthcare choices.

In a speech last week, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Seema Verma, spoke about these radical healthcare ideas. She said: “These proposals are the largest threats to the American healthcare system.”

Let me say that again. Seema Verma, head of CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, called these proposals “the largest threats” to America’s healthcare system. So you better believe we will keep fighting to resist this socialist agenda and this evermore liberal wish list.

**BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019**

Mr. President, on another matter, we will soon be able to vote on a bipartisan, 2-year budget agreement to provide for our common defense and stability to the Federal Government and Federal spending. The President and Speaker Pelosi have reached this deal in order to avoid the possibility of another government shutdown and instead leave time and space for a wide-ranging debate on our government spending habits.

I know the Presiding Officer believes as I do; that it is past time to have a genuine, far-ranging debate about government spending habits that is not just focused on discretionary spending, which is what this budget caps deal does, but on all the money the Federal Government spends, which includes the 70 percent of spending which is on autopilot, which this deal does not discuss or deal with.

I will be the first to admit this budget agreement isn’t perfect. It never is. Anything negotiated means both sides have to give up a little bit in order to find common ground. As I indicated, I certainly wished it were more aggressive. I wish it did something to deal with our entitlement programs as we continue to face growing deficits, but I am glad to see that the agreement offsets roughly a 1-year increase for non-defense discretionary spending above current law and allows our government to be funded on time and on budget.

It also avoids 30 poison pill policy riders on everything from taxpayer funding to abortion to immigration law, keeping them from reaching the President’s desk.

Above all, this agreement delivers on our most fundamental responsibility, which is to provide for our common defense. The senior Senator from Oklahoma, first came here, he said: I am a conservative, which means there are really two things that take priority when it comes to the Federal Government. One is national defense, and the other is infrastructure. He said else comes below that on the priority list. I found a lot of wisdom in those words. Providing for the common defense is the most important thing Congress does, along with the administration.

We know under the previous administration, the Pentagon and our national defense were underfunded dramatically. It operated without any kind of stability for years, and this took a serious toll on our military readiness.

After nearly a decade of neglect, President Trump and Senate Republicans are working to rebuild our military and rebuild that readiness and modernize our force.

Let’s look at the Army Future Vertical Lift—or FVL—as an example of why this investment is so very important. FVL is a cross-functional team within Army Futures Command headquarters in Austin, TX, that aims to develop two new helicopters for the Army in the 2020s. These next-generations of aircraft will replace aging military helicopters and provide our service members with the capabilities they need today and tomorrow.

But right now, these programs are progressing without timely funding. It is hard to make plans when you don’t know how they are going to flow. Without a budget deal and on-time appropriations, the Army has no choice but to significantly delay these programs for years to come, meaning that the Army will continue to operate helicopters built in the seventies and eighties.

The same goes with our artillery. Those years of underfunding have allowed Russia and China to surpass our capabilities in areas, including long-range precision fire. In this and other areas, the military must develop longer range weapons to provide an advantage over our adversaries and maintain our qualitative edge.

As a new Secretary of the Army would not be able to continue research, development, and testing under a continuing resolution or without a budget deal, putting us another year behind in modernizing our force in an era of great power competition. That means China and Russia continue apace while we are slow to try to catch up.

That is why this deal is so important. It provides stable and reliable funding so that our military leaders can plan for the future and provide for the common defense.

Our newly confirmed Defense Secretary, Mark Esper, talked about this at length when testifying before the Armed Services Committee a couple of weeks ago. He talked about the Department of Defense receiving funding on time last year and said that it really allowed us to accelerate the readiness gains we have made to advance our modernization and to modernization and to do all of the things the national defense strategy tells us we need to do.

You would think there would be broad bipartisan support for providing America’s military with the necessary resources to keep the American people safe. Somehow, though, some of our Members believe that this critical national security mission is optional.

Unfortunately, there are some in our midst who look to reduce military funding at every possible turn. Fortunately, we have a President who shares our commitment to national security. Thanks to the Trump administration’s tough negotiating, this deal provides the stability that the Pentagon needs, including critical investments in military readiness. Compared to current law, it provides a larger increase in discretionary funding for defense than nondefense discretionary programs and would allow us to regain the ground lost under the Obama administration.

I appreciate the President’s work, along with that of the House and the Senate, to deliver a budget deal that supports America’s military, and I look forward to supporting this agreement later today and certainly later this week.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**MORNING BUSINESS**

Mr. CORKY. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative business and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

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

**AMENDING SECTION 327 OF THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT TO CLARIFY THAT NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM TASK FORCES MAY INCLUDE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

Mr. CORKY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 639 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 639) to amend section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that National Urban Search and Rescue Response System task forces may include Federal employees.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORKY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed 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. 639) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.
RESTORE THE HARMONY WAY BRIDGE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3245, which was received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, 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. 3245) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE HONORARY PROMOTION OF COLONEL CHARLES E. MC GEE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 2052 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3245) to transfer a bridge over the Wabash River to the New Harmony River Bridge Authority and the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 2052), as amended, was passed as follows:

S. 2052

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR HONORARY PROMOTION OF COLONEL CHARLES E. MC GEE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

The President is authorized to issue an appropriate honorary commission promoting to brigadier general in the Air Force Colonel Charles E. McGee, United States Air Force (retired), a distinguished Tuskegee Airman whose honorary promotion to that grade has the recommendation of the Secretary of the Air Force in accordance with the provisions of section 1563 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS.

No person is entitled to any bonus, gratuity, pay, or allowance by reason of section 1.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR AN EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST AFRICAN SLAVES TO THE TERRITORY THAT WOULD BECOME THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 53, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 53) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for an event to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 53) was agreed to.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 263.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Res. 263) was agreed to.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 263) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (with its preamble, is printed in today’s Record of June 25, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 294, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 294) designating August 16, 2019, as “National Airborne Day”.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 294) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 295, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 295) designating the month of September 2019 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the resolution pass?

The resolution (S. Res. 295) was agreed to.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble of
be agreed to, and the motions to recon- sider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate pro- ceed to S. Res. 285.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 285) designating Sep- tember 2019 as “School Bus Safety Month”.

There being no objection, the com- mittee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous con- sent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 285) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(A resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 25, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate re- sume executive session and, notwithstanding rule XXII, the time between now and 3 p.m. be equally divided be- tween the leaders and their designees.

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

The Senator from Indiana.

WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, whistleblowers play a key role in holding the Federal Government accountable for waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, and illegal activity. It is therefore ap- propriate that even though Whis- tleblower Appreciation Day was yesterday, we take a moment to pause and thank the brave men and women who have the courage to speak up when they see ways to better or improve our government. I want to thank them for their efforts to ensure that our govern- ment never loses sight of why we are here—to serve the American people and to be good stewards of their resources and trust.

I was also proud to introduce legisla- tion with Senator MAGGIE HASSAN of New Hampshire. Our bill ensures ade- quate protections for subgrantees—the folks on the firing line who are most important to revealing when some- thing is not right. That needs to be protected in a way that is ensured so that they always feel comfortable com- ing forward.

In 1989, Congress approved the Whis- tleblower Protection Act, thereby ex- panding whistleblower protections for Federal employees and later expanding protections for individuals in certain private sector employment.

From time to time, it has been nec- essary for OPM and the FAA to address whistleblower abuses. We always want them to be working. In one such in- stance, Congress enhanced whistle- blower protections as part of the Na- tional Defense Authorization Act of 2013 for Federal-con- tractor, and grantee employees on a pilot program basis. The program worked well, and, in 2016, Congress saw fit to make the pilot permanent. It makes sense. This is how the process often works. As a problem is identified, addressed it on a test basis, evaluated it to make sure it was working as it should, and moved to make the pro- gram permanent.

However, a subsequent amend- ments in 2016, to make sure the pro- gram was working, failed to guarantee subgrantees were recognized in the leg- islative text, as necessary, to make sure it would work on a technical basis. While 2016 amendments explic- itly included Federal subgrantee em- ployees, coordinated changes were not made in the statute’s related sections.

I am proud to introduce this legisla- tion with Senator HASSAN to close this gap because it needs to work in all cases. S. 2315, the Whistleblower Act, clarifies the scope of the protection statute specifically as to employees of Federal subgrantees who provide pro- tected disclosures. Subgrantees are often in the best position to provide in- formation regarding wrongdoing as to Federal subgrant funds. I am, therefore, pleased to play a small role in cleaning up our laws so they operate as they were intended—to protect whistle- blowers.

Finally, we take whistleblowers seri- ously in my office. If anybody would like to assist, contact me through our whistleblower assistance line. One can email me at whistleblower@braun.senate.gov.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen- ator from Missouri.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, over the past several weeks, we have seen nu- merous attempts by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to take a se- rious issue and, frankly, I think, turn it into a political football. It is an issue that the Presiding Officer and I have spent a lot of time looking at what we need to do, in our having served on the Committee on Intell- elligence and, in my case, on the Com- mittee on Rules and Administration, to be sure that people have the maximum confidence that what happens on elec- tion day is exactly reflected in the re- sults.

Our friends came to the floor last week and sought unanimous consent to make sweeping changes to the election laws of the country. Then they some- how suggested there was a conspiracy that anybody would say no to that. Unanimous consent means exactly that. It is what we do when we make decisions that are unanimously agreed to. It is usually all it takes to get that issue settled. It is not how we shape the laws that are at the heart of our democracy. It is what we do, in my opinion, when we try to make a point about that. In fact, one of the bills on which they sought unani- mous consent had passed the House. It had received exactly one Republican vote in the House. So, clearly, it was not unanimously consented to over there and would not be unanimously consented to here.

This is about press releases, not pol- icy. In fact, today, the President called for us to pass voter ID laws that would require voter ID in every State and a law that would have a paper trail in every State. Right now, I suppose, if I were to draft that bill and call for unanimous consent under the same standard, I should expect my friends on the other side to say: Oh, that is some- thing that others say would help elec- tions, so I should just be for that and be for that immediately. Of course, that would not be the case.

These attempts have been brought to the floor on the basis of saving dem- ocracy—that this is what we need to do to save our elections. This is in the name of election security, but it is really not what it is about at all. Three of the bills were about campaign com- mittees, which are managed by lots of laws and may need to be managed by more, but how you run a campaign com- mittee is not how you secure what happens at the voting place on election day.

One of the proposals was for the Fed- eral Government to secure the personal devices of Members of Congress and their employees. As the Presiding Offi- cer and I know, one of the things we do on the Committee on Intelligence is to put a Fitbit, like this one, on the shelf before we go into a meeting. If you have a phone like this one, you put it on a shelf before you go into a meeting. This law would say that the Federal Government should secure per- sonal devices of mine so there would be absolute security so that if they were to interact with a Federal system, there would be no damage done to that system. I guess it would also mean that if one of my children were to call me at home or not—and I would, of course, take that call immediately—he would then have gotten into my personal de- vice. Would the Federal Government need to secure that as well?

This week, we finally negotiated for the Federal Government to do that for Members and their extended immediate networks. I am not sure it is possible.
I am certainly sure that it has nothing to do with election security. It might have something to do with the security of our system here in the Senate. Frankly, I think it might make it less secure, which is why I have chosen not to bring up before any of the security systems in the Senate that I want to with this device and not have any sense that I might endanger that Senate system.

This doesn’t protect the elections. There have been numerous UC attempts we have seen on plenty of other bills that have claimed to secure elections. One included a provision that would take away the authority of the States to determine their own processes for voter registration. I am not for that. If it is hard to have the case that it would secure elections.

In case you think it would, another one was to require every State to have online voter registration. I am pretty sure that this would make elections less secure.

We have talked about all of the infiltration of bad information out there on the internet, and one of these provisions to secure elections would require States to have online registration.

One was for there to be automatic voter registration, and another was for there to be same-day registration.

In the nonurban part of our State of Mississippi, we don’t have voter registration in all elections until 1975 or so. The view was, well, in small towns and school district elections and all, they are going to know everybody, so they really don’t need to have registration. Yet, finally, it occurred to somebody that one might just think one knows five people, and the bond issue might be decided by five people, so we would have voter registration. In fact, not only would we have it, but we would have it in advance that our community could look at those voter rolls 28 days in advance and see if there were any question as to whether one were registered or not.

Other States have decided to have same-day registration, but one of these bills that would secure our elections would allow anybody to register to vote that day who would walk up to vote. If you think that works in your State, I am not really arguing you shouldn’t do it, because if that is what the voters of that State believe to be the case, maybe it does. I am pretty sure it wouldn’t work in every State. In revisiting that online voter registration, I am pretty sure that doesn’t secure elections.

There was one proposal that was rejected in these bills to secure elections, that being, for every $1 contributed to a certain level, there would be $5 given to that campaign by the Federal Government. That is one of the secure election things that was rejected, that wasn’t accepted by unanimous consent.

At this point, it does seem to me, if you are not willing to accept all of these things—there was sort of this “hair on fire” moment—or are not willing to accept anything somebody else says will secure elections, then somehow our election system. Yet we really undermine the system when we say this kind of thing helps it. Frankly, I have been watching this for a while, and that list of things I gave you has been on every Demo- cratic every time for 20 years or so. What would be of advantage to them in the elections. Never before have they purported that these things have made elections more secure. They have just said it was a better system and more fair. It was obvious to them it would help them, and it was obvious to us it would help them. We haven’t done it, and we are probably not going to do it right now.

There are people in this building who simply will not accept the fact that there is no solution to every problem. Sometimes if there is a Fed- eral solution, it is not the best solu- tion. Frankly, I think the diversity of the election system that we have is one of the strengths of the system. I may not agree that that is what President Obama said in October of 2016. In fact, he said that we didn’t have a Federal structure and that it made it really more difficult to impact our elections than if we had.

I believe everybody here clearly knows that State and local officials faced a significant threat from the Russians, particularly in 2016 that they had not faced before. One could probably add that the Russians, the Chinese, the North Koreans, and the Iranians could do very disruptive things for not much money. There is no question that the Russians affected our elections, but they have been trying to impact elections in Eastern and West- ern Europe for 10 years. Why this would be a surprise to us is shock- ing to me and why, in 2016, we acted like we were totally flatfooted that, oh, the Russians would actually inter- fere with the elections just because they interfered in elections in a couple handful of countries in the previous decade. The world is pretty small when you get to that internet world we live in now.

A critical infrastructure declaration came from the Cyber Command in October whereby, frankly, it terri- fied most State election officials that, suddenly, the Federal Government, with about 2 weeks left before the elec- tion, was going to Federalize a system that they were personally responsible for.

As for the Intelligence Committee that started this process—the Pre- siding Officer and I were both on it, and I am still on it—it released some key findings about what the Russians had done. The committee found that the Russians had worked hard to find the seams between which the Federal Government could be helpful to State and local governments. They found that the FBI’s and Department of Homeland Security’s warnings to local officials came way too late in the proc- ess and were not well thought out. It scared the wrong people and confused more people when the FBI and the DHS did not help them. Even there is no question that both of those agencies have redoubled their efforts to build trust with the States and deploy re- sources to help secure elections, we have to remain vigilant to see they continue to do that. Even the Presiding Officer and I worked on a bill together last year, the local officials continued to have some problems with it. I know I said at the time that I had believed we had been doing everything this bill would do. I am not sure we would still be doing it 10 years from now, so we need to memorialize that. I haven’t significantly changed my view on that, but I haven’t changed my view, more importantly, that we are doing what we need to do.

Congress needs to be vigilant. We have to insist that State and local offi- cials have the clearance levels they need. Frankly, let me say this too. On that topic, I am not sure you can legis- late that. I am not sure you can legis- late “there is something you have to be willing to tell State and local officials.” I am not sure you can ever put that in writing, but you can ask them what they are telling people. I talked to one of our State election officials just last week.

I asked: How is this going? He said: Well, everything we request seems to be one level above the secu- rity clearance I have.

Too many of the things we ask meet that criteria. We are going to have to insist that this not be the case. While this is not likely to be solved by legis- lation, I think it can be solved by con- gressional oversight and inquiry.

The Intelligence Committee also found that Russian activities demand renewed attention to vulnerabilities in the U.S. voting infrastructure. I cer- tainly agree with that. We even said in that report we should replace out-of- date machines with improved ways to vote and improved cybersecurity. I think that is happening.

Electoral officials have been taking this threat very seriously. DHS, the Department of Homeland Security, has continued to have some problems with more than 1,400 local jurisdictions have signed up for the cyber threat informa- tion sharing program. We have had re- ports to the Senate on that, and the Committee on Rules and Administra- tion has heard on that. The Committee on Intelligence has asked repeatedly about that. The monitoring sensors that help to detect malicious activity have been deployed to election infrastructure in most States.

Remember that, in 2016, we had a cyber defense, but we didn’t have a cyber offense. Early in the Trump ad- ministration, I remember people being asked in an open hearing: Do you have...
any direction now to be fighting out there—to have a cyber offense? That was about 5 months into the Trump administration.

The person said: No. You would think that, somehow, the old cyber officer had turned over. In fact, there had been no cyber offense.

Sometime in 2017, the cyber fighters were given what they needed, and they are out there helping. They are fighting back. I have had a report on that just recently of which all of the Senators are aware.

One of the chief State election officials in terms of that cyber war said that in their system there are about 100,000 attempts every day to scam the voter registration system and see if you could possibly get in. I don’t know how many thousands of those might be from foreign actors. I suspect a majority of them are from people just looking to see if I can get into the system. But we should assume all 100,000 are from somebody who wants to do something wrong, and I think the States are getting the help they need to fight that back.

We have seen States use equipment that didn’t have a backup so that when the election was over, you could count something individually and that the voter would have been able to look at and get their hands on and recount. As a matter of fact, if you ask me, the best proof you can have is a backup, a ballot that could be counted—a ballot where if I vote in Missouri, my voting machine generates something that I look at and then I put that in the ballot box and it is counted at the polling place. But if it ever had to be counted again, if there was any question about that precinct counter, they can go back and open that ballot box and count them again.

On election day in 2016, and even in 2018, there were still four States that didn’t have that system anywhere in their States. There are a couple of other States that have a partial system and four States that didn’t have it. Delaware has it in place for this year’s election. Georgia announced just last week that they had awarded a contract to replace their equipment that will be in place for the 2020 elections and have an auditable ballot trail. South Carolina made a similar announcement last month. I just want to say: Let’s see if I can get into the system. But if it ever had to be counted again, if there was any question about that precinct counter, they can go back and open that ballot box and count them again.

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their wake an opioid crisis that is devastating communities.

Outrageously, as they have aggressively pushed doctors to prescribe these opioids, a tax loophole has enabled Big Pharma to write off the cost of television ads that blanketed the airwaves, encouraging more and more people to seek opioids from their doctors for pain relief, oblivious to the harm that these drugs could do. I have joined with Senator Brown, as well as Senator Shaheen, on legislation to close the loophole and end taxpayer subsidies for drug ads, and I am going to continue to push for transparency from these companies.

In addition to the devastating impact that Big Pharma has had in fueling the substance misuse crisis, the industry has also hurt patients by massively increasing the cost of prescription drugs.

One of the top issues I hear about from people in New Hampshire is that affording lifesaving medications is becoming more and more out of reach, and high drug costs are too often forcing seniors and families to make agonizing decisions.

No one should have to decide between buying their prescriptions and heating their homes, or putting food on the table, but these are the types of choices Americans are devastatingly having to make, all the while big pharmaceutical companies are reporting profits that are higher than ever. We need to change this system, bring down costs, and hold Big Pharma accountable.

Last week, the Finance Committee moved forward with bipartisan legislation to begin to take on Big Pharma and lower prescription drug prices. This bill would cap out-of-pocket costs for seniors on Medicaid Part D and crack down on pharmaceutical companies that raise drug prices higher than inflation.

It is really big deal that a bill to take on the pharmaceutical industry in a meaningful way advanced out of committee on a strong bipartisan vote. Pharma did everything they could to try to kill and weaken this bill in committee, and they will keep trying. I am really encouraged that we have gotten this far. That is no small accomplishment. We will continue working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to get it across the finish line.

The heart of the issue with Big Pharma is the blind pursuit of profits at the expense of people’s health and wellbeing. Representatives from the pharmaceutical industry have told us often how important innovation is and how much innovation costs because they want to save their lives and innovation is critically important.

In my own family, like so many across our country, medical innovation has been critical not only for saving life but to improve the quality of life. Our son Ben regularly uses a compression vest that helps clear his lungs without the incredibly labor intensive respiratory therapy that we used to have to do. He is able to get nutrition through a feeding tube that runs smoothly, steadily through the night so that he can have the kind of nutrition he needs.

Innovation in pharmaceuticals has also saved Ben’s life, and the combination of pharmaceutical innovation and medical device innovation means that a baclofen pump inserted in Ben’s abdominal cavity helps his muscles to relax.

But if innovation is about saving lives, then, how did we get to a point of crisis that started from the drugs that they produced? How did we get to a point where many patients can’t even afford the lifesaving prescription that pharma promotes?

It seems that, at least for some pharmaceutical companies, they only want to save lives when it makes them money or when it gives them an excuse not to restrict their profits.

From the prescription drug crisis to the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, this body has failed to hold Big Pharma accountable for far too long. That must change, and I am committed to working with anyone who is serious about finally acting to put patients first.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. Romney). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is the honor of Alaskans and the honor of this body to recognize a very special person in my State—someone who I believe helps to make Alaska the best State in the country. We refer to this person as our Alaskan of the Week. It is one of my favorite times of the week because I get to brag about my State and brag about my fellow Alaskans and constituents. I think the pages enjoy these stories about Alaska and what we are doing up there.

This week, that person is Cheryl Venechuk. She is our Alaskan of the Week. She is a wife, a mom, a grandmother, an active member of her community in Healy, AK, which is in the interior of Alaska, and a woman who is very active not just in her community but in her chosen profession. She is a proud member of Laborers Union Local 942 in Fairbanks. That is part of the construction union, Laborers’ International Union, LIUNA.

At Motel 6 in Healy and Petersburg, Alaska, a community called Petersburg, about 100 miles southwest of Fairbanks in the interior.

Petersburg is another great story in Alaska. Several generations of Usibelli family members have been producing coal for Alaska and the world, and they are still doing it—a great company, great families.

What did Cheryl find in Healy? Certainly another welcoming community, but a lot smaller, with a lot fewer amenities than she found in Petersburg.

So as she does, Cheryl rolled up her sleeves, and along with other young mothers in the area, she got to work to create a community that her children eventually five children—and all the other children and families could enjoy in interior Alaska.

“We made stuff happen,” Cheryl said. They started a daycare. They started Boy Scout and Brownie troops. They made sure hungry children got a hot lunch. They went around town picking up cans and started a recycling effort before recycling was even the rage. They helped build an ice rink for the kids to play hockey on. They even went so far as to haul the water for the rink in a truck and then spread it out to form ice. She mentored countless kids and always had time for her five kids.

This is what one of her children said about her: You have a hockey team that needs a hot meal? Call Cheryl. You need food for a wedding? Call Cheryl. Your kid is in trouble? Call Cheryl. You need something built? Call Cheryl!

Every community has a Cheryl—the backbone, the go-to person—who is usually unsung. We all know someone like that, and they make our communities so strong and caring, and in
many ways these kind of people are exactly what my "Alaskan of the Week" series of speeches is all about. So it is very appropriate we are talking about her right now.

When Cheryl was in her mid-forties, with her own hand in college, like a modern-day homesteader, she yearned for the next challenge. One day, she saw a group of workers doing road construction—hard, but very important work—and she thought, I can do this. So she became a proud member of Alaska Laborers Local 942. That was almost 20 years ago. Her hard work, along with fellow laborers, is seen all across the State of Alaska, wind farms, trails, roads, bridges, and pipelines.

Many people talk about the great natural wonders in Alaska, and we have so many, but the manmade wonders are also remarkable—bridges, roads slicing into giant mountains, oil rigs, mines—and she and her fellow laborers have done much to build that up that part of the State.

She is a strong advocate for anybody who decides to work in the building trades, and she is particularly focused on women in the construction and building trades, recruiting and recruiting for these good jobs. She said: These are good jobs. They are good-paying jobs, and they build confidence. It is a great way to make money and to learn how to use your hands and of course to give back to your community.

To that end, she and her daughter Halle created, at their own expense, an Alaska "Women in the Trades" promotional calendar. The calendar features women of all ages who are employed as heavy equipment operators, welders, truckdrivers, tree trimmers, and on and on and on. With her own money, she put this calendar together.

She drops these calendars off at laundromats, schools, cafes, union halls, churches, and always keeps a few on hand to give to women who might need a new way of thinking about a career, who might need hope. She also gives them to people she just runs into—people like me. I was out in Fairbanks, AK, a couple weeks ago in the O'Reilly Auto Parts parking lot, and bumped into Cheryl and her daughter Halle, and I got one of these.

This calendar, Alaska Women in the Trades, is a great calendar with a couple of my favorite quotes:

Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, "I'm possible."

Get it? Pretty clever.

How about another one:

Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

Think about that, pages. It is good advice, even for Senators.

This is the kind of work she does, on her own dime, giving this kind of inspiration to her fellow Alaskans.

My team and I have gotten many emails from Cheryl’s five children over the past few days, all of them talking about what a great mother she is, how giving, caring, hard-working she is, how she is a hero to all of them, and how she is an inspiring example. Let me quote from one of the emails.

Her daughter Emmaline Hill, who, by the way, signed up for the U.S. Marine Corps when she was 18, then went on to graduate from Notre Dame, got her commission or, as they say, went on active duty as a Marine Corps, and now is stationed in Japan as a major in the U.S. Marines—here is what she said about her mom:

My mom believes in people, especially those who have a hard time believing in themselves or don't think they are worthy of it. She is a rugger champ for the underdog and a tireless advocate for employing Alaskans and building our communities through volunteerism and action.

That is a beautiful testament to her mom from her daughter who is a major in the Marine Corps in Japan.

We are going to be going into our August work session. I am going to be back home in Alaska the whole time. We are going to be coming up on Labor Day, a very important holiday. I think it is important, when we are thinking about Labor Day, to think about people like Cheryl, her fellow laborers, and particularly who are doing this kind of hard work. You don’t always think about that in terms of the construction and building trades, but they do great work.

So, Cheryl, thank you for all you have done. Thank you for your hard work, your inspiration, your dedication and faith, your indomitable spirit, and your example to your kids, to your fellow Alaskans, and now to Americans, as we congratulate you for being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in the coming hours, the Senate could take up the nomination of Elizabeth Darling to serve as Commissioner for Children, Youth, and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services. If she is confirmed to that role, she would be a key official overseeing the foster care system.

I previously had a hold on Ms. Darling’s nomination, and I am going to begin my remarks by saying my hold was never about her personally or about concerns with her qualifications. In fact, I believe she is qualified for the position. My hold was in response to the nominations explicitly banned religious discrimination in federally funded Social Services programs, discrimination that should be barred by our core constitutional protections. Unfortunately, under this administration, that safe guard is no more.

This year, the Trump administration has been a grandparent that foster care agencies that receive Federal dollars can turn away qualified prospective foster parents simply because they are Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Mormon, or any other faith, or simply because they are nonbelievers.

What this is all about, in short, is a green light for taxpayer-funded discrimination on the basis of religion. It stems from a case involving Miracle Hill Ministries, a foster agency in South Carolina. It is a faith-based social service organization—the largest provider of foster care services in South Carolina. It serves around 15 percent of the State’s foster care population. I have no reason to doubt that the Trump administration has a long list of wonderful staff and volunteers who wish to do a great deal of good work.

Last year, the Governor of South Carolina asked the Department of Health and Human Services for a waiver that would allow Miracle Hill to continue receiving taxpayer dollars despite its practice of turning away qualified foster parents based solely on their religious beliefs. In effect, it was a request for a loophole to evade the Federal policy banning religious discrimination. The Department of Health and Human Services OK'd it.

At a time—the Presiding Officer of the Senate and I have talked about this—when there are too many vulnerable kids and too few safe foster homes in America, the Trump administration actually gave the largest foster care organization in South Carolina permission to turn away prospective foster parents because of their faith.

This is not an academic matter. Let me give an example of the consequences. In 2018, Beth Lesser—a woman who unintentionally brought this issue to light—went to Miracle laws in America, inspired to a great extent by Marian Wright Edelman, the head of the Children’s Defense Fund. The implementation of that law, in my view, is moving too slowly.

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services followed on the request from me and a group of colleagues from both parties and both Chambers to open up the availability of prevention programs for States that Chairman Hatch and I felt so strongly about under Family First. That was an important first step, and, if Ms. Darling is confirmed, I expect to see the Department take more.

What I would like to address for a few minutes, though, is a deeply discriminatory policy change that has been made by the Trump administration in the child welfare system. Until the Trump administration intervened, Health and Human Services regulations explicitly banned religious discrimination in federally funded Social Services programs, discrimination that should be barred by our core constitutional protections. Unfortunately, under this administration, that safeguard is no more.

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This is not an academic matter. Let me give an example of the consequences. In 2018, Beth Lesser—a woman who unintentionally brought this issue to light—went to Miracle
Hill Ministries to volunteer as a foster mentor. Before she moved to South Carolina, she was a foster parent in Florida. You would think any foster care organization would be thrilled to have Ms. Lesser walk through their door—an experienced foster parent coming in with her heart, her energy, and her love—but during orientation training, Miracle Hill found what they consider to be a problem: Ms. Lesser, like me, is Jewish. After Miracle Hill discovered Ms. Lesser’s religion, they set her aside.

Ms. Lesser is not the only person to experience this discrimination. Another was Aimee Madonna, who grew up in a foster care home and has three kids of her own. She contacted Miracle Hill and volunteered to open her home in the screening process. But when Miracle Hill learned that Ms. Madonna is Catholic, she got turned away too. She was devastated by the decision. In February, she sued the State of South Carolina and the Department of Health and Human Services over this unconstitutional discrimination. I commend her for fighting for her rights, and I believe she speaks for people of so many faiths whom I mentioned earlier.

I don’t know why I had this precedent the Trump administration has set to be so objectionable, starting with the most obvious.

It is a horridous policy because it is going to hurt vulnerable kids all across this country, particularly if and when the Trump administration hands out more waivers in more States. If they do it this way, it is going to reduce the number of safe and loving foster homes available to youngsters in the child welfare system. That is the wrong way to go.

This policy is going to limit the diversity of foster homes and foster parents and growing up around people of different views and philosophies and religious views is important for kids. That is particularly important for LGBTQ youth, who make up one in five kids in foster care. There are homes where LGBTQ kids are not safe. They benefit from the chance to grow up in these more inclusive environments, where there are more diverse families who respect their sexual orientation and their gender identity.

It raises troubling questions about what is going to happen to children who had been raised in evangelical Christianity before they entered the child welfare system. What is going to happen to a Jewish kid or a Muslim kid or a Mormon kid who is placed in a home where they are considered heretics?

This is a personal matter for me. That kid could have been me. I was so proud of my parents. They fled the Nazis in the thirties. Not all got out. All my dad—just about the most red, white, and blue fellow around—wanted to serve in our Army, so he could drop propaganda pamphlets on the Nazis, telling them they ought to give up. You can read about my dad, Peter Wyden, in the Holocaust Museum. I am so very, very proud of my dad.

I thought about, for example, what might have happened if my parents had died in a car crash when I was 12 years old and I had been put in one of these evangelical families through a foster agency that discriminates. I could have been told that everything my wonderful, patriotic, Jewish parents had taught me to believe was wrong; that my parents, who was honored in the Holocaust Museum—that his beliefs were sinful. It would have added a lot more difficulty to a situation that was already traumatic. The thought is what if my parents had lost their parents could have another part of their identity stripped away is appalling. That religious discrimination in particular, that fundamentally un-American act—the idea that it is going to happen with Federal tax dollars is just wrong.

In my view, what the Trump administration has done with the South Carolina waiver is unconstitutional. I also believe it is the latest iteration of a much larger assault on individual religious liberty.

From a legal perspective, the Department of Health and Human Services justifies its discriminatory waiver by pointing to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, what is known as RFRA. Here is the problem: That law was intended to stop religious discrimination, not promote it. In this case, however, the administration is interpreting that law to protect only the religious freedom of Miracle Hill, not the freedom of Jewish or Catholic or Muslim or Buddhist individuals who want to become foster parents in South Carolina.

HHS’s waiver disregards the establishment clause in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits the government from “respecting an establishment of religion.” This is a Federal agency using taxpayer dollars to elevate some religions above others. That is unconstitutional every way you cut it.

The consequences at this point are limited to one State, but because of this precedent, that is one too many. It only takes one small step to set a harmful, dangerous precedent that will change everything. There are already rumors that HHS plans to turn this waiver into a nationwide policy. Make no mistake about it—that would be national wide religious discrimination.

The consequences of an action like that would reach far beyond our child welfare system. It is not much further down the road before out-and-out discrimination against people of particular religions, and sexual orientations under the guise of religious freedom bleeds into other areas of American life. These debates are going to keep hitting the courts, and they are going to keep confronting the Congress. The Trump administration, Republican lawmakers, and Republican judges are ensuring that will happen.

I mentioned at the outset that this debate is tied to a nomination the Senate may take up today—we will see about later in the week. It involves the Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families at Health and Human Services. I made that judgment, after a lot of thought, that the administration is going to stand in the way of that vote. I believe Ms. Elizabeth Darling is qualified. But in making that judgment, I was not willing to let today pass without sounding an alarm on a very dangerous precedent the Trump administration has set in this field. This is about the prospect of State-sponsored religious discrimination. In this case, it is going to come down hardest on vulnerable kids in our country. I believe it is clear that what is happening is unconstitutional.

I will close by saying again that there is bipartisan interest in improving our child welfare system. The distinguished President of the Senate, whose name is Lamar Alexander, and I have seen Chairman Hatch and me work together on Families First. As you know, when Chairman Hatch got enthused about something, he was really enthused.

Marian Wright Edelman came to both of us. This had been her dream for 30 years, to try some fresh approaches in terms of helping these kids. In effect, what Families First does is it creates a third option. You have kids in foster care where a parent has gotten caught up in drugs or alcohol. We can get them some help. There is the foster care option. We have some very good foster care facilities in this country, and we have some that aren’t exactly so great. So what Chairman Hatch and I said and what Democrats and Republicans on the Finance Committee said and what eventually the Congress on a bipartisan basis said was “We are going to do better by these vulnerable kids,” and we created a third option.

One of them is built on a dream that I was part of. Back when I was director of the Gray Panthers, we were advocating for something called kinship care where grandparents could play a bigger role in stepping in and trying to help these vulnerable families, where maybe if a son had gotten in trouble with the law or a daughter-in-law had problems with alcohol and the like, the grandparent could help out.

Under Families First, Chairman Hatch, a Republican, and I, a Democrat, said: We are going to try to help those families. We are going to try to give them help. If you have a son who has had problems with alcohol and drugs, there are going to be able to get some help. The grandparents can step in and get some help. We are going to create more options for the most vulnerable families and most vulnerable youngsters in America.

Under Families First, I wish he could have. Under Families First, I wish he could have. One of us was moving forward. We were moving forward to be able to say—and this, of course, is not driven from Washington, DC; it is driven at the
State level. The Presiding Officer of the Senate is a former Governor. We were moving forward. Now we have the Trump administration seeking to move backward.

There are nearly half a million kids in foster care in this country. Democrats and Republicans ought to keep building on the work that Chairman Hatch and I—and I was proud to be his partner, with him as the chairman, in this effort to help those kids stay safe and get ahead in life. Now the Trump administration is spending taxpayer dollars not to help those kids but to promote discrimination. That is not the way to help these kids, not the way to help these families. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in opposing these policies of discrimination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL AUNDRE FIGGEE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable Arkansan at the end of a 38-year Army career.

LTG Aundre Figgie, who will retire in September, is the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for Logistics. His nearly four-decade career has taken him literally all over the world, but his roots are and always have been in Arkansas.

The general was born in Stamps, AR, which is a small town in Lafayette County with fewer than 3,000 people. The son of a World War II Army veteran, the general didn’t have his sights set on a career of military service from a young age. After graduating from high school, he chose to go to the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, which is about 2½ hours from home. He was a smart kid, so he received an academic scholarship to attend school.

There was no real reason for him to choose to go into the ROTC. In fact, according to him, the only reason he entered the Army ROTC was because the school requested that he substitute it for an otherwise mandatory physical education class that would have required him to walk all the way across the campus. That seemingly mundane decision to save himself a few steps each day and maybe allow him to sleep a few more minutes ended up being a life-changing decision for him. It set him on a path to an extraordinary career that he probably couldn’t have dreamed of at the time.

Yes, the general served in jobs in Fort Hood, TX; Seoul, South Korea; Kaiserslautern, Germany; MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, and many other places. He deployed to Kuwait, Bosnia, and Iraq. He commanded thousands of soldiers and managed an $11 billion Army portfolio. He led capacity-building efforts in Iraq and headed train-and-equip missions in Syria. He also directed logistics works in the Middle East, North Africa, and Afghanistan. For his exemplary service, the general earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, and many other recognitions.

Throughout all of his great accomplishments and prominent positions, he has maintained a strong connection to his alma mater and his Arkansas roots. For his work with and on behalf of his school, the current chancellor at UAPB, Laurence Alexander, said of the general:

He not only serves as a beacon of light and hope to our university and our community, but also to our state and our country. He continues to positively impact the lives of many, as well as inspiring the next generation of future military leaders.

For all of his accomplishments, the general was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame last year. Now he has decided that it is time to take off his Army uniform and pursue his next adventure with his wife, Kassi.

The general has risen to such incredible heights during his career. He is a hero in the sense of his outstanding military service, but more importantly, he is the guy that, when you talk about duty, honor, country, and integrity, he is the guy who is a great example for all of us, one of the best we can find and look to. I am so proud to call him a fellow Arkansan and a friend. On behalf of all Arkansans, I wish him and his wife, Kassi, much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

IOWA

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, with August just around the corner, countless Iowans are preparing to fill up their gas tanks with Iowa-grown E15—and take to our scenic highways for one last summer road trip. I can tell you one thing: I will be hitting the Iowa roadways myself, and I really cannot wait, folks. Throughout the month, I was a curious in the sun when I call my 99 County Tour, an annual tradition where I visit each and every one of Iowa’s 99 counties. I will be logging hundreds of miles and speaking with thousands of Iowans.

It doesn’t get any better than heading back home, getting out of this DC swamp, and talking with folks about the issues that matter most to them—like solutions to lower prescription drug prices, policies to help our farmers and small businesses thrive, and efforts to cut wasteful spending and to make them squeal here in Washington.

So far, this year, my tour has brought me to over 50 Iowa counties, and I am aiming to visit another 30 or so before Labor Day weekend, crossing the State, hosting townhalls and visiting the small businesses, farms, plants, and everyone else that are currently creating jobs and contributing to Iowa’s current economic boom and record low unemployment.

Meeting with and hearing from my fellow Iowans is one of the best and most important parts of my job. Our elected officials should always be out there listening to the people we work for. It is our job, and it really does make us more effective lawmakers.

For Iowans and folks across the Nation planning to hit the road this August, I hope you will take advantage of all that Iowa has to offer. With 99 counties, it means 99 unique communities for road warriors and families to visit and enjoy.

There are national treasures like the Effigy Mounds National Monument, a sacred site that is located in Allamakee and Clayton Counties, featuring more than 260 American Indian mounds. There are historic gems like the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Cedar County and Lewis and Clark State Park in Monona County.

I am sure folks will be willing to fill their social media feeds with one-of-a-kind Iowa attractions like the American Gothic House in Wapello County, the world’s largest concrete gnome, in Story County, and the famed Field of Dreams in Dubuque County.

And who could forget the Iowa State Fair, truly the best State Fair in North America and the jewel of Iowa attractions, with everything from the butter cow to peanut butter and jelly on a stick, hot beef sausades, and, of course, good old-fashioned hotdogs. In fact, the Iowa State Fair lists over 69 foods on a stick. That is right. It is on a stick, folks. You can try that at the fair this August.

But while you are out on the road, there are a few things that you will not be able to avoid. First and foremost, it is Democrats running for President. Folks, they are everywhere in Iowa. You will not miss them. You also can’t avoid Casey’s Pizza. Why would you want to? That is my question.

Now, inside the DC swamp, people may turn their nose up at gas station pizza—that is what it is, Casey’s Pizza—but Iowans know it doesn’t get any better than pizza from Casey’s.

One more thing Iowans will not be able to avoid on the roads this August is me. So, as I am out on my 99-county tour this August, if you happen to see me at a townhall or at a local business or organization, you can come up and tell me about your townhall or pizza experiences.
So, folks, hit the roads this August. Make that one last trip with your family. Get out and see those sites, and for heaven’s sake, swing through Iowa. Visit our Iowa-nice folks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Montana.

MONTANA

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as we are getting ready for a busy August work period, I am very much looking forward to spending time in Big Sky Country back home in Montana, coming from the swamp, enjoying the beautiful State that I am so lucky to call home.

In between meetings, I am taking a few days to enjoy Montana’s great outdoor opportunities, including spending 3 days back-packing in the Beartooth Wilderness with my sweet wife Cindy and a couple of our dogs. As an avid outdoorsman, I was raised to appreciate our public lands, and I can assure you, nothing beats going off the grid for a bit, where there is no cell phone coverage on top of the peaks, with my sweetheart and a couple of our pups and enjoying Montana’s beauty, the fly rod with an elk hair caddis and chasing cut sometimes even golden in Montana’s highest est lakes.

I will also be spending a lot of time on the road traveling all over Montana. I get to each of Montana’s 56 counties every congressional period, to every corner of our State, from West Butte down to Belfair, almost as far down as Alzada, over in Monida, up to the northwest corner of our State to places like Libby, Troy, and even Yaak.

I will also work to get to one of my favorite places in Montana, the famous Jersey Lilly in Ingomar. This place is not well known. It is off the beaten path. But the Jersey Lilly in Ingomar, MT, is home to the best bean soup in Big Sky Country. If you ever find yourself in east central Montana, Rosebud County, get off of Highway 12 and stop in. I have known the owners of that restaurant for many years—Boots and June. There is a Montana name for you—"Boots." They not only serve up great food and even better conversation, they are also yet another example of a local family business—the bedrock of our small towns and counties across Montana. The fine folks over at the Jersey Lilly are what Montana is all about. It is about hard work, family, tradition, community, and passion for our great country. I am a proud and frequent customer of the Jersey Lilly, and I can’t wait for the next bowl of bean soup.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

MISSOURI

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, first of all, I wanted to talk about everything you could be doing in Missouri in the next month or so with your family, and then I was told I have 5 minutes. That seems to be an impossible restriction for me. So let me see how many things I can talk about here as we end the summer travel season. But there are other people traveling after the summer. Some families still have their summer vacation. Some schools start after Labor Day, some before. I am sure there are a few things that I will be glad to talk about at a later time. Let me first just mention a couple of our national parks.

If you leave my hometown of Springfield, MO, and you head west, pretty quickly you get to the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield. There was a battle in August of 1861. Several thousand people fought who really weren’t prepared to fight. They weren’t trained. They weren’t ready. It was a big battle that made a big difference in what happened in Missouri in the war.

Not too far from there, you get to Diamond, MO, where there is the George Washington Carver National Monument. It is a 240-acre park on the farm where George Washington Carver grew up. He was born as a slave but was quickly freed and raised by the older White couple who lived there. He managed to get to school there a little bit and in those years after the Civil War became a leading scientist and spokes- man for their cause as a Black American. This monument was established in 1943, and it was the first national park dedicated to an African American.

I have to circle back a little bit to get to Branson. With 50 theaters in Branson, there are more theater seats than Broadway. It is never too early to find a show you want to see in Branson.

In Silver Dollar City, in the summer of last year, their great park was named the No. 1 Christmas venue in America to visit.

Now back to my hometown of Springfield, which is the way this comes up on my list. It is the home of Bass Pro Shops. The Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium right there. Springfield is America’s Best Aquarium” by USA TODAY Travel last year. That museum has 3,000 fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibious animals there.

A park we just added to our National Park System—I will pop right up to almost St. Louis, to St. Genevieve, where you have French architecture that dates back to the 1700s. This is the first summer that there has been a full-time park person there. This park is rising up out of the ashes that was preserved so well for so long. There are a number of houses there that reflect that early French architecture along the Mississippi River.

South of there, at Perryville, is the full-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. There have been some traveling memorials, and there are a couple of memorials that are miniature in some way, but in Perryville, MO, you can see a full-sized replica on a 47-acre family farm that Jim Edmonds, who is very possible, along with other donations. I was there not too long ago, and I was at the Vietnam Wall here not too long ago. They are in different places, but they are the same wall, exactly the same size, with the same names, and are the same in every way.

On the other side of our State, in Kansas City, is the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Just this week, Senator Kaine and I introduced legislation for a memorial coin to benefit the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City. Congressmen Cleaver and Stivers in the House did the same thing.

While you are in Kansas City here at the end of the centennial of World War I, the World War I Museum in Kansas City was the World War I Memorial dedicated in the 1920s. It is the No. 1 place in America to visit and think about the war and the impact of that war in the 100 years that have passed since then.

If you want to go north to St. Joseph, you, of course, pass some baseball stadiums and football fields that are good places to visit if you are there at the right time. In St. Joseph, there is the Pony Express Museum. The Pony Express didn’t last very long, but it became a very important part of the lore of the West, these young riders—before the telegraph—take as quickly as they could ride and changing from one rider to another to go from St. Joe to California.

I would not leave out the Mark Twain Boyhood Home in Hannibal. There was a time when Mark Twain was by far the best-read American author anywhere in the world. Hannibal is the setting for the classic American novel “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.”

We will circle right back down to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. More than 135 million people have visited the arch since 1963. It just went through a major overhaul and a 60-year renewal of the facility, better connecting it to downtown. It is the first example of what the National Park Service hopes will be the next century of the park, a true public-private partnership.

In going to all these places, we drove by lots of lakes and lots of fishing and boating. There are a lot of things to do in our State. Like many States, tourism is our second biggest industry. We look forward to people visiting us this summer and next year and the years after that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to participate today and talk a little bit about my State of Tennessee. I will tell you, as we are talking about what we are going to do and how we are going to be working across our State during the August work period and how we are looking forward to having people visit our State during that time, one of the things that is getting very very often when people talk about Tennessee and when they hear that I am from Tennessee, they will stop and say: That is...
one of the most beautiful States. Our State is beautiful, with its rivers, lakes, rolling hills, and mountains, and the flatlands over toward Memphis. Indeed, it is beautiful. It is also very long, and that is also quite remarkable to people when they start to drive through the State. I think you are spending a day and a half just driving through the State of Tennessee. From the time they enter up around Mountain City and Bristol and make their way through to Memphis, it does really take the whole day.

I think some of the things that interest people when they cross into Tennessee as they are going down I-81 is seeing the Bristol Motor Speedway. They realize that it is truly a feat of engineering—NASCAR is very popular—and realize the innovation and creativity that has gone into creating that speedway. Then to be there on race day, I will tell you, that is something that is quite amazing, to see those cars speeding around those banks. And then you realize it's people who are handling those feats of engineering.

People also appreciate, in addition to the Bristol Motor Speedway and car racing, that Tennessee is a State that is very friendly to the automotive industry. You have Volkswagen in Chattanooga, and you have the GM facility at Spring Hill. Nissan North America’s headquarters are located in Cold Springs, right outside of Nashville. Their manufacturing plant is in Smyrna. You have the Toyota plant that is over in West Tennessee.

We Tennesseans are also excited about the prospect of having an aerospace park that is going to be in East Tennessee, up at the Tri-Cities. As a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I have had the privilege of working with the Tri-Cities Airport and local officials to make that a destination and to make it a reality.

A little further down in the State, as you get on I-40, you will find yourself in the middle of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most visited park in our National Parks System. Senator Alexander and I are continuing the work to designate the Dean Stone Bridge on the Foothills Parkway there in Blount County. Dean Stone was a pillar of the community, and naming the bridge in honor of him is the perfect way to thank him for his dedication in improving the lives of all those who live and enjoy the Smokies in that part of our State.

The Smokies are second in my heart to just one Tennessee landmark in Nashville that I think everyone wants to see. They are all country music fans, and they want to see the mother church of country music, which is the Ryman Auditorium. The best singers and songwriters in the world leave their stadiums and their festivals to come just to have the opportunity to play just one song on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium. It is a wonderful place to be and to celebrate Tennessee’s creativity and to celebrate the music that fills our hearts and our lives.

When I was a Member in the House, I worked tirelessly for several years and fought for the unanimous passage of the Music Modernization Act. That is something that fixed a lot of loopholes that were in U.S. law that adversely impacted our songwriters as they were facing copyright many times.

Upon coming to the Senate, I worked with Senator тест Meer to continue the fight on behalf of our songwriters to close the loopholes that exempt broadcast radio from paying royalties to music creators.

Tennessee is also known for some other wonderful music, a little bit further down I-40, and that is the blues. You can’t leave the State of Tennessee without going through Memphis and having a visit over on Beale Street, right there on the banks of the mighty Mississippi.

The Mississippi River is our Nation’s original superhighway, if you will. It is vitally important, not only to river but to rail, air, and highway transportation networks. All of these have found their way along West Tennessee’s border.

Shipping and logistics giant FedEx has its corporate headquarters in Memphis. Memphis is the city of their founding and their headquarters location, and that takes advantage of Memphis International Airport and their cargo operations center.

All that being said, one of the things that individuals repeatedly comment on when they talk about Tennessee is how nice the people are in Tennessee, how welcoming they are, and how they engage you and want to make certain that you come back.

You will find in Tennessee a very diverse community. Yes, we are the home to artists and athletes. We are the home to engineers, to farmers, to doctors, to soldiers, and to veterans. It is, indeed, one of the best places on the face of the Earth to call home and, indeed, a certain not-to-be-missed destination for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURkowski. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. My colleagues have been to the floor here for the past little bit talking about various road trips in their States and destinations, including their favorite destinations. When you think about where your favorite place is, it is like saying which son is your favorite son. We all have our favorite places all around our State.

I got to thinking about road trips. I thought, well, road trips in Alaska perhaps take a little bit of a different meaning than in other States. We all know the State I come from because we talk about it a lot. Senator SULLIVAN and I come from a big State. We have over 663,000 square miles, but within those 663,000 square miles, we don’t have a lot of roads. Over 82 percent of the communities in the State of Alaska are not part of the road system. So traveling in Alaska can be a little bit of an adventure. Flexibility is always key.

I was holding a field hearing in Fairbanks, and we were getting ready to get on a plane when we found out that the volcano was starting to erupt, and it shut down the air space. What was going to be a 45-minute trip home turned out to be a 359-mile drive home—7 hours—that evening.

The other day, another trip going out of Valdez to Anchorage, and we needed to get back to Anchorage that night, but the fog and the wind in Valdez said there are no planes coming in to take you out, and they might not be there the next day and they might not be there the next day after that. There is bad weather. The pass is shutting down so you better move now. When that happens, you get in a car and 300 miles later—5 hours later—you are in Anchorage.

I had Senator MANCINNI with me just over the Fourth of July break. We were headed from Anchorage to King Salmon to attend a ribbon-cutting for a National Park Service facility. We got fogged out in the morning and waited for hours in the airport, and then we got word that the fog had lifted, and we were getting ready to get on a plane and they called a mechanical. If there is a mechanical, I am with you, and we just don’t fly. Senator MANCINNI turned to me and said: I know the long way, but can we just drive there?

That was my opportunity to turn to my colleague in another learning moment and tell him: No, this is one of those times of percent of our communities where there is no road. So Joe, we are not flying.

Aviation really is our lifeline here. If you are not on Alaska Airlines, you are on one of our many bush carriers. This is a picture of a pilot and his opportunity to fly, Eric, who is the pilot and owner of Arctic Backcountry Flying Service. This is his Cessna 206. More often than not, these are the type
of aircraft that we are in. We are not flying in some fancy leased jet. We are in a small aircraft, what we call a bush carrier. That is when we have airstrips that we can land on.

But we don’t have airstrips in many of our communities. When we went upriver last week, we came in and out on the water on our floatplanes. Some people call them sea-planes out here. We call them floatplanes.

Here is a picture of me and Secretary Perry in Kodiak Island. We flew down and over on Alaska Airlines. But to get around the island, you either take a boat or fly in a floatplane. We were flying over to Old Harbor there on Kodiak Island, but we got around on the water.

Sometimes you don’t have the water though. In a place like Alaska, what we do have in the wintertime is a fair amount of snow. You take your floats off and you put your skis on. You can see the wheels there. This plane can land in Anchorage and take off in Anchorage, but when we are up on Ruth Glacier, as this Cessna 185 is, you are landing on skis. That gets your attention because it is a little bit different than a floatplane, but it gets you in and out of what you need to get to.

There are some places, though, where you don’t have an airstrip, a floatplane can’t land, and the only way to really get in and out is by helicopter.

Little Diomede Island sits out in the middle of the Bering Straits. It is 2 miles from Big Diomede. Big Diomede is owned by Russia. Little Diomede is owned by us. There are about 150-plus people who live out there on Diomede. They have a school, and they have a community center, but how do they get the mail? People move in and out by helicopter. The mail is delivered by helicopter. There are a few weeks in the wintertime—maybe, sometimes, as much as a couple of months—when the ocean freezes over and they can make a strip where a plane can land on the ice. But most of the year, you fly in and out on helicopter. So we fly.

The other way we get around when we don’t have a lot of roads is on our rivers. One thing that Alaska is blessed with is a lot of rivers. We have 365,000 miles of rivers. That makes for a lot of roads because in the summertime, those rivers are our roads.

This is a picture upper in the village of Bethel. There are about 500 people there. We had Attorney General Barr with us in May. We took him upriver. This is how he traveled. These are the Bethel Search and Rescue boats there. They are not fancy boats. They are not yachts. These are functional. They have decent motors on them because these are workhorses. Yet how we travel in the summer is up and down these rivers.

In the summer, it makes it possible to move around these communities. In the winter, you move around by snow machine. You have trucks and you have vehicles out there as well. When the rivers freeze, you then have your frozen highway, and you can have 100 miles of it. The Kuskokwim, I think, plowed out 250 miles of road on the river.

This is a frozen river. This is actually a picture that was taken when we took Secretary Perry to Bethel and back to Oscarville. We had with us about four other Members of the Senate because we had a field hearing for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. We held it out there in Oscarcville, and we had a motorcade on ice. It was six trucks that went down the river, but the Secretary said it was his first official truck motorcade on ice. That really does allow us to get around when the rivers are frozen over.

Down in the southeastern part of the State, where I was born and spent a lot of my growing-up years, they are all islanded communities. There are 32 or 33 islanded communities in the southeast. So to move around, we either fly Alaska Airlines, fly smaller carriers, or we rely on our Alaska marine highway system, our ferry system. This is our marine lifeline. This is how we move freight, how we move vehicles, how we move goods, and how we move people.

I will be in Anchorage this week. I will be in Anchorage this week, because I have a lot of people to visit some of the finest Americans whom I know and am blessed to be able to serve.

I yield the floor.
Oklahoma City area and all around Tulsa, to spend as much time as I can with as many different people as I can to find out what is going on in Oklahoma. I get this one precious month a year to make sure I have focus time in the State to see as many people as I can.

I got to thinking about this and the privilege that I have really had in being able to travel around my State and meet people and see so many places, to get on Route 66, travel the State from east to west, and see exactly what is going on.

I have had the opportunity to be out at the E.W. Marland Mansion in Ponca City, Oklahoma. I have the opportunity to be at Roman Nose State Park in Watonga. I have climbed up to the top of Black Mesa in Kenton, and I have been to the lowest point, by sea level, in far south-eastern Oklahoma in Broken Bow. I have been to the Little Sahara, and I have climbed on its tumbled rocks. I have been to the Blue Whale in Catoosa.

I have had the great privilege of getting a chance to walk around through the Gathering Place in Tulsa. This is an absolutely spectacular park and gathering place. In fact, USA Today just named it the No. 1 new attraction in America. For folks who have not been to Tulsa or for the folks who have been to Tulsa before, they need to go back and just enjoy the Gathering Place.

I have had the opportunity to walk the streets around Black Wall Street and to visit the Heart of America. I have the opportunity to be there. I have had the opportunity to be in Davis at Turner Falls and the Arbuckle Mountains, and, of course, Falls Creek. I have had the opportunity to be in Hocketown, which is down near Broken Bow, and that’s what I love to do, to enjoy the time there, around the tall trees, in beautiful southeast Oklahoma. I have had the opportunity to visit Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore and visit the Ole Red restaurant in Tishomingo at them at the same time.

I have driven the Talimena National Scenic Byway in the fall and have seen the spectacular scenery in those mountains. I have been to the Robbers Cave in Wilburton and the Ouachita National Forest in McCurtain County.

I have had the opportunity to walk around through the Heavener Runestone area and see the Norse Viking carved stones that are there in Oklahoma. I could see, most definitely, by far, amongst those high trees and those rolling hills, that I wasn’t the first person to go there.

I have been to the Round Barn, off Route 66 in Arcadia. I have stopped to get a hamburger at Pop’s, where Bill’s is there on Route 66. I have quietly stood at the national Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial in downtown Oklahoma City, and I have seen the amazing western art at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. I have walked through the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. You can’t go through Oklahoma without stopping at Cattlemen’s Steakhouse and enjoying a great steak or without driving out west to see the Stafford Air & Space Museum. People who travel to Washington, DC, go to the Air and Space Museum, and I will tell you why: Do not miss the Air & Space Museum that is in Weatherford, OK, because the Stafford Air & Space Museum has a remarkable collection from a fantastic Oklahoma astronaut.

The Great Salt Plains in Jet and the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie are also really remarkable places.

I do have to brag about a spot because, on my 50th birthday, my wife surprised me by our taking a trip to the Little Sahara State Park and the sand dunes in northern Oklahoma. We rented dune buggies and drove them as hard and fast as we wanted on that day. It was a great day to just enjoy Oklahoma. I like the day I was able to drive to Pawhuska and eat at the Pioneer Woman Mercantile restaurant and just enjoy the downtown scenery.

It is really a fantasy State, and the people and the places that I miss while I am here in Washington, DC, for 11 months of the year I look forward to getting a chance to see when I get back home in August. With as much work as we have to get done here—and we still have a lot of work to get done—we will spend some time on the phone, we will walk through legislation, and we will continue to do writing. Yet, thankfully, I will be able to write and spend time on the phone while I look out my windshield and enjoy some Oklahoma scenery at the same time.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order to reconsider be considered made without stopping at Cattlemen’s.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 351.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Milton Young, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report Calendar No. 352.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, at 3 p.m. today, the Senate will vote on confirmations of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 205, 231, 232, 345, 350, 364, and 402.

I ask unanimous consent that if the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Executive Calendar No. 205 is the pending question.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), 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).

(Mr. TILLIS assumed the Chair.)

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

Yeas—54

Alexander Gardner Perdue
Barrasso Graham Portman
Blackburn Grassley Risch
Budenza Hawley Roberts
Boozman Hoeven Romney
Braun Hyde-Smith Rounds
Capito Inhofe Rubio
Cassidy Johnson Sasse
Collins Jones Scott (FL)
Coryn Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cotton Lankford Shelby
Cramer Lee Sinema
Craco Manchin Sullivan
Cruz McConnell Thune
Daines McSally Tillis
Enzi Moran Toomey
Ernst Markowski Wicker
Fischer Paul Young

Nays—36

Baldwin Heinrich Rosen
Blumenthal Hirono Schatz
Brown Kaine Schumer
Cantwell King Shaheen
Cardin Leahy Smith
Carper Manchin Stabenow
Casey Menendez Tester
Cortez Masto Merkley Udall
Duckworth Murphy Van Hollen
Durbin Murray Warner
Feinstein Peters Whitehouse
Hassan Reed Wyden

Not Voting—10

Bennet Gillibrand Sanders
Booker Harris Warren
Burr Isakson
Coons Klobuchar

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The votes will be 10 minutes in length.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), 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 (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

Yeas—50

Alexander Gardner Portman
Barrasso Graham Roberts
Blackburn Grassley Romney
Budenza Hawley Rounds
Boozman Hoeven Rubio
Braun Hyde-Smith Sasse
Capito Inhofe Scott (FL)
Cassidy Johnson Scott (SC)
Collins Kennedy Shelby
Coryn Lankford Tills
Craco Lee Toomey
Cruz McConnell Wicker
Daines Moran Young
Durbin Peters
Feinstein Perdue
Hassan Reed

Nays—40

Baldwin Hirono Schatz
Blumenthal Jones Schiumer
Brown Kaine Shaheen
Cantwell King Smith
Cardin Leahy Sinema
Carper Manchin Stabenow
Casey Menendez Tester
Cortez Masto Merkley Udall
Duckworth Murphy Van Hollen
Durbin Murray Warner
Feinstein Peters Whitehouse
Hassan Reed Wyden

Not Voting—10

Bennet Gillibrand Sanders
Booker Harris Warren
Burr Isakson
Coons Klobuchar

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), 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 result was announced—yeas 51, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

Yeas—51

Alexander Fischer Perdue
Barrasso Gardner Portman
Blackburn Graham Risch
Budenza Hawley Roberts
Boozman Hoeven Romney
Braun Hyde-Smith Rounds
Capito Inhofe Rubio
Cassidy Johnson Sasse
Collins Jones Scott (FL)
Coryn Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cotton Lankford Shelby
Craco Lee Sinema
Craco Manchin Sullivan
Cruz McConnell Tills
Daines Moran Toomey
Ernst Markowski Wicker
Fischer Paul Young

Nays—39

Baldwin Hirono Schiumer
Blumenthal Jones Schiumer
Brown Kaine Shaft+
Cantwell King Shaheen
Cardin Leahy Smith
Carper Manchin Stabenow
Casey Menendez Tester
Cortez Masto Merkley Udall
Duckworth Murphy Van Hollen
Durbin Murray Warner
Feinstein Peters Whitehouse
Hassan Reed Wyden

Not Voting—10

Bennet Gillibrand Sanders
Booker Harris Warren
Burr Isakson
Coons Klobuchar

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pocold nomination? Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), 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 result was announced—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

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The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stickman nomination? Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), 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 result was announced—yeas 56, nays 34, as follows:

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The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Senate's nominations, and the assistant legislative clerk read the next nomination. The legislative clerk read the nomination of William Shuman Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Ms. ISAKSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Georgia (Ms. ISAKSON) would have voted "yea.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), 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 result was announced—yeas 56, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 259 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander Graham Portman
Barrasso Grasley Risch
Blackburn Hassan Roberts
Blumenthal Hawley Romney
Boozman Hoeven Rounds
Braun Hyde-Smith Rubio
Capito Inhofe Sasse
Cassidy Johnson Scott (FL)
Collins Kennedy Scott (SC)
Corzine Lautenberg Sestak
Cotton Lee Shaheen
Craniti Mannin Shelby
Crapo McCain Sinema
Cruz McSally Sullivan
Daines Murray Tester
Emori Markowski Tillis
Ernst Murphy Toomey
Fischer Paul Wicker
Gardner Perdue Young

NAYS—34

Baldwin Hiroto Schatz
Blumenthal Jones Schumer
Brown Kaine Smith
Cantwell King Stabenow
Cardin Leahy Tester
Carper Manchin Udall
Casey Menendez Van Hollen
Cortez Masto Merkley Warner
Duckworth Murray Whitehouse
Durbin Peters Wyden
Feinstein Reed
Heinrich Rosen

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet Gillibrand Sanders
Booker Harris Warren
Burr Isakson Klobuchar
Coons

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Mississippi.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 1 minutes each.

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

The remarks of Senator HYDE-SMITH and Senator WICKER pertaining to the submission of S. 2410 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”

Mr. WICKER. I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO DARREN WALKER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Sunday, May 19, 2019, I was honored to attend the 218th commencement ceremony at the University of Vermont, where my wife Marcelle was presented with an honorary doctorate degree and recognized for her many years of public service. The commencement speaker, Darren Walker, made this wonderful day even brighter when he delivered a truly moving address. By recounting his personal story, examining the challenges our Nation faces, and celebrating the achievements of the recent graduates, Darren inspired us to view our differences as a strength and our division as a liability to our collective futures. It is with great appreciation that I recognize Darren for his commitment to social justice and thank him for sharing such an eloquent and unifying message with us on that day.

As the president of the Ford Foundation, Darren oversees a $13 billion endowment and $600 million in annual grant-making for international social justice objectives. He has served as the vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, as the chief operating officer of the African Development Corporation, and has spent more than a decade working in the fields of international law and finance.

Today is special for many reasons. It’s a celebration of excellence—and of the promise your future holds. It’s the end of one chapter—and the beginning of another.

But today is also special for an additional reason.

You came to his magical community called Burlington, Vermont, from different places. Different towns, and states and countries around the world. You came to your degree by different paths. Took different courses in different majors. Even in the same campus, you spent time with different people, engaged in different activities. And after today, you will go off in your different directions. To different cities and towns, entirely different lives.

And yet, here we are. Together. And the fact that we are together—at this time, in this place—is remarkable.

It’s remarkable because this is a unique, wonderful moment in your lives. But it’s also remarkable because, in this new digital world, we are too often led to believe that our differences are reasons for division, rather than unity.

Class of 2019, this is a defining characteristic of our digital era: Whether it’s algorithms that segment and select the information we see based on our previous clicks and likes; or media outlets incentivized to confirm our beliefs, rather than deliver facts that help educate us and make us better citizens; or political leaders who rally the extremes, rather than serve common good.

As a result of all this, we jump to judgment—and disagreement too often turns to vitriol and objection. Our ability to turn difficult and challenging moments into teachable ones, from which we can learn and grow. We lose touch with the shared values, and shared experiences, and shared aspirations that bind us together in this country and make us who we are.

My message to you today is this: It doesn’t need to be this way—this isn’t always been. And I know this to be true, from my own journey.

You see, many aspects of who I am as a person, as an American, are labeled as “different.” I am black. I am gay. I live in Manhattan, that tiny island moored off the coast, and a little unmoored from reality.

And I spend much of my time traveling across the country and around the world, meeting visionary, courageous, resilient people fighting poverty, inequality, and injustice. All of these things that make me different—define who I am.

And there are parts of my story that equally define me, that are harder to see, which also make me different.

I was born to a single mother in a charity hospital. We lived in a shotgun shack in a small, rural community.

I attended public schools and colleges. I was in the first class of Head Start in 1965.
My story is proof of what can happen when people choose to transcend their differences, to build relationships, to use their gifts, and invest in one another’s success. You, too, are proof. And, on its best days, so is this country I love.

America always has been the product of people choosing themselves together. Actively choosing. We are “We the people.” We are e pluribus unum—out of many, one. Because of our differences, we can ascend from cooperation, to collaboration, to innovation. Out of our differences, there is hope. Out of difference, there can be unity. Out of difference, there can be whatever we choose.

And it’s bigger than the United States. This issue transcends boundary and geography. Out of many countries, we are one planet—with one future.

Which brings me back to where I started: The celebration of difference—and all of the possibility that difference unleashes. Out of many paths—out of many graduates—you are one class. And while you have many careers and choices in front of you, I hope you keep one objective in mind: To make this a more just—a fairer world.

So, I ask you: What bridges will you build? What new relationships will you initiate? What justice will you serve? What will you make possible?

Many of the bridges you cross will not be physical structures of concrete or steel. They will be relationships you forge, through hard work and engaged, connected care—listening and love. And the best relationships are those in which you can be yourself and better yourself.

If my experience is any indication, this is especially true of relationships with graduates of this great university. My partner in life of 26 years, David Beitzel was a proud member of UVM’s class of 1980. He passed away suddenly in January.

David taught me so much about life, and our common humanity. We were very different. We hailed from very different places and backgrounds. But we found each other despite those differences—and enriched each other’s lives because of them.

Relationships with other people—friends, families and family, professional, romantic, incidental and intentional—all are essential, no matter how different we may seem to be. They strengthen our compas-

sion, our humanity, and widen our perspectives.

If we build bridges and bonds of connection, then when injustice affects one of us, we know—deeply, personally—that it affects all of us. When we bind ourselves to others—when we recognize that our fates are bound together—we can put the small things aside. We can make a world where stories like mine are more probable, more likely, more common. We can close the gaps of inequality and grow justice in its place.

It will not be easy, class of 2019. Justice takes time. It takes work. It takes love. And it takes risk.

But I hope you find ways to build these bridges. I hope you find ways to listen and be curious—to be present and proximate. I hope you embrace difference and receive division.

Class of 2019: I know you will answer the call—and I know the future will be much better for it. It’s yours for the taking and the making, as of now.

Congratulations. Good luck. And Godspeed.

**AMERICA’S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT**

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I rise in support of America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act, a bill we on the Environment and Public Works Committee passed today with broad bipartisan support.

Our bill contains the largest funding commitment in highway authorization history. It grows our economy, enhances roads and bridges, improves transportation safety, provides funding for necessary projects, eliminates burdensome regulation, promotes innovation, and invests in our Tribal lands.

Our EPW chairman said the bill would unleash quality of life for the American people.” Our ranking member believes it “can endure the test of time and keep up with the evolving demands of a 21st century global economy.” I agree with their assessments, and as a member of EPW, I want to thank them for listening to our priorities and collaborating with each of us.

Since joining the Senate, I have expressed my belief that divided government presents an opportunity for us to achieve mutually beneficial goals and offer priorities that reflect the American people. I want to thank them for their work together in a bipartisan manner on behalf of the American people.

More important to me than anything else, our bill also reflects the needs of my great State of North Dakota. As a large, rural State built on agriculture and natural resources, we are heavily dependent on our extensive infrastructure to get our goods to market.

With that in mind, I reached out to our stakeholders at the very beginning of this process to glean their perspective. We received input and comments from city, county, and State leaders all across North Dakota, expressing their desire for a highway bill reauthorization that works best for our State.

Their feedback and priorities are very important to me. While not all of the requests were always similar, I worked to know their voices were heard. I therefore ask unanimous consent for the letters they sent us to be printed in the Record following my remarks. Full versions of each of these letters can be found on my official website.

I would also like to take a moment to highlight some of the bright spots in this legislation.

First, at $237 billion, this is the largest highway bill in history. North Dakota stands out here: They want a real, long-term reauthorization that does more than the status quo and actually invests in our Nation’s roads and bridges.

Second, 90 percent of these funds will be distributed to the States via formula. That is incredibly important to large, rural States like North Dakota. The main point for the formula is that it is not discretionary, so it is stable, predictable funding. We have vast stretches of highway, and reliance on our infrastructure is crucial to our economy and interstate commerce. Despite our low population, rural States contribute much more to the highway
trust fund per capita than the rest of the country. In fact, North Dakota contributes the second-highest amount in the country, roughly three times more than the national average. Maintaining the current formula ensures that our State’s contribution is acknowledged and paid back to us in a consistent, unbiased manner, giving North Dakota steady funding and flexibility to prioritize our State’s transportation needs. Under this bill, transportation funding has increased by 27 percent, and North Dakota will receive nearly $1.6B over the next 5 years, which is welcome news to communities back home.

Third, America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act cuts duplicative bureaucracy and delays. For example, it establishes a 2-year goal for completing environmental reviews, a 90-day timeline for related project authorizations, and an accountability system for these projects. The days of half-finished, never-ending projects must come to an end. This bill acknowledges that. In addition, it creates incentives to minimize emissions and reduce methane and energy waste.

Lastly, this bill includes multiple provisions I have cosponsored. The bipartisan USE-IT Act, which incentivizes carbon capture and sequestration technology, is included in this package; as is the Addressing Underdeveloped and Tribally Operated Streets Act, also known as the AUTOS Act. The AUTOS Act, sponsored by my fellow North Dakota Senator Hoeven, would enhance the safety of roads on Indian lands by streamlining existing federal procedures and increasing funding to repair roads and bridges in Indian country.

These just a few of the many aspects of our bill that I support. As I have demonstrated, this is an economically and environmentally responsible bill. It is a win for both sides of the aisle and a win for the country. I am grateful our committee was able to take this first step today. I encourage my colleagues in the House to be proactive and to avoid procrastinating until the last minute. Let’s work together in a timely fashion to deliver a significant investment for the constituents we serve.

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

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
Bismarck, ND, February 19, 2019.
North Dakota Priorities for the Next Highway Reauthorization Bill.
Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer input on State Priorities for the Next Highway Reauthorization Bill. Below are some key points that are vital to transportation funding in North Dakota.

Good infrastructure, including highways, is important for North Dakota and the National Economy. This allows us to efficiently move agricultural, manufactured goods, and energy resources to the World Markets.

Increases personal mobility. Promotes safety. Legislation must provide North Dakota a share of Federal highway and transit formula programs at least as high as it receives today.

Current level of fuel tax is not keeping up with current inflation. Allows states the flexibility to efficiently plan for projects. Disruptive technologies (such as autonomous, hybrid, and electric vehicles) are having an impact on the amount of revenue generated for transportation.

Congress should continue the distribution of highway and transit program funds by formula.

Historically, North Dakota has not been very successful with the competitive grant programs such as TIGER.

Maintain the current Federal share of project cost—80/20

Public Private Partnerships do not work well in rural states.

The volume of traffic in rural states is not sufficient to attract private investments in roadway infrastructure (Example: tolling).

THOMAS K. SOBEL,
Director,
DOUG BURGUM,
Governor.

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS
OF NORTH DAKOTA,
Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Thank you for the opportunity to offer input from our industry’s perspective for the next Highway Reauthorization Bill. We applaud the EPW committee for holding these discussions in advance of the 2020 expiration of the current act.

A strong federal program is extremely important for a geographically large, yet sparsely populated state like North Dakota. We simply do not have the critical mass to fund the transportation needs on the state/local level. The current administration seems to favor more local participation but we’d caution the utilization of that to areas where it is feasible and not a detriment. Maintaining the current Federal/local split is imperative in a state like North Dakota. Private Public Partnerships work well in higher metropolitan areas but they are not feasible in North Dakota. The use of Highway Funds to help update our roadway Funds. The FAST Act allowed our local flexible use of Highway Funds to help update our roadway network. However, the threshold of 200,000 as the point when an MPO may choose to become a Transportation Management Area (TMA). Our metropolitan area has exceeded this threshold, and will officially exceed it as part of the 2020 Census. Local leaders have been looking forward to becoming a TMA and carrying out planning efforts that will ensure we are in good standing to meet TMA requirements when the time comes. We ask that the threshold remain at a population of 200,000.

Funding solutions for the Highway Trust Fund is long overdue and the user fee of the federal motor fuel tax has not generated enough revenue to fund the program for many years. It needs to be addressed and soon. The 18.4 cent per gallon user fee has not been adjusted since October 1, 1993. The decline in buying power is obvious and better fuel economy of vehicles adds to the issue. Adjusting it upward makes sense to us. Looking at any other funding options should also be considered. In our previous Congressional planning efforts that will ensure we are in good standing to meet TMA requirements when the time comes. We ask that the threshold remain at a population of 200,000.

Retain the Transportation Management Area population threshold of 200,000. The Highway Bill establishes the population threshold of 200,000 as the point when an MPO may choose to become a Transportation Management Area (TMA). Our metropolitan area has exceeded this threshold, and will officially exceed it as part of the 2020 Census. Local leaders have been looking forward to becoming a TMA and carrying out planning efforts that will ensure we are in good standing to meet TMA requirements when the time comes. We ask that the threshold remain at a population of 200,000.

The City of Fargo, Fargo, ND, March 6, 2019.
Re Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill (Highway Bill).
Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the next surface transportation bill. The City of Fargo has benefitted tremendously from the current Highway Bill and I strongly support future appropriations. Previous allocations have awarded the City of Fargo, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation, to construct and maintain high quality, long lasting infrastructure projects by awarding funds annually. Without these necessary funds, our citizens and businesses would be burdened with...
higher taxes that would undoubtedly stifle our growth. As Fargo continues to grow and moves closer to becoming a TMA (Transportation Management Area) long term, sustainable funding sources will become even more important to ensure that Fargo remains competitive in the Upper Midwest. For this reason, among many others, I strongly support the reauthorization of the next surface transportation bill.

Sincerely,
BRENDA E. DERRIG, PE,
City Engineer.

CITY OF VALLEY CITY,
Valley City, ND, March 4, 2019.

Hon. KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Please accept this letter as an expression of support on behalf of the City of Valley City, North Dakota for the reauthorization of the FAST Act. In my role as Mayor, I can attest to the fact that infrastructure funding in this critical piece of legislation is a key priority for our community.

At the local level, the City of Valley City funds transportation infrastructure projects through special assessments and the local renewal and replacement fund (R&R) which uses sales tax and utility fees. To fund critical infrastructure projects, voters passed a half percent sales tax in 2007 and an additional percent sales tax in 2019 for a total of 1 percent dedicated for infrastructure.

At the state level, legislators are currently debating a bill commonly referred to as “Operation Prairie Dog” which is designed to provide and increase in infrastructure funding as an expression of support on behalf of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

As Fargo continues to grow and moves closer to becoming a TMA long term, sustainable funding sources will become even more important to ensure that Fargo remains competitive in the Upper Midwest. For this reason, among many others, I strongly support the reauthorization of the next surface transportation bill.

Sincerely,
DAVE CARLSRUED, Mayor, City of Valley City.

CITY OF GRAND FORKS,
Grand Forks, ND, February 27, 2019.

Re Grand Forks comments on Federal Transportation Authorization.

Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on the reauthorization of Federal Surface Transportation bill and, particularly, your personal interest and involvement through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. We support your committee’s current strategy and timeline of reauthorization and we thank you for your work and support.

Infrastructure needs are a national issue and we support ongoing efforts that ensure transportation programs are right-sized to meet the needs of all cities, particularly those of the size and needs of North Dakota cities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express how very fortunate we are to have such solid partners in the NDDOT and we continue to support this productive partnership that best coordinates resources from federal, state and local partners.

Our comments will follow three key themes: 1) Continue to deregulate and encourage further confluence of programs to provide for efficient and effective use; 2) Continue and expand funding and funding flexibility that best leverages federal, state and local—as well as private Investment. 3) Continue focus on local transit solutions that promote a state of good repair and levels of service necessary to North Dakota communities.

1) Continue to deregulate and encourage further confluence of programs to provide for efficient use. We applaud the streamlining policy changes of the current bill, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. These include environmental review deregulation efforts that reduce the time and cost of the environmental review process. The City recommends that this continue and that any new environmental review process be consistent with what was found in the current bill that we’d like to improve upon.

Increased Emphasis on Land Use: Planning funds are under tremendous scrutiny by the Federal Highway Administration. The City feels strongly that land use decisions are closely tied to transportation and the use of Consolidated Planning Grants (CPG) in transportation studies should reflect this. We believe that by decreasing the focus and weight on levels of service of roadways and increasing the focus on adjacent land use and increased connections will result in a more reliable transportation network.

Increased Funding Opportunities for Infrastructure Preservation, Replacement and Maintenance: The City believes that although growth requires extending infrastruc-
ture, it is the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of existing infrastructure that will burden our citizens. Increasing funding opportunities will help our City and allow us to thrive into the future.

Continue Accelerated Project Delivery: The FAST Act helped streamline the environmental review process. The City recommends that this continue and that any opportunity to improve upon this may be explored under the reauthorization.

We thank you for your time and consideration and offer our assistance in any way we can as your work on this Committee.

Sincerely,
BRENNIE L. DARIS,
President of the Board of City, Commissioners.

MEMORANDUM
CASS COUNTY GOVERNMENT,
West Fargo, ND, February 25, 2019.

Re FHWA Reauthorization Bill for the FAST Act.

Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: As the Cass County Engineer, I am writing to request your support for the reauthorization of the FAST Act. Across the country our counties face infrastructure challenges every day. In North Dakota, our counties have varying issues from traffic around key hub cities, oil impacts, and agricultural impacts. On top of these issues, we face aging infrastructure with deficient bridges and roads designed to the safety standards of the 1960s. To improve our aging roads and bridges, I support our National Association of Counties and Association of County Engineers in these three core areas:

Ensure that the federal highway program dedicates funds for rural secondary infrastructure, particularly bridges.

Make the federal permitting process simpler and more streamlined.

Ensure the long-term certainty and solvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

I have also been working with our neighboring counties across the Red River for a critical bridge replacement project. We have three bridges along the Red River in eastern North Dakota/northern Minnesota have fallen into severe disrepair, and our county will need help to procure funds for the building new structures. Our group of counties applied for a federal grant through the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. I ask for your support in innovative project delivery through project bundling and other FHWA Every Day Counts Initiatives.

If you have questions, please call Jason Benson.

Sincerely,
JASON BENSON, P.E.,
Cass County Engineer.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF NORTH DAKOTA,

Re Highway Bill Input Request.

Hon. Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR Senator CRAMER: We appreciate the opportunity to outline our industry priorities for the reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs. We are very pleased that your seat on the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee gives you a strong position to advocate for our state’s needs.

As you know, in December 2015, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, providing five years of increased funding to support highway and transit projects, while including new reforms to enhance program efficiency. The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) at both the state and national levels strongly supported this landmark legislation, and encourage Congress to remain focused on adopting long-term, sustainable funding mechanisms to support the nation’s transportation needs.

As North Dakota represents the consulting engineering firms in the state by assisting members to provide better consulting
engineering services for their clients while protecting the public welfare and safeguarding the ethical standards of consulting engineers in private practice. We strive to cooperate with public bodies and other organizations in matters of common interest. In addition, ACEC North Dakota acts as a resource among our members to provide cooperative services and support the advancement of the science and practice of engineering.

We believe that infrastructure is the backbone of the United States economy. A modern and efficient transportation system is critical for protecting public health and safety, promoting commerce, and providing mobility for manufacturers to get their products to market, farmers to get their goods to stores, and workers to get to jobs. Unfortunately, our nation’s infrastructure remains severely deficient and underfunded. According to the U.S. DOT, improving the condition and performance of highways and bridges requires $142 billion annually from all levels of government; we currently invest approximately $105 billion. North Dakota faces a $2.5 billion shortfall from 2018 to 2023.

That’s because while we can attempt to fund needed infrastructure improvements for our cities and counties around North Dakota, we provide badly needed projects in Bismarck-Mandan and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

BISMARCK MANDAN CHAMBER 1 EDC
Hon. Senator KEVIN CRAMER,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CRAMER: Please accept this letter as an expression of my personal support for the reauthorization of the FAST Act.

In my role as President of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC, I actively advocate for pro-business policies on behalf of the organization’s more than 1,200 members. Recently, those efforts have focused on infrastructure funding.

At the local level, voters in the City of Bismarck recently passed a half-cent sales tax increase dedicated to arterial roadway construction. And at the state level, legislators are currently debating a bill dubbed “Operation Prairie Dog” designed to provide even more infrastructure funding to townships, cities and counties around North Dakota.

However, there is concern among all of the aforementioned political subdivisions regarding the uncertainty of federal funding after the FAST Act’s expiration in 2020. That’s because while we can attempt to fund projects at the local and state level, the federal match for some projects can make the difference between them happening or not.

The majority funded by an entirely funded and planned federal highway bill means more projects in Bismarck-Mandan can proceed. As a result, we provide badly needed infrastructure improvements for our residents and continued opportunity for our businesses.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at (701) 223-5660 or email at britter@bmcedc.com. Sincerely,

BRIAN RITTER.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, for rollcall votes 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, and 251 due to a commitment in Williamsburg, VA, related to the events surrounding the 400th commemorative session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Had I been present I would have voted nay on confirmation for Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas—rollcall vote 241, PN205; nay on motion to invoke cloture: Mark T. Pittman to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 242, PN307; nay on motion to invoke cloture: Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas—rollcall vote 243, PN510; nay on motion to invoke cloture: Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas—rollcall vote 245, PN512; nay on motion to invoke cloture: Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 245, PN543; yea on motion to invoke cloture: Ada E. Brown to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 246, PN524; “yea” on motion to invoke cloture: Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia—rollcall vote 247, PN566; “nay” on motion to invoke cloture: John K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas—rollcall vote 248, PN544; “yea” on motion to invoke cloture on Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 249, PN780; “yea” on motion to invoke cloture on Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 250, PN782; and “nay” on motion to invoke cloture on William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 251, PN727.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, on July 30, 2019, for rollcall votes due to a commitment in Williamsburg, VA, for an event surrounding the 400th commemorative session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Had I been present I would have voted “nay” on confirmation: Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas—rollcall vote 241, PN205; “nay” on motion to invoke cloture: Mark T. Pittman to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 242, PN307; “nay” on motion to invoke cloture: Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas—rollcall vote 243, PN510; “nay” on motion to invoke cloture: Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas—rollcall vote 244, PN512; “yea” on motion to invoke cloture: Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 245, PN543; “yea” on motion to invoke cloture: Ada E. Brown to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas—rollcall vote 246, PN524; “yea” on motion to invoke cloture: Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia—rollcall vote 247, PN566; “nay” on motion to invoke cloture on Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 249, PN780; “yea” on motion to invoke cloture on Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois—rollcall vote 250, PN782; and “nay” on motion to invoke cloture on William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania—rollcall vote 251, PN727.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for July 2019. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenue to the amounts the Senate agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, BBA18. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

This is my sixth scorekeeping report this year. My last filing can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for June 26, 2019. The information included in this report is current through July 26, 2019.

The report has cleared four pieces of legislation with significant budgetary effects. The first, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Humanitarian Assistance and Security at the Southern Border Act, 2019, P.L. 116–29, provided nearly $1.6 billion in emergency funding to address needs at the Nation’s southern border. The second measure with significant budgetary effects, P.L. 116–29, provided for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community health services demonstration project, the Protecting Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act of 2019, P.L. 116–33, revises loan seasoning requirements related to a refinanced Veterans Affairs housing loan. The fourth, the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act, P.L. 116–34, appropriates such sums as necessary for the Victims Compensation Fund to pay claims to eligible victims through July 29, 2022. Women who compensate claimants who have received reduced awards in the past because of declining balances in the fund.
scorecard shows deficits increases in fiscal year 2019 of $1.959 million, $427 million revenue loss, $1.532 million outlay increase; over the fiscal year 2018–2023 period of $3.409 million, $907 million revenue loss, $2.502 million outlay increase; and over the fiscal year 2018–2028 period of $7.054 million, $756 million revenue loss, $1 million outlay decrease. During this reporting period, P.L. 116–33 reduced the deficit by $3 million over the fiscal year 2019, fiscal year 2018–2023, and fiscal year 2018–2028 periods; and P.L. 116–29 increased the deficit by $5 million in fiscal year 2019. P.L. 116–34’s budgetary effects are not included in this table or the PAYGO scorecard pursuant to the direction included in the statutory text.

This submission also includes a table tracking the Senate’s budget enforcement activity on the floor since the enforcement filing on May 7, 2018. Since my last report, no new budgetary points of order were raised. All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the Record.

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

### TABLE A.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (−) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

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<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019–2023</th>
<th>2024–2028</th>
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<td>2,429</td>
<td>3,123</td>
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<td>Armed Services</td>
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<td>Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commerce, Science, and Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>Energy and Natural Resources</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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### TABLE B.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Appropriations Subcommittees</th>
<th>Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution</th>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>Energy and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
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<td>Homeland Security and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>OCO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total CHIMPs Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE C.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>CHIMPs Limit for Fiscal Year 2019</th>
<th>CHIMPs Appropriations Subcommittees</th>
<th>CHIMPs Changes In Mandatory Spending Programs (CHIMPS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>7,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Energy and Natural Resources</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Homeland Security and Related Agencies</td>
<td>7,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total CHIMPs Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE D.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Appropriations Subcommittees</th>
<th>Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>7,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Energy and Natural Resources</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homeland Security and Related Agencies</td>
<td>7,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OCO</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total CHIMPs Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sincerely,

PHILIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

### Table 1—Senate Current Level Report for Spending and Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019, as of July 26, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-Budget</th>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Level</td>
<td>3,663.0</td>
<td>3,665.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Level Over/Under (+ or -) Resolution</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Off-Budget | Social Security Outlays* | 908.8 | 908.8 |
| Current Level | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Table 2—Supporting Detail for the Senate Current Level Report for On-Budget Spending and Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019, as of July 26, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriation Legislation</th>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authorization Legislation</td>
<td>2,271,360</td>
<td>2,169,928</td>
<td>2,400,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entitlements and Mandatories</td>
<td>2,196,507</td>
<td>1,949,110</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Appropriation Legislation</td>
<td>4,467,867</td>
<td>4,119,038</td>
<td>4,900,218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

### Table 3—Summary of the Senate Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard as of July 26, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3,508,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>3,592,052</td>
<td>2,590,496</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

### Table 4—Supporting Detail for the Senate Current Level Report for On-Budget Spending and Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019, as of July 26, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriation Legislation</th>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authorization Legislation</td>
<td>2,271,360</td>
<td>2,169,928</td>
<td>2,400,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entitlements and Mandatories</td>
<td>2,196,507</td>
<td>1,949,110</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Appropriation Legislation</td>
<td>4,467,867</td>
<td>4,119,038</td>
<td>4,900,218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

---

[Redacted text]
### TABLE 3—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF JULY 26, 2019—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act/Title Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>Motion to Waive</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes (H.J. Res. 143, P.L. 115–298)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota (S. 440, P.L. 115–306)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend through 2023 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a finding of a violation established and published by the Commission (H.R. 7250, P.L. 115–336)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to provide for a 2-week extension of the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program, and for other purposes (S. 2047, P.L. 116–21)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to modify the procedures for the selection of a District Director in the Office of General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (S. 1932, P.L. 115–78)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to establish a trust fund to be used by the United States to enter into agreements with tribes to provide schools, housing, and other services to certain Native Hawaiians (S. 2269, P.L. 115–59)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2019</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (H.R. 4689, P.L. 115–429)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to authorize the President, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish a mechanism to provide assistance to address the impacts of the 2018/2019 African swine fever outbreak in China (H.R. 5969, P.L. 116–96)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to extend the Medicare Coverage Improvement Act of 2000 (S. 1513, P.L. 116–169)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota (S. 440, P.L. 115–306)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend through 2023 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a finding of a violation established and published by the Commission (H.R. 7250, P.L. 115–336)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to modify the procedures for the selection of a District Director in the Office of General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (S. 1932, P.L. 115–78)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An act to establish a trust fund to be used by the United States to enter into agreements with tribes to provide schools, housing, and other services to certain Native Hawaiians (S. 2269, P.L. 115–59)</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Congressional Budget Office

1 Fiscal year 2019: Congress authorized by law for expenses of the Senate, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019.
3 Fiscal year 2021: Congress authorized by law for expenses of the Senate, July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

Impact on deficit

- **Total Change in Outlays**
- **Total Change in Revenues**
- **Net Change in Outlays/Revenues**

**Net Change in Outlays/Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>In millions of dollars</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF POINTS OF ORDER RAISED SINCE THE FY 2019 ENFORCEMENT FILING**

- **Date**
- **Measure**
- **Violation**
- **Motion to Waive**
- **Result**

1 Senator Sanders raised a section 406(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress) point of order against the bill because the bill would increase the on-budget deficit.
2 By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to a recdial to waive the point of order.
3 This surgical point of order would have knocked lines 7-8 of page 270 in Division B (Title II) of the substitute amendment, which was related to the Pell Grant program. This provision was a Change in Mandatory Program (CHMP) estimated to increase spending by $300 million over 10 years.
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES REPORT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Legislative Activities Report of the Committee of Rules and Administration during the 115th Congress be printed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY DURING THE 115TH CONGRESS

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules and Administration is set forth in paragraph 119(1) of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. The following are excerpts from that paragraph.

RULE XXV

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The following standing committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each Congress of the Senate and shall continue and have the power to act until their successors are appointed, with leave to report by bill or otherwise on matters within their respective jurisdictions:

   (n) Committee on Rules and Administration, to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

      1. Administration of the Senate Office Buildings and the Senate wing of the Capitol, including the assignment of office space.
      2. Congressional organization relative to rules and procedures, and Senate rules and regulations, including floor and gallery rules.
      3. Corrupt practices.
      4. Credentials and qualifications of Members of the Senate, contested elections, and acceptance of incompatible offices.
      5. Federal elections generally, including the election of the President, Vice President, and Members of the Congress.
      6. Government Publishing Office, and the printing and correction of the Congressional Record, as well as those matters provided for under Rule II.
      7. Meeting of the Congress and attendance of Members.
      8. Payment of money out of the contingent fund of the Senate or creating a charge upon the same (except that any resolution relating to substantive matter within the jurisdiction of any other standing committee of the Senate shall be first referred to such committee).

2. Such committee shall also—

   (A) make a continuing study of the organization and operation of the Congress of the United States, and shall recommend improvements in such organization and operation with a view toward strengthening the Congress, simplifying its operations, improving its relationships with other branches of the United States Government, and enabling it better to meet its responsibilities under the Constitution of the United States, to the committee.
   (B) identify any court proceeding or action which, in the opinion of the Committee, is of vital interest to the Congress as a constituent body of the Federal Government and call such proceeding or action to the attention of the Senate.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

TITLE I—GROUND RULES

1. The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 a.m. in room SH-301, Russell Senate Office Building. Additional meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Meetings of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, unless the Committee determines by a quorum of the committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion of any Member, with no minority Member present, to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately thereafter by a quorum session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (a) through (f) will represent a clear and present danger to the safety of the Congress or of the Members of Congress or of the Congress, or will constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

   (A) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of foreign relations of the United States;
   (B) will disclose information pertaining specifically to a current investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense; or
   (C) will tend to charge an individual with, or cause to be brought to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clear and present danger to the safety of the Congress or of the Members of Congress or of the Congress, or will constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;
   (D) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;
   (E) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a person if: (1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government employees; or (2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person or used for a past financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or
   (F) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulations. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

3. Written notices of committee meetings will normally be sent by the committee’s staff director to all Members of the committee at least a week in advance. In addition, the committee staff will telephone or e-mail reminders of committee meetings to all Members of the committee or to the appropriate assistants in their offices.

4. A copy of the committee’s intended agenda enumerating separate items of legislative and committee business will normally be sent to all Members of the committee and released to the public at least 1 day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude the committee from discussing appropriate non-agenda topics.

5. After the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member present, specified quorum shall be based on order of arrival, alternating between Majority and Minority Members, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

6. Any witness who is appearing before the committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the committee at least 3 business days before the date of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the chairman may direct, unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member waive such requirement for good cause.

7. In general, testimony will be restricted to 5 minutes for each witness. The time may be extended by the Chairman, upon the Chair’s own direction or at the request of a Member.

8. Each round of questions by Members will also be limited to 5 minutes.

TITLE II—QUORUMS

1. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, a majority of the Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of legislative measures.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 2 Members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony under oath and 1 Member of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony not under oath; provided, however, that in either instance, once a quorum is established, any one Member can continue to take such testimony.

3. Under no circumstances may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

TITLE III—VOTING

1. Voting in the committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

2. If a third of the Members present so desire, a roll call vote instead of a voice vote, a record vote will be taken on any question by roll call.

3. The results of roll call votes taken in an open meeting upon any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the committee, and such report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment by each Member of the committee. (Paragraph 3 and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

4. Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the committee. However, the vote of the committee to report a measure or matter shall require the concurrence of a majority of the Members of the committee who are physically present at the time of the vote. Proxies will be allowed in such cases solely for the purpose of recording a Member’s position on the question and not only in those instances when the absent member of the committee has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that he be recorded. (Paragraph 7(a)(3) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS

1. Provided at least five business days’ notice of the agenda is given, and the text of
the proposed bill or resolution has been made available at least five business calendar days in advance, it shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the proposed bill or resolution unless under consideration by the Committee unless such amendment has been delivered to the office of the Committee and circulated via email to each of the offices by at least 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

In the event that the Chairman introduces a substitute amendment or a Chairman's mark, the requirements set forth in Paragraph 1 of this Title shall be considered waived unless such substitute amendment or Chairman's mark has been made available at least five business days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

3. It shall be in order, without prior notice, for a Member to offer a motion to strike a single section of any bill, resolution, or amendment under consideration.

4. Tied, provided advance notice of their intention to do so is given to Members of the committee.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

* passed Senate; + obviated

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

S. 1016, Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017

S. 1869, Honest Ads Act

S. 2939, Shell Company Abuse Act

S.J. Res. 30, a joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Steve Case as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115–27.

S.J. Res. 35, a joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115–29.

S.J. Res. 36, a joint resolution providing for the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115–29.

S.J. Res. 60, a joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Barbara M. Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Public Law No. 115–199.

S. Res. 355, a resolution improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate.

S. Res. 463, a resolution authorizing a Senator to bring a young son or daughter of the Senator onto the floor of the Senate during votes.

H.R. 1895, Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act


H. Con. Res. 146, directing the Secretary of the Senate to take a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 3926. *

H. Con. Res. 112, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I. *

H. Con. Res. 107, authorizing Reverend Billy Graham to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol. *

H. Con. Res. 106, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the members of the Office of Strategic Services.

H. Con. Res. 103, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. *

H. Con. Res. 90, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass. *

H. Con. Res. 18, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. *

ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

S. Res. 62, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the period March 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017, October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, and October 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019. *

RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO COMMITTEE FUNDING

S. Res. 22, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. +

S. Res. 21, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. Res. 22, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S. Res. 24, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

S. Res. 30, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. +

S. Res. 31, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging.

S. Res. 32, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

S. Res. 33, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. +

S. Res. 34, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. +

S. Res. 36, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

S. Res. 37, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. Res. 39, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. Res. 42, a joint resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Environment and Public Works. +

S. Res. 43, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Budget. +

S. Res. 48, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Select Committee on Intelligence. +

S. Res. 52, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance. +

S. Res. 53, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

S. 26, Presidential Tax Transparency Act

S. 27, a bill to establish an independent commission to examine and report on the facts regarding the extent of Russian official and unofficial cyber operations and other attempts to interfere in the 2016 United States national election, and for other purposes.

S. 296, Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act

S. 350, Same Day Registration Act

S. 402, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement with the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of the State of Maryland for the acceptance of a statue of Harriet Tubman for display in a prominent location in the United States Capitol.

S. 589, Real Time Transparency Act

S. 1291, Vote By Mail Act of 2017

S. 1333, Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017

S. 1364, National Museum of the American Latino Act

S. 1437, Voter Empowerment Act of 2017

S. 1498, Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Act

S. 1510, Helping State and Local Governments Prevent Cyber Attacks (HACK) Act

S. 1547, Anti-Voter Suppression Act

S. 1569, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate the non-application of certain State waiver provisions to Members of Congress and congressional staff.

S. 1585, DISCLOSE Act of 2017

S. 1604, Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Act of 2017

S. 1608, Wounded Officers Recovery Act of 2017

S. 1660, Stop Foreign Donations Affecting Our Elections Act

S. 1683, Restoring Integrity to America’s Elections Act

S. 1772, Confederate Monument Removal Act

S. 1783, PROVE Act

S. 1821, a bill to establish the National Commission on the Cybersecurity of United States Election Systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1958, Weekend Voting Act

S. 1929, Empower Act of 2017

S. 1931, Empowering Citizens Act

S. 1954, Smithsonian National Zoological Park Central Parking Facility Authorization Act

S. 2035, SAVE Act

S. 2106, Register America to Vote Act

S. 2249, Students VOTE Act

S. 2350, Earmark Elimination Act of 2018

S. 2467, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Shirley Chisholm for placement in the United States Capitol.

S. 2593, Secure Elections Act

S. 2673, PAPER Act of 2018

S. 2717, Pay for Print Act

S. 2941, PAPER Act of 2018

S. 3049, Protecting American Votes and Elections Act of 2018

S. 3069, Save VOTES Act

S. 3116, PRIDE Voting Act

S. 3150, DISCLOSE Act of 2018

S. 3274, CRLAN Act of 2018

S. 3372, EISA

S. 3573, Protect our Elections Act

S. 3708, One Subject at a Time Act
April 25, 2018—Markup: Improving Procedures for the Consideration of Nominations in the Senate

June 20, 2018—Committee Hearing: Election Security Preparations: A State and Local Perspective

July 11, 2018—Committee Hearing: Election Security Preparations: Federal and Vendor Perspectives

September 26, 2018—Committee Hearing: Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act

November 28, 2018—Nomination Hearing: Nomination Hearing for Donald L. Palmer and Benjamin W. Hovland

December 6, 2018—Committee Hearing: Oversight of the Architect of the Capitol’s Human Resources Policies

PN2559 Benjamin Hovland, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2019, vice Rosemary E. Rodriguez, term expired.

Latest Action: January 02, 2019—Confirmed by the Senate by Voice Vote.

PN2284 Donald L. Palmer, of Florida, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2021, vice Matthew Vincent Masterson, re-designated.

Latest Action: January 02, 2019—Confirmed by the Senate by Voice Vote.

PN2198 Robert Poll, of Virginia, to be Director of the Government Publishing Office, vice Davita Vance-Cooks.

Latest Action: January 03, 2019—Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

PN1425 James E. Trahan III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for a term expiring April 30, 2023, vice Matthew S. Petersen, term expired.

Latest Action: January 03, 2019—Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

PN1024 James E. Trahan III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023, vice Matthew S. Petersen, term expired.

Latest Action: January 03, 2019—Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS

S. Prt. 115–3—Expenditure Authorizations and Requirements for Senate Committees

S. Prt. 115–4—Congressional Pictorial Directory

S. Rept. 115–29—Review of Legislative Activity during the 114th Congress

S. Pub. 115–7—The Congressional Directory

S. Doc. 115–4—Authority and Rules of Senate Committees, 2017–2018


EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

POMS Senate Rules and Administration (January 12, 2017)

A petition from a citizen of the State of Minnesota relative to the Minnesota Presidential Certificate of Vote to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC212 Senate Rules and Administration (January 04, 2017)

A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission’s competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2016, to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC213 Senate Rules and Administration (January 04, 2017)

A communication from the Librarian of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for Fiscal Year 2016, to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC471 Senate Rules and Administration (January 12, 2017)

A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC163 Senate Rules and Administration (March 15, 2017)

A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC1666 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (June 06, 2017)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Sequestration Preview Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2018”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC1667 Senate Veterans’ Affairs and other committees . . . (June 06, 2017)

A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office
of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2017”; to the Special Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Health, Education, Labor, and Pension; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC659 Senate Rules and Administration (October 04, 2017)

A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC860 Senate Rules and Administration (September 19, 2017) A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC861 Senate Rules and Administration (October 08, 2017) A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC862 Senate Rules and Administration (October 26, 2017) A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC863 Senate Rules and Administration (November 08, 2017) A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC864 Senate Rules and Administration (November 15, 2017) A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC7967 Senate Rules and Administration (December 20, 2018) A communication from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
This bill is also drafted so that its impact would extend significantly beyond its stated goal. Not only would my colleagues’ proposal prohibit the Federal Government from operating commercial wireless networks without explicit congressional authorization, but it would also prohibit the permission from operating wireline networks, such as fiber and cable networks.

Passing this legislation would bar the Federal Government from offering fiber connectivity to the tens of millions or Americans who currently have no meaningful option for high-speed broadband internet access at home. In effect, it would tell Americans in rural and low-income communities across the country that, if the private sector does not think it can make a profit offering service in their communities, that is the end of the line for them. Outside of providing subsidies, the Federal Government would be barred from addressing these market failures by contracting to build the infrastructure itself.

Time and time again, Congress has, on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, maintained the critical importance of delivering broadband to all Americans and not just those in big cities. This body should not ban any option for internet connectivity without fulsome debate and regular order.

Unfortunately, this need case is far from a hypothetical. As many as 162 million Americans across the country do not have access to internet service at broadband speeds, according to one recent analysis cited by the FCC. Congress should be passing laws that work to close this gap and not those that tie our hands as millions and millions of Americans are left behind in this new digital divide. It is an issue of fairness, it is an issue of equality, and it is an issue that must be subjected to vigorous public debate.

So I rise today with a simple and straightforward request: Before Congress limits possible broadband build-out options for decades to come, let’s give my colleagues’ proposal the careful consideration that it deserves. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see if we can resolve some of these outstanding issues in a manner that is fair, transparent, and timely.

For all of these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to consider S. 918.

CONFIRMATION OF HEATH P. TARBERT

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I applaud the Senate’s bipartisan confirmation of Dr. Heath Tarbert to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. I am confident that Dr. Tarbert, who is no stranger to public service, will lead the CFTC well. As the former Under Secretary for International Affairs at the Department of the Treasury, Dr. Tarbert has exactly the right experience, at the right time, to lead the CFTC. The CFTC needs a strong leader like Dr. Tarbert. He understands how the markets are impacted by actions taken by Congress and U.S. Federal regulators, as well as those of our legislative and regulatory partners around the world.

He has also demonstrated his appreciation of what led to the financial crisis 10 years ago. Dr. Tarbert also has the support of a range of agricultural groups, all voicing strong sport and appreciation for his experience in the financial sector, the effort he demonstrated to understand priority issues, and the commitment to visiting agricultural operations to reinforce the importance of these markets to farmers, ranchers, growers, and agribusiness.

The CFTC is charged with fostering open, transparent, competitive, and financially sound markets, while working to prevent systemic risk. The regulation and oversight provided by the CFTC allows end users—farmers, ranchers, commercial companies, municipalities, energy companies, pension funds, and others—to hedge commercial risk using the derivatives market. These markets allow companies to generate jobs and produce goods and services for our economy. I look forward to working with Dr. Tarbert in his new role. Thank you.

CAMEROON

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss the grave situation in Cameroon, specifically the targeted attacks against the English-speaking minority community there, the ongoing conflict between armed separatist groups and Cameroonian security forces, and the country’s many political prisoners. In response to the escalation of conflict in Cameroon’s north-west and southwest regions, yesterday, Senator V原油 and I introduced a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict.

Since the outbreak of violence in 2016, Cameroon’s security forces have been credibly accused of grave human rights abuses, from suppressing the basic freedoms of expression and assembly, and arbitrarily detaining those who challenge the President’s authority, to torture and extrajudicial killings. The victims of these abuses include Anglophone activists, some of whom were forcibly returned to Cameroon after fleeing to Nigeria. Since 2016, entire villages have been burned down, displacing hundreds of thousands of Cameroonian from their communities.

Where did all this begin? The current conflict can be traced back to Cameroon’s colonial history, as a country primarily formed through merging pieces of a former French colony with parts of a former British colony. The Francophone majority has held much of the land since 1961, when Cameroon gained its independence. All the while, the Anglophone minority held on to its language and distinct judicial and educational systems as it continued to be governed largely by refugees.

About 3 years ago, this all began to shift. The Anglophone government began implementing the French language and imposing its own laws, judges, and teachers in Anglophone communities, and protesters rose up in response. Anglophone Cameroonians rightly saw this as an unjust imposition on their autonomy, as a tyranny of the majority seeking to do away with their language and identity. The fact that Anglophone Cameroonians are vastly underrepresented in the central government only exacerbates their grievances in this matter. In response to citizens’ voicing their discontent, the government cracked down, arresting hundreds of people—including peaceful activists who were charged with terrorism charges—and deploying the military to Anglophone areas.

Over the past 3 years, violence has claimed 2,000 lives in the Anglophone region. Human Rights Watch has documented extensive violence by members of the security forces in the last 2 years in both the northwest and southwest regions, as well as rampant killings of civilians and sexual violence. According to a July 22 Human Rights Watch report, Cameroonian security forces have killed at least four civilians and raped one woman since mid-June alone during their security operations in the northwest region. Shockingly, those killed included an elderly man with a physical disability and a young man with a mental disability.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the circumstances there. My home State of Maryland is home to a large, active population of Cameroonian diasporans. Marylander Sylvie Bello and members of her advocacy organization, the Cameroonian American Council, have been a leading diaspora voice calling for the United States to encourage the Cameroonian Government and armed militias to stop the violence. Many in the diaspora community across the United States are working with civil society organizations in Cameroon to address the needs of internally displaced persons. I hope to be able to recommend funding programs to support these efforts.

This important community has made something very clear to me and my team, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues in the U.S. Congress of it. The conflict in Cameroon greatly impacts Americans here in the United States, whether it be Americans with loved ones affected by the conflict, those who have traveled to escape the violence, or simply those of us who understand that being silent on issues of human rights is analogous to being complicit to their
occurrence. I encourage the Government of Cameroon to engage with diaspora organizations, along with a broad spectrum of Cameroonian civil society leader, in meaningful and constructive dialogue to resolve the conflict.

Moving forward, as we look for ways to address the situation in Cameroon, we must look to longtime President Paul Biya and his ongoing attacks on the legitimacy of Cameroon’s democracy. President Biya rose to office in 1982 after serving as Prime Minister. In 2008, Presidential term limits were removed from Cameroon’s Constitution. Protests ensued, but when the public wished to voice their disapproval of this decision, security forces violently repressed their actions.

In October 2018, Biya claimed a seventh Presidential victory in an election that many considered to be neither free nor fair. There were numerous credible reports of fraud, voter intimidation, violence, and low voter turnout in the Anglophone regions. The opposition party who reportedly came in second place, the Cameroon Renaissance Movement, claims that it had the support of the people. In January of this year, protests and demonstrations against electoral outcomes were summarily suppressed by the Biya regime. Over 200 people were arrested, including opposition leader Maurice Kamto and his close supporters.

The United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and the International Law Commission have called for Mr. Kamto’s release, and just last month, thousands of Cameroonian demonstrated in Yaounde with the same demand. Biya’s government forces responded as they usually do, by arresting 73 of the demonstrators.

Even members of the President’s own inner circle are not immune to his thuggery. In 2012, Mr. Marafa Hamidou Yaya, the former Secretary General of the Presidency, was arrested and sentenced to 25 years in prison for complicity in an embezzlement scheme that many suspect befell him because of any actual involvement in embezzlement, but as a way to prevent him from ever challenging Biya for the Presidency. His arrest and imprisonment make clear that Biya will target anyone who threatens grip on power.

President Biya has the broad authority to appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister, Cabinet ministers, judges, generals, and governors. The executive and judicial branches are clearly a product of the President’s preference, rather than a reflection of the will of the people. Although several press outlets exist and multiple political parties compete in elections, freedom of expression is greatly constrained. Journalists have been jailed, and Reporters Without Borders has described the circumstances for Cameroonian media as a “climate of fear.”

In addition to these democratic concerns, Cameroon currently faces three major humanitarian challenges, which are exacerbated by President Biya’s unchecked authority. About 275,000 refugees from the Central African Republic reside in the eastern part of Cameroon. In the north, Boko Haram threatens the communities near the Nigerian border. And in the west, where most of Cameroon’s Anglophone minority resides, an independent security forces and those seeking independence from the rest of the country continues to escalate.

If that wasn’t enough, reports indicate that U.S. military assistance to Cameroon is being used to arm the government and its security forces with the same forces accused of committing atrocities against English-speaking Cameroonians. For this reason, Senator DURBIN and I filed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would freeze security assistance to Cameroon, except for those funds that go towards combatting Boko Haram, until the U.S. Departments of Defense and State can certify that Cameroon’s military and security forces are not responsible for abuses against the people, in abiding by international human rights standards, particularly in regards to their actions in the Anglophone region.

Although Cameroon is an important partner in U.S. counterterrorism efforts, we must turn a blind eye to the extreme violence the government and its security forces have inflicted on innocent civilians. Human Rights Watch has documented extensive burning of villages by members of the security forces in the last two years in both the northwest and southwest regions, as well as rampant killings of civilians and sexual violence.

This February, the U.S. withheld millions of dollars in security assistance from Cameroon, on the condition that Biya and his forces work to improve the humanitarian situation there. No county should be able to receive U.S. military assistance while continuing to violate the rights of its own population.

America’s strength is in our values. We must call out instances of human rights violations wherever they happen in the world. As a Congress, we have a special responsibility to use our voices when it is another government who is the perpetrator of these human rights abuses. This is the case for the situation in Cameroon. The violence must end. Innocent Cameroonians are caught in the crossfire of this political battle. Communities have become too dangerous to live in. Hundreds of thousands of Cameroonians have been forced to flee their homes to escape the violence inflicted upon them. In November 2018, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated that at least 437,000 people were internally displaced in Cameroon from areas affected by this Anglophone conflict.

There are thousands of refugees who have left Cameroon completely. As of late November 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that it had registered more than 32,000 Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria who came from the affected Anglophone regions. The persecuted Cameroonians seeking refuge in Nigeria include dozens of Anglophone activists, but in January 2018, 47 of those activists were forcibly returned back to Cameroon. Many of those returned had reportedly submitted asylum claims in Nigeria, so it is especially troubling that they were made to return to the country from which they fled. Ten of the 47 activists were returned from Nigeria now face charges before a military court that would be punishable by the death penalty. The other 37 reportedly remain in detention without charge.

Even non-Cameroonians have found themselves in the midst of this turmoil. On October 30, 2018, U.S. missionary Charles Wesco was killed near the town of Bamenda, Cameroon.

We must act in the face of these gross violations of human rights. We must encourage all actors in the Cameroonian conflict to prioritize respect for human life over the desire for political gain. This must be done by first agreeing to an immediate ceasefire and allowing humanitarian assistance to reach those in need. The Cameroon Government and Armed Forces must exercise restraint in their actions and ensure that protests remain peaceful.

Leaders on both sides must be willing to engage in constructive dialogue with civil society members to achieve a political solution, one that is based upon respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms. Failure to do so will only prolong the conflict and lead to an increase in violence and mass displacement of the Anglophone minority.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Maryland’s vibrant Cameroonian diaspora for their continued engagement with myself and my office, and encourage my Senate colleagues to support my and Senator YOUNG’s resolution which addresses many of these issues. Congress has a responsibility to continue to shine a spotlight on ongoing human rights abuses and the duty to advocate for upholding the rights of all citizens in Cameroon, regardless of their religious and political beliefs or the regions in which they reside.

### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

**RECOGNIZING THE 2019 ARKANSAS WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

- **Mr. BOOZMAN.** Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Women’s Hall of Fame Class of 2019 inductees and celebrate their contributions to our State and our country.

Founded in 1994, the Arkansas Women’s Hall of Fame honors women whose contributions have influenced the direction of Arkansas in their community or the State as a whole. The
AWHOF recognizes women, contemporary or historical, who have achieved prominence within the State. By providing a place for women in the State to be admired, the AWHOF inspires future generations of young Arkansas women and encourages them to achieve great things.

Alice Andrews is a conservationist and a leading voice for environmental protection in Arkansas. As a farmer’s daughter, Alice developed an interest in the environment and protecting land and water resources. Alice’s conservation efforts began with advocacy work for the Buffalo River designation in 1972, which protects the river from industrial uses that may change its natural character or surrounding habitat. She has continued her efforts by serving on the Arkansas Trails Council, being appointed to the Arkansas Scenic Rivers Commission and serving as president of the Ozark Society. Alice has also been credited with helping preserve the landscape where iconic landmarks including the Big Dam Bridge, Two Rivers Bridge, and the River Trail, can be found. Her continued support and consultation with nonprofits, governments, and local churches have made Arkansas a better place to live, work, and play.

Olivia Myers Farrell is among Arkansas’s most influential women in media. She graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock before starting work for part of the conservation department at the Arkansas Writers Project at the Arkansas Times. Then cofounded Arkansas Business and Southern magazine in the years following. Olivia has been honored as a Young Achiever by the National Council of Women of the United States—one of only six women selected in 1984 and the first Arkansas woman to receive the honor. She then became the CEO and principal owner of the Arkansas Business Publishing Group, which has received awards for its outstanding journalism by its publications, including Arkansas Business, Little Rock Family, and Little Rock Soiree. In 1998, she cofounded the Arkansas Women’s Foundation to improve the educational status and skills of Arkansas women and girls in STEM fields, promote philanthropy by and for women, and enhance the economic viability of emerging leaders in Arkansas. Her efforts in the community earned her the Distinguished Citizen Award given by former Governor Mike Beebe in 2012.

Jo Luck attended Hendrix College before graduating from David Lipscomb College with a degree in education in 1963. Jo went on to earn a master’s degree from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and served as the assistant director in the Governor’s Office of Volunteer Services before becoming the first director of the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. Under Governor Bill Clinton, she became the executive director of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. Under Jo’s guidance, the economic impact of Arkansas’s tourism industry more than doubled. In 1992, she became president and CEO of Little Rock-based Heifer International—a global nonprofit dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty—where she served under the leadership of the organization’s state-of-the-art, LEED-certified headquarters was designed and built. In 2011, Jo was appointed by Barack Obama to serve on the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Board of International Food and Agricultural Development. She has worked throughout her career to improve food availability around the globe and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Charlotte Tillar Schexnayder was born in Tullar, AR, in 1923. When she was 16 years old, she enrolled in the University of Arkansas at Monticello while also freelance writing for the McGehee Times. She went on to become editor of the McGehee Times in October 1944. She and her husband Melvin worked at the newspaper for 6 years before purchasing the Dumas Clarion, which they owned for more than four decades. Although the paper was known for its legal news, writer for the group’s board. Charlotte took an editorial stand on many issues, including the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock along with economic and development issues in Dumas, AR. Along with her leadership in the local media, Charlotte was a board member of the Dumas Chamber of Commerce and served as the first female president of the organization. In 1975, Governor David Pryor appointed Charlotte to the Arkansas Board of Pardons and Parole, making her the first female to serve on the group’s board. Charlotte went on to become president of many journalism organizations, including the National Federation of Press Women, the Little Rock chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, and the Arkansas Press Association, and the National Newspaper Association. In 1984, she was elected to the State house of representatives where she served until 1999. While in office, she was the lead sponsor for several bills, including the expansion of the Freedom of Information Act, a bill creating the Arkansas Ethics Commission, and the creation of a sales tax for a research center and endowed chair at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in alcohol abuse prevention. Charlotte’s consistent efforts to improve her community and State are both courageous and groundbreaking.

Carolyn Witherspoon graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1974 and continued her education at the UALR School of Law, where she graduated with honors in 1978. Throughout her legal career, Carolyn has advocated for promoting a healthy work-life balance and supporting women and girls that serve this purpose. She served as the commission of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission from 1978 until 1981, when she became the president of the Arkansas Association of Women’s Lawyers. Her law practice has centered on representing private and public employees in defending employment-related matters, including title VII litigation. Her practice has also honored to serve on the Board of Directors of the Union Internationale des Advocats.

Carolyn has also earned recognition from the American Psychological Association, the Society for Human Resources Management, and the State of Arkansas. Her firm has been honored with the WE WORKs Award three times for incorporating flexibility in workplace practices. Under her direction, Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon, and Galchus is the only firm in the State of Arkansas with 50 percent ownership by female attorneys. Her community involvement includes serving on the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault and as former president of the Women’s Foundation of Arkansas, as well as participating in the Coalition Against Sexual Assault and providing people through a program known as VOCALS. We can be proud of Carolyn’s contributions to the legal community in our State, country, and internationally.

Diane Frances Divers Kincaid Blair was born in Washington, DC in 1938. She graduated cum laude from Cornell University’s Department of Government in 1959. When she returned to Washington, she served as an analyst for the President’s Committee on Government Contracts, a research assistant with the Senate Special Committee on Unemployment, and legislative secretary and speechwriter for former U.S. Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri. As a married man, she and Hugh Kincaid, she moved to Fayetteville in 1963. Diane completed her master’s degree through the Department of Political Science at the University of Arkansas in 1967. The following year, Kincaid became a part-time lecturer in political science at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and in 1979 became an assistant professor of political science. In 1971, Governor Dale Bumpers appointed Diane to chair the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women. In 1973, Governor David Pryor selected her to chair a commission on public employee rights. In 1980, she was appointed to the commission for the Arkansas Educational Television Networks, where she served until 1983. She also served as an advisor for the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1992 and 4 years later worked on the President’s reelection campaign. President Clinton appointed Diane to the board of directors of the U.S. Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which she served until 1998. She later served as an advisor for Clinton and the Democratic party, including “Arkansas Politics and Government: Do the People Rule?” which is used by many Arkansas colleges and
universities as part of their curriculums. Blair passed away in 2000 of lung cancer, but left behind a legacy of service and dedication to the State of Arkansas.

Louise McPhetridge Thaden was born in Bentonville on a small family farm and became interested in aviation at an early age. She attended the University of Arkansas, but never graduated. Instead, she continued to pursue her love of flying, taking her skills to Kansas City and eventually California, where she worked various jobs until she eventually earned her pilot’s license. She became the only female pilot to simultaneously hold the women’s record for speed, altitude, and solo endurance, beating out Amelia Earhart and other pilots at the National Women’s Air Derby in 1929. Together Earhart and Thaden formed the Ninety-Nines, an advocacy group for women pilots. Additionally, Louise opened a flight school for women at the Penn School of Aviation and raised the scholarship money for its first 12 students. In 1932, she set a refueling endurance record of 196 hours in the air over Long Island. In 1936, Louise became the first woman to win a transcontinental race, the Inland Air Race from New York to Los Angeles. She was the 1937 recipient of the Harmon Trophy, which is the highest honor given to a female pilot. Her achievements have been honored in numerous ways, including by the community of Bentonville, where its airport now bears her name, as well as by former Governor David Pryor’s declaration of August 22 as “Louise M. Thaden Day.” She was posthumously inducted into the International Aerodrome Hall of Fame in 1999. Louise’s pioneering and competitive spirit will continue to inspire future generations of pilots and women for many years to come.

The final inductee, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s Beta PI Omega Chapter, was chartered in Little Rock in 1937. It is the oldest graduate chapter in the State of Arkansas. The chapter’s 265 members regularly complete service projects and host health fairs, workshops, education programs, voter drive, and fundraisers. The group’s members use their education, skill, and expertise to make an impact in the community. Beta PI Omega has sponsored the chartering of two new Alpha Kappa Alpha chapters and has demonstrated a true commitment to improving Arkansas for future generations of citizens in all corners of the State.

Congratulations to the 2019 Arkansas Women’s Hall of Fame inductees. We are grateful for their contributions to our State and the work they have done to inspire others. They have demonstrated a true commitment to helping their neighbors and fellow citizens through their efforts to uplift and improve their communities.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER THOMAS TOBIN

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Father Thomas Tobin, for his leadership in the church and devotion to serving the faithful of Montana.

Father Tobin was ordained in a small church in Tipperary, Ireland, in June of 1899, shortly after, he made the trek to Montana in September of 1959. During his 38 years of service, he ministered across Big Sky Country, including in Billings, Hilger, Livingston, Big Sandy, Baker, and Ekalaka. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, Father Tobin has been active in promoting Christian values from his local parish to the broader community.

Father Tobin has been a strong defender of the pro-life movement—regularly defending the rights of the unborn from the pulpit. He has participated in a handful of right-to-life marches and has routinely promoted pro-life activities.

During the days leading up to the 9/11 attacks, Father Tobin was in New York City visiting parishes. When the attacks unfolded, Father Tobin delayed his return home to Montana to pray and minister to the people of New York City.

In addition to his devout faith and commitment to others, Father Tobin has a profound love for our great outdoors. Those who know him best say he can often be found at a local dam or lake with a fishing pole. He also enjoys long drives across the countryside and taking long walks and hikes.

I am proud to honor Father Tobin as this week’s Montanan of the Week. His devotion to his Catholic faith and his community is exemplary of the Montana spirit.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GARDNER:
S. 2348. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude employer contributions to a loan repayment from income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. Collins):
S. 2349. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to exclude the Commission from the common carrier exemption for telecommunications companies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. Wyden, Ms. Hassan, and Mr. Merkley):
S. 2350. A bill to prohibit States from retroactively imposing a sales tax collection duty on a remote seller, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. Grassley):
S. 2351. A bill to promote human rights and accountability in Saudi Arabia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. Portman):
S. 2352. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify nondiscrimination rules to protect older, longer service participants in retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FETTERS (for himself, Mr. Gardner, Ms. Hassan, and Mr. Sullivan):
S. 2353. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. Gardner):
S. 2354. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. Cardin (for himself, Mr. Brown, Ms. Warren, Mrs. Feinstein, Ms. Harris, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Coons, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Duckworth, Mr. Markley, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Klobuchar, Ms. Smith, Mr. Booker, Mr. Udall, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Gillibrand, Ms. Murray, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. Gillibrand, and Mr. Menendez):
S. 2355. A bill to eliminate racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Braun (for himself and Ms. Capito):
S. 2356. A bill to provide a definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. Baldwin (for herself and Mr. Hawley):
S. 2357. A bill to establish a national goal and methodology for calculating the exchange rate for the United States dollar, to impose market access charge on certain purchases of United States assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. Casey (for himself and Ms. Baldwin):
S. 2358. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. Kennedy:
S. 2359. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require consideration of the assets of a household for categorical eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. Cardin (for himself and Ms. Duckworth):
S. 2360. A bill to establish an Office of Emerging Markets within the Small Business Administration that will strengthen the development of small business concerns in emerging markets, including those owned by women, minorities, veterans, and those located in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. Cardin:
S. 2361. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase lending to underserved borrows through the largest loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. Whitehouse:
S. 2362. A bill to establish a process for United States businesses to obtain exclusions from certain duties imposed under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974; section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1982, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. Gardner (for himself and Ms. Sinema):
S. 2363. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a Telecommunications Workforce Development Advisory Council within the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, Transportation.

By Mr. Sullivan (for himself, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Menendez, Ms. Collins, Mr. Booker, Mr. Coons, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Gillibrand, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. Gillibrand, and Mr. Menendez):
S. 2364. A bill to enhance domestic marine debit response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. Udall (for himself, Mr. Moran, Mr. Tester, Mr. Rounds, and Ms. Smith):
S. 2365. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize urban Indian organizations to enter into arrangements for the sharing of medical services and facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. Warrner (for himself and Mr. Portman):
S. 2366. A bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. Smith (for herself and Mr. Jones):
S. 2367. A bill to support the preparation and retention of outstanding educators in all fields to ensure a bright future for children and youth in under-resourced and underserved communities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
By Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):
S. 2388. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support licensing and relicensing of certain nuclear facilities and nuclear energy research, demonstration, and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):
S. 2389. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of grant amounts awarded under the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program for construction of fully enclosed committal service shelters in certain State veterans’ cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:
S. 2370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand personal saving and retirement savings coverage by enabling employees not covered by qualifying retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic IRA arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):
S. 2371. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to designate the Honor and Remember Flag created by Honor and Remember Inc., as an official symbol to recognize and honor the Armed Forces who died in service to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CARDIN):
S. 2372. A bill to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. JONES, and Mrs. CAPITO):
S. 2373. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve obstetric care in rural areas; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. DJIBRI):
S. 2374. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to include a prohibition on the pet trade of any species that is threatened or endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCOMB:
S. 2375. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to relocate the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):
S. 2376. A bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INhofE:
S. 2377. A bill to apply the Medicaid asset verification program to all applicants for, and recipients of, medical assistance in all States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. LEE):
S. 2378. A bill to require reductions in the direct cost of Federal regulations that are proportional to the amount of increases in the debt held by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. RICKS):
S. 2379. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify the authority of State Medicaid fraud and abuse control units to investigate and prosecute cases of Medicaid patient abuse and neglect in any setting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO:
S. 2380. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program for the transformation of the electric grid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CRAMER):
S. 2381. A bill to require review by the Government Accountability Office of screening protocols of the Transportation Security Administration relating to breast milk and formula, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HARRIS):
S. 2382. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish a program to provide loans to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. Jones, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CRAMER):
S. 2383. A bill to establish minimum standards of disclosure by franchisers whose franchises use loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FRIESENSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. CARDIN):
S. 2384. A bill to promote botanical research and botanical sciences capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:
S. 2385. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to improve access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, including by encouraging the provision of broadband loans and grants and increase broadband service to emerging harbor projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. 2386. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):
S. 2387. A bill to establish a process by which reasonable drug prices may be determined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Tester (for himself and Mr. MURAN):
S. 2388. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the postponement of jury service by reason of significant fires; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. REED):
S. 2389. A bill to provide access to counsel for children and other vulnerable populations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SMAKER):
S. 2390. A bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN:
S. 2391. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to impose requirements relating to the purchase of certain equity securities by issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):
S. 2392. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the circumstances under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide reimbursement for emergency medical services; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BOOKER):
S. 2393. A bill to promote a 21st century energy workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):
S. 2394. A bill to require certain reports and a grant program to of 2011 to ensure the expiration of the START Treaty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY:
S. 2395. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and dual or concurrent enrollment programs for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):
S. 2396. A bill to protect United States citizens and residents from unlawful profiling, arrest, and detention and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. COONS):
S. 2397. A bill to authoriZe the Attorney General to make grants to State and Tribal courts in order to allow the electronic service of certain court orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. FRANKEN:
S. 2398. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 relating to the privacy with respect to voter information; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:
S. 2399. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve State loan eligibility for projects for innovative technology; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN:
S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:
S. 2401. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:
S. 2402. A bill to enhance the safety of Class 3 flammable liquid transportation by rail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. MURRAY):
S. 2403. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to provide loans for the acquisition of electric vehicles and related infrastructure; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MCGILLIN, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 294. A resolution designating August 16, 2019, as "National Airborne Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARVER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 295. A resolution designating the month of September 2019 as "Campus Fire Safety Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WARREN, Ms. COTRTZ MASTO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SINDA, Mr. MCKINSEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KAINDE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARVER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 296. A resolution congratulating the United States Women's National Soccer Team for winning the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUINO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 297. A resolution commending the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary for its significant accomplishments in contributing to the economic and social development of the Americas; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RUINO, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 298. A resolution concuring with the decision of the United States from the INF Treaty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERRKLEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 299. A resolution designating the first week in August 2019 as "World Breastfeeding Week", and designating August 2019 as "National Breastfeeding Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HERNICH, Mr. CARVIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 300. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 301. A resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the return of the Indiana Rangers; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 302. A resolution designating September 2019 as ‘National Child Awareness Month’ to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States, and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. EINST, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HYDRSmith, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. RISCH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RBarbaso, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. JONES, Mrs. GILLBRAND, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HASSAN, Mr. TATTER, Mr. ROSEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLIN):

S. Con. Res. 23. A concurrent resolution honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Con. Res. 24. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 117

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors 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 Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 131, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants.

S. 177

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

At the request of Mr. Leahy, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Hoeven) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) were added as cosponsors of S. 340, a bill to promote competition in the market for drugs and biological products by facilitating the timely entry of lower-cost generic and biosimilar versions of those drugs and biological products.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) were added as cosponsors of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Crapo, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

At the request of Mr. Warner, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

At the request of Ms. Cantwell, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

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

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Moran, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Distribution Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a cosponsor of S. 636, a bill to designate the comprehensive immigration and nationality act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section.

At the request of Mr. Carper, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

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

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

At the request of Mr. Schatz, the name of the Senator from New York (Ms. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and the stability of the transportation security workforce by applying a unified personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who are responsible for screening passengers and property, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Duckworth) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to modify the microloan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Moran, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Udall, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

At the request of Ms. Shaheen, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. Cantwell) were added as cosponsors of S. 1071, a bill to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Stabenow, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. King), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Cortez Masto), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) were added as cosponsors of S. 1094, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify limitations on the credit for plug-in electric drive motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to promote security and energy partnerships in the Eastern Mediterranean, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSally) 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. Cramer, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1134, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an investment tax credit related to the production of electricity from nuclear energy.

At the request of Mr. Hoeven, the name of the Senator from Michigan
(Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to give preferential consideration to individuals who have successfully completed air traffic controller training and veterans when hiring air traffic control specialists.

S. 1830, a bill to enhance the security of Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide a guarantee of residency for registration of businesses of spouses of members of the uniformed services, to improve occupational license portability for military spouses through interstate compacts, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cotton, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1522, a bill to improve broadband data collection, mapping, and validation to support the effective deployment of broadband services to all areas of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1782, a bill to add suicide prevention re-

At the request of Mrs. Capito, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1522, a bill to improve broadband data collection, mapping, and validation to support the effective deployment of broadband services to all areas of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1527, at the request of Ms. Hassan, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, an assessment of the total amount of nonhighway recreational fuel taxes received by the Secretary of the Treasury and transferred to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Coons, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, supra.

S. 1721, at the request of Mr. Markley, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1721, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gay and trans panic defenses.

S. 1750, at the request of Mr. Markley, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, a bill to establish the Clean School Bus Grant Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1750, supra.

S. 1782, at the request of Mr. Kennedy, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1782, a bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

S. 1830, at the request of Mr. Barrasso, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 1881, at the request of Mr. Young, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) were added as cosponsors of S. 1881, a bill to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1915, at the request of Mr. Whitehouse, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to require the recording and reporting of communications between the Department of Justice and the White House relating to civil and criminal investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 1918, at the request of Mr. Boozman, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 1953, at the request of Mr. Gardner, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1953, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to extend the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to include the setting of reference prices for aluminum premiums, and for other purposes.

S. 2024, at the request of Mr. Cornyn, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) were added as cosponsors of S. 2024, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the American History for Freedom grant program.

S. 2026, at the request of Mr. Leahy, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 2061, at the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 and title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the HUD–VASH program, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit annual reports to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives regarding homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2103, at the request of Mr. Durbin, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Jones) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2185, at the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to provide labor stand-

ards for certain energy jobs, and for other purposes.

S. 2237, at the request of Mrs. Feinstein, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2237, a bill to authorize the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil monetary penalties to deter violations of section 2 of the Sherman Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Markey, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2237, supra.

S. 2240, at the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State fund for Indian tribe grants for community colleges and grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2257, at the request of Mr. Durbin, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2257, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2260, at the request of Mr. Sullivan, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) were added as cosponsors of S. 2260, a bill to provide for the improvement of domestic infrastructure in order to prevent marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2266, at the request of Mr. Wicker, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2306, a bill to intensify stem cell research showing evidence of substantial clinical benefit to patients, and for other purposes.

S. J. RES. 59, at the request of Mr. Schumer, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 50, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, relating to “Contributions in Exchange for State or Local Tax Credits”.

S. RES. 252, at the request of Mr. Graham, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, 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. 274

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. RES. 277

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 277, a resolution remembering the 25th Anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the 85 victims of the attacks.

S. RES. 285

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Res. 285, a resolution designating September 2019 as ‘‘School Bus Safety Month’’.

S. RES. 289

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Res. 289, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that socialism poses a significant threat to freedom, liberty, and economic prosperity.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2349. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to eliminate the common carrier exemption for telecommunication companies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the introduction of the Protection from Robocalling Act of 2019. This bill would address the problem of illegal robocalls and spam calls. I thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUMENTHAL for cosponsoring this legislation.

Last year, I introduced this legislation to address the nuisance of illegal robocalling.

Since then, these calls have become even more prevalent. For example, last month alone, an estimated 4.7 billion robocalls were placed in the United States—nearly one billion more than the year prior. That amounts to 153 million calls per day, or nearly 2,000 robocalls placed each second. Some of these calls are organized scams.

In one case, one robocall company called people offering to help lower their credit card interest rates. Instead, it tricked them into giving up sensitive personal information, including their Social Security numbers.

Another company dialed millions of phone numbers on the Do Not Call registry trying to find new customers for a timeshare. It was contacting a single number more than 1,000 times in the same year. Robocall companies are also engaged in credit card and loan scams.

What’s worse, robocalling is now endangering the health and safety of Americans by tying up emergency service lines. Tufts Medical Center in Boston received more than 4,500 illegal robocalls in the span of two hours last April. Each time the medical staff had to answer one of those robocalls could have been an instance when someone who needed life-saving help was unable to get through to a medical professional.

One reason the problem is increasing is because the cost of making and deploying these calls is decreasing. Advances in software make it possible for one person to send out thousands of identical prerecorded messages every second, more quickly and more cheaply than employing armies of human telemarketing agents.

In addition, technology is making it even easier for illegal robocallers to hide their true identity and location. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology enables robocallers to launch their call campaigns from anywhere in the world. And new technology allows illegal robocallers to disguise where they are actually calling from. This technique, known as ‘‘spoofing,’’ tricks consumers into thinking they are receiving a local call.

The Federal Trade Commission now receives nearly 10,000 robocall complaints every day. With its broad consumer protection authority, the Commission has the power and the will to stop illegal robocalling. But due to an historic exemption, the Commission has no enforcement authority over telecoms.

When the FTC Act was enacted in 1914, this exemption was put in place because telecoms were monopolies and subject to heavy regulation so FTC enforcement was not needed. In the decades that followed, that regulatory oversight was rolled back, while the exemption remained in place. This created an uneven playing field. A set of federal rules and regulations protecting consumers applied to most industries, but not all.

We must give the Commission the authority they need to pursue complete relief for American consumers. The Protection from Robocalling Act of 2019 removes telecoms from the common carrier exemption in the law. By eliminating this special exemption, telecoms will now have to abide by the same rules that other firms in industries such as privacy and advertising that apply to other sectors already subject to the FTC’s jurisdiction.

It’s a matter of fairness, as well as common sense. There’s no reason that consumer data held by a broadband service should have more protection under the law than the same data held by their wireless service.

Robocalls are a problem for everyone when it comes to illegal robocalling. It is a problem that is only going to get worse. And we can’t expect our law enforcement agencies to keep up with today’s technologies if their hands are tied.

We need to be smarter about how we approach this problem. Going after the robocallers and installing call blocking technology on phones is fine; but we need to strike at the systems that they use to perpetrate their scams if we want to see a real difference.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation that will help consumers fight back against illegal robocalling.

I yield the floor.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2360. A bill to establish an Office of Emerging Markets within the Small Business Administration that will stimulate the development of small business concerns in emerging markets, including those owned by women, minorities, veterans, and those located in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Unlocking Opportunities in Emerging Markets Act, which establishes an Office of Emerging Markets (OEM) within the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Office of Capital Access to ensure that SBA’s access to capital initiatives address the specific needs of entrepreneurs in underserved domestic emerging markets.

Capital is the lifeblood of small businesses, but for women, minorities, veterans and other underserved entrepreneurs, access to capital remains the key roadblock to owning and operating a successful business.

The challenges that underserved entrepreneurs face are historic and pervasive with minority and women entrepreneurs, for example, having less wealth from which to fund new businesses.

Black families have $17,150 in wealth and Hispanic families have $20,720 in wealth, while White families have $171,000 in wealth. Similarly, women have $3 in wealth for every $10 men have.

These historical barriers are compounded by systemic inequality in the capital markets. Minority-owned businesses are two to three times more likely to be denied credit; more likely to avoid applying for loans, based on the belief that they will be turned down; and more likely to receive smaller loans and pay higher interest rates on those that they do receive. Rural businesses owners often face an uphill battle to secure funding for their startups. And women are significantly
less likely than men to be approved for a business loan and are more likely to experience funding gaps.

SBA was created to solve these very problems, but instead of being a solution, lending patterns in the agency’s largest loan programs mirror the trends. During Fiscal Year 2018, only 4.5 percent of all loans approved by SBA’s highest volume loan program - 7(a) - went to Black entrepreneurs. Another 8.5 percent went to Hispanic entrepreneurs, while 59 percent went to white borrowers.

Despite these challenges, SBA does not have the coordinated effort required to address them. In multiple hearings in the Small Business Committee, SBA has not been able to explain how they are addressing these urgent issues. By creating OEM, and empowering a Senior Executive Service level director to lead the office, we in Congress can ensure that SBA is giving the problems that underserved entrepreneurs face the attention and resources they deserve.

Eliminating disparities in the capital markets for underserved business owners is not just the right thing to do, it will spur growth in the American economy.

In the years since the Great Recession, minority-owned small businesses have been driving the growth of small business formation in spite of the significant headwinds they face. Just imagine what they could do if SBA was laser-focused on removing some of those headwinds. SBA has helped level the playing field for underserved communities in government contracting, and entrepreneurial development, but access to capital is the only major area where there is no office specific to the needs of underserved communities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical piece of legislation, so SBA can begin making the concerted effort required to help more underserved entrepreneurs overcome barriers, start successful businesses, and create jobs.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 2361. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase lending to underserved borrowers through the largest loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Closing the Credit Gap Act to make the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Community Advantage program permanent.

SBA’s Community Advantage program was created in 2011 to provide capital and support to small businesses that have been historically underserved by SBA’s highest volume loan program, 7(a).

Community Advantage allows non-profit mission lenders like SBA micro-lender Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) and SBA 504 lenders to make 7(a) loans of up to $250,000 to small businesses.

The program has shown year after year that it is more capable of getting capital into the hands of minority, women and veteran entrepreneurs than the 7(a) program. During Fiscal Year 2018, the most recent year for which data is available, only 4.5 percent of 7(a) approvals went to Black business owners compared to 12 percent of Community Advantage approvals; 9 percent of 7(a) approvals went to Hispanic borrowers compared to 17 percent in Community Advantage program; women-owned businesses received only 18 percent of 7(a) approvals while receiving 30 percent of all Community Advantage approvals; and veterans, who only received 4 percent of 7(a) approvals, received 10 percent of approvals in the Community Advantage program.

Capital is the lifeblood of small businesses, so for many women, minority, veteran and other underserved entrepreneurs being able to access it is a lifeline, because the program fills a gap in traditional credit markets.

Minority-owned businesses are two to three times more likely to be denied credit; more likely to avoid applying for a business loan because they think they will be turned down; and more likely to receive smaller loans and pay higher interest rates on the loans that they do receive. Rural businesses owners often face particular challenges in securing funding for their startups. And women are significantly less likely than men to be approved for a business loan and are more likely to experience funding gaps.

My bill will make this vital program permanent, and allow SBA to lift the cap up to $350,000 from $250,000 to help borrowers in more expensive regions and industries, as well as victims of abusive loan products.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2390. A bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record. There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2390. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OF DEATH SENTENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person may be sentenced to death under any statute of a State after the date of enactment of this Act for any violation of Federal law.

(b) PERSONS SENTENCED BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person sentenced to death before the date of enactment of this Act for any violation of Federal law shall be resented.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

By Mr. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

By Mr. SCHWARTZ:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

By Mr. S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

By Mr. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

By Mr. SCHWARTZ:

S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

By Mr. S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. S. 2400. A bill to promote cannabis research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
SECTION 310B. SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES ON CANNABIS USE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, shall carry out surveillance activities to collect data on cannabis use—

(1) at least 1 individual employed by the applicant—

(i) that is registered under section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act to conduct research described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) that is an active participant in the cannabis research activities of the applicant;

(b) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary may collect, as appropriate, with respect to cannabis use—

(A) data on—

(i) health outcomes, including biological data;

(ii) health care utilization, which shall include hospitalizations and utilization of emergency departments related to consumption of cannabis and cannabis-related disorders; and

(iii) demographic factors associated with cannabis use;

(iv) the variety of products and delivery modes used; and

(v) other relevant health information to improve the understanding of cannabis use in all age groups and subpopulations; and

(B) data through public health surveillance systems, surveys, questionnaires, and databases of health care records, including, as appropriate, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System, the Monitoring the Future health survey, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, or the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (or any successor surveys).

(2) PRIVACY.—Any data collected under paragraph (1) shall be collected in manner that protects personal privacy to the extent, at a minimum, that is required under applicable Federal and State law.

SEC. 3. RESCHEDULING OF MARIJUANA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 221(c) of schedule I of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (10).

(b) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph III of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(1) Marihuana."

SEC. 409L. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CANABIS RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out surveillance activities to conduct research with controlled substances under section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act, denied, revoked, or suspended, registration shall be required for the applicant:

(i) that is registered under section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act to conduct research described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) that is an active participant in the cannabis research activities of the applicant;

(b) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary may collect data on cannabis use—

(A) that is registered under section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act to conduct research described in subparagraph (A); and

(B) that is an active participant in the cannabis research activities of the applicant;

(2) PRIVACY.—Any data collected under paragraph (1) shall be collected in manner that protects personal privacy to the extent, at a minimum, that is required under applicable Federal and State law.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2140. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify the requirements for permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, in my maiden floor speech on May 9, I spoke on behalf of thousands of Mississippians suffering from consecutive months of catastrophic flooding in the South Mississippi Delta.

Today I rise again to speak on behalf of thousands of Mississippians who are still suffering from catastrophic flooding, which started in January and continues to disrupt the lives of residents in the Mississippi Delta and my State overall.

Floodwaters must recede before damages can be fully assessed, but we already know that more than 600 households have suffered severe damage, nearly 300 families are still displaced and since February, and agricultural losses will likely exceed $300 million. Much of the necessary infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and drainage culverts are beyond repair.

In June, Latasha Taylor—13 weeks pregnant—and Darron Wilson died when their car lost control and sank into the floodwaters. Something must be done.
My colleagues might ask: How could an area more than 11 times the size of Washington, DC, remain underwater for nearly 7 months? How could floodwaters swamp more than half a million acres of homes, businesses, highways, forests, and farmlands spanning six Mississippi counties for so long?

The answer is quite simple. Similar to New Orleans, a complex system of levees and floodgates constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers protected the roughly 1,446-square-mile Yazoo Backwater area in West Central Mississippi. This levee system protects the areas when the Mississippi River is high, and the floodgates are closed. However, these same protections become the problem when the river is high, floodgates are closed, and excessive rainfall occurs. The interior creeks and rivers have no way to drain, and the result is a bathtub-like effect.

Unlike New Orleans and numerous Federal flood control projects up and down the Mississippi River, there is no mechanism to remove the trapped water from the Yazoo Backwater area. Aside from evaporation, pumping is the only viable option for removing vast amounts of water that have no place to go.

This year, the Mississippi River remained above flood stage longer than anytime in recorded history. The floodgates to prevent the Mississippi River from backing up into the Yazoo Backwater area swelled in January. Above-average rainfall occurred in the months thereafter, and here we are today with a disaster on our hands.

For nearly 7 months, more than a half million acres of land—866-square-mile area—has been underwater. Little attention outside of Mississippi was paid to the lives lost, the destroyed homes, or the displaced families.

Roughly, 225,000 acres of agricultural crops have been destroyed or will go unplanted this year. Hundreds of thousands of acres of Timberland ruined. Whitetail deer, black bear, turkey, and other wildlife are starving to death and spreading the disease, as you can see from these pictures. Wetlands have become lakes. Stagnant, contaminated water continues to threaten human and environmental health. The list goes on.

Paul Hartfield, an endangered species biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said: "This is biblical proportion. Nothing like this has ever been seen."

While he is correct in that the current situation in the South Mississippi Delta is a complete disaster—the worst backwater flood since 1973—devastating flooding in this area has become almost an annual occurrence.

This year marks the 10th time the Yazoo Backwater area has flooded since 2008, each time causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. The area residents cannot sustain this, and they certainly do not deserve this.

According to U.S. census data, roughly 35 percent of the residents of the six-county area live in poverty. The median household income is $31,187 per year below the national average. This perpetual flooding plagues agriculture production, which has damaged the primary economic mainstay in this region and increased unemployment. I fear what the 2020 census will reveal.

In a 1982 environmental impact statement, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stated the following:

Floods in the Yazoo Area are historic and will continue unless steps are not constructed to complete the flood control system for the area. The flooding will continue to damage crops, homes, roads, and other improvements in the area.

In a 2007 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the Corps stated the following:

The no-action alternative would not eliminate any of the flood damages the area has historically experienced. Existing Yazoo Backwater flood duration and frequency would continue to adversely affect residential and nonresidential flood damages. Flood damages would also have adverse impacts on the standard of living for residents, interrupting daily practices and travel to work, school, and church.

The Corps of Engineers was accurate in its predictions. Mississippians are living these predictions out in real life, and they have for years. It is time for the people of Mississippi to receive the level of flood protection promised to them by the Federal Government in 1941. It is time for the Corps of Engineers to complete the last remaining unconstructed feature of a 77-year flood control effort—the Yazoo Backwater pumps.

The people of Mississippi are beyond ready to see this crisis resolved. They are, frankly, extremely frustrated with the Federal Government. More than 17,000 people have signed a petition to remove an Environmental Protection Agency 2008 regulatory veto preventing construction of the pumps. Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and many other State leaders and organizations have been overwhelmingly in their support and advocacy for the pumps.

I am grateful for this administration’s responsiveness to Mississippi’s perpetual flood problems and needs, and I will continue to work with the administration, relevant Federal Government agencies and departments to see this through.

As I continue working to provide greater predictability and regulatory certainty for Mississippians and the American public, I am committed in my capacity as a U.S. Senator to proposing commonsense reforms to the laws governing the regulation of our Nation’s waters and permitting processes.

For this reason, I, along with the senior Senator from Mississippi, have introduced the Flood Reduction, Wildlife and Water Quality Improvement Act of 2019. This legislation seeks to make commonsense reforms to section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Our bill mirrors the directives outlined in Executive Order No. 13807 issued by President Donald Trump on August 24, 2017, and would establish greater discipline and accountability in the environmental review and permitting process for infrastructure projects.

More specifically, it would prohibit EPA from vetoing a Corps of Engineers flood control project specifically authorized by Congress. This is a basic constitutional principle of separation of powers. Further, it would immediately nullify any prior veto determinations made by EPA if said actions had resulted in severe flooding and damage to life and property.

In closing, the arguments I have heard in opposition to this project are not valid. Pumps will save lives, property, local infrastructure, wildlife, and the environment. As we are here going about our daily lives, enjoying the comfort of our home we will return to today after work, these Mississippians are just trying to get through the next 30 minutes to keep their sanity and emotions intact. The real-life experiences Mississippians have endured over time tell the true story.

It is time for the Federal Government to make good on its promises. It is time to construct the pumps.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I congratulate the junior Senator from Mississippi, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I thank her for her leadership. She took the lead on this legislation, and I am delighted and honored to join her in this regard.

If Americans could take a moment, a few hours, to come to the South Delta of Mississippi and see for themselves what Senator HYDE-SMITH is talking about, they would understand the gravity of this situation.

She mentioned 7 months. If you are there today, you see dead wildlife floating on the floodwaters. You see coffins that had been buried that are floating on the surface of the floodwater in this area. There is no prospect of an income this year on these small farms and no prospect of a crop this year from some of the most fertile land in the United States has been blessed with.

The tragedy of this is that it is entirely preventable. The prevention involves a promise that was made, as the Senator from Mississippi, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, I thank her for her leadership. She took the lead in 2008 in a 2007 when this country and this Congress collectively adopted the Mississippi River and Tributaries System. That system included, up and down the river, a series of levees and flood-control structures. It also included a series of pumps. We are the only State that still, after this entire time, doesn’t have our pump that has been promised to us.

There have been environmental challenges along the way—unsubstantiated, I might add. As a matter of fact, the environment is harmed, wildlife is harmed when a flood of this magnitude comes into the area, as graphically
Whereas the members of the airborne forces of the United States have a long and honorable history as bold and fierce warriors who, for the nation's security and the defense of freedom and peace, project the ground combat power of the United States by air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and most distant corners of the world; whereas, on June 25, 1940, experiments with airborne operations by the United States began when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War; whereas, in July 1940, 48 volunteers began training for the Army Parachute Test Platoon; whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump, which took place on August 16, 1940, to test the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by means of a parachute; whereas the success of the Army Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately before the entry of the United States into World War II validated the airborne operational concept and led to the creation of a formidable force that included the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions; whereas, included in those divisions, and among other separate formations, were many airborne combat, combat support, and combat service support units that served with distinction and achieved repeated success in armed hostilities during World War II; whereas the achievements of the airborne units during World War II prompted the evolution of those units into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo; whereas, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the members of the United States airborne forces, including members of the Army corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 101st Airborne Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special operations forces of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, and other units of the Armed Forces, have demonstrated bravery and honor in combat, stability, and training operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; whereas the modern-day airborne forces also include other elite forces composed of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, Air Force combat control and pararescue teams; whereas, of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, dozens have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, or other recognitions and awards for displays of heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor; whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are all members of a proud and honorable tradition that, together with the special skills and achievements of those members, distinguishes the United States paratroopers, air assault forces, special operation forces, and, in the past, glider troops; whereas individuals from every State of the United States have served gallantly in the airborne forces, and each State is proud of the contributions of its paratrooper veterans during the many conflicts faced by the United States; whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the United States airborne warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the people of the United States; and whereas, since the airborne forces, past and present, celebrate August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 is an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates August 16, 2019, as “National Airborne Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 295—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to—

S. RES. 295

Whereas campus-related housing fires at colleges in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and other States have tragically cut short the lives of several young people; whereas, since January 2000, at least 175 people, including students, parents, and children, have died in campus fires; whereas approximately 87 percent of those deaths occurred in off-campus occupancies; whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus occupancies; whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the occupants had compromised or deactivated the fire safety systems; whereas automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire threat and are necessary for occupants of a building and the fire department to take appropriate action; whereas an automatic fire sprinkler system is a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building occupants; whereas many college students live in an off-campus occupancy, fraternity or sorority house, or residence hall that is not adequately protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system and an automatic fire alarm system or adequate smoke alarm; whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and the resulting loss of life and property damage; whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education while in college; whereas educating young people in the United States about the importance of fire safety is vital to help ensure that young people engage in fire-safe behavior during college and after college; and whereas developing a generation of adults who practice fire safety may significantly reduce future loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates the month of September 2019 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.
leadership in adjusting the team’s starting lineup as the tournament progressed in order to promote teamwork and capitalize on the talents of each player;

Whereas the USWNT was bolstered by historic attacking prowess, setting all-time records for goals scored in a single game and throughout the entire Women’s World Cup, as well as a strong defensive record, conceding only 3 goals over 7 games;

Whereas every participant in the Women’s World Cup from nations all over the world showed the extraordinary quality and spirit of women’s soccer, and will serve as an inspiration to not only women and girls, but to all people as the world’s best teams compete;

Whereas for decades the USWNT has been leading the fight to grow and promote women’s soccer;

Whereas the USWNT is leading the fight for equal pay for female athletes; and

Whereas dedicated fans and citizens across the United States showed their unmitigated support for the team as they competed in France: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the USWNT for winning the 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup through spectacular skill, teamwork, and determination;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all of the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the success of the USWNT;

(3) stands in solidarity with the women of the USWNT as they fight for equal pay; and

(4) celebrates the contributions of the millions of fans across the United States, and the world, who cheered the USWNT to victory, and made the players the best supported team in the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 297—COMMEMORATING THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (IAF) ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR ITS SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. KAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Whereas on July 7, 2019, in Lyon, France, the United States Women’s National Soccer Team (referred to in this preamble as the “USWNT”) won the 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup (referred to in this preamble as the “Women’s World Cup”);

Whereas the Women’s World Cup the USWNT finished first in its group before eliminating teams representing Spain, France, and England in the knockout stages to reach the final;

Whereas the USWNT secured a decisive 2–0 victory over the Netherlands in the final, winning the Women’s World Cup championship for the first time in a row and becoming the first team to win the Women’s World Cup 4 times; Whereas the USWNT scored the first goal in every match it played during the Women’s World Cup;

Whereas, in the final match against the Netherlands, Megan Rapinoe scored in the 61st minute and Rose Lavelle scored in the 69th minute;

Whereas Crystal Dunn, Alyssa Naeher, and other members of the defensive line played key roles in preventing the Netherlands from scoring against the United States;

Whereas 23 players on the roster should be congratulated, including captains Carl Lloyd, Alex Morgan, and Megan Rapinoe, as well as Morgan Brian, Abby Dahlkemper, Tierna Davidson, Crystal Dunn, Julie Ertz, Adrianna Franch, Ashlyn Harris, Tobin Heath, Lindsey Horan, Allie Krieger, Rose Lavelle, Jessica McDonald, Samantha Mewis, Alyssa Naeher, Kelley O’Hara, Christen Press, Mallory Pugh, Becky Sauerbrunn, and Emily Sonnett;

Whereas Jill Ellis, the first coach to win consecutive FIFA Women’s World Cup titles, displayed extraordinary talent, to seek through gainful and productive work the fulfillment of their aspirations for a better life, and to live in justice and peace;"
SENATE RESOLUTION 298—CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE UNITED STATES FROM THE INF TREATY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAUM, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TOSS, Mr. ROITCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) in accordance with all powers delegated and implied to Congress, concurs with the decision to withdraw the United States from the INF Treaty; and

(2) declares that—

(A) the United States is free and exonerated from the stipulations of the INF Treaty; and

(B) the treaty shall not be regarded as legally obligatory on the Government or citizens of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 299—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST 2019 AS “WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK” AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 2019 AS “NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH”

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of August 2019 as “World Breastfeeding Week”; and

(2) designates August 2019 as “National Breastfeeding Month”; and

(3) supports policies and funding to ensure that all mothers who choose to breastfeed can access a full range of appropriate support from child care and health care institutions, health care providers, employers, insurers, employers, and government entities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 300—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICHI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, MR. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. LEMENTHAL, Ms. HASSELBERG, Ms. SHARINGAN, Ms. CUMMINGS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) in accordance with all powers delegated and implied to Congress, concurs with the decision to withdraw to the other Party six months prior to withdrawal from this Treaty; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas, in 2017, the life expectancy for the United States population declined for the third year in a row, and some of the leading causes of death are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems; and

Whereas there is a significant difference in the health status of people living in the healthiest States compared to people living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic disease, and the prevalence of infectious disease; and

Whereas, despite significant progress in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017, the number of infant deaths in the United States greatly varies among States; and

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related deaths in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries, and an estimated 60 percent of maternal deaths are preventable; and

Whereas poisoning, including drug overdose, has become the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with the number of drug overdoses more than tripling between 1999 and 2016; and

Whereas, on average, 130 people in the United States die every day from an opioid overdose; and

Whereas the smoking of cigarettes is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke; and

Whereas the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes has decreased from 20.9 percent of the population in 2005 to 14 percent of the population in 2017; and

Whereas, according to data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, between 2017 and 2018, current electronic cigarette use by students in the United States increased by 78 percent among high school students and by 48 percent among middle school students; and

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate the public, policymakers, and public health professionals on issues that are important to

Whereas, in 2014, the United States Government has found that the Russian Federation has failed to be in violation of the limitations in the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, together with the Memorandum of Understanding and Two Protocols, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the “INF Treaty”);

Whereas, per Article XV of the INF Treaty, “Each Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this Treaty, which, in the opinion of its supreme interests, shall give notice of its decision to withdraw to the other Party six months prior to withdrawal from this Treaty.”;

Whereas, on February 2, 2019, the United States notified the Russian Federation of its intent to withdraw from the INF Treaty; and

Whereas the period of six month notice, required by Article XV of the INF Treaty, will close on August 2, 2019; and

Whereas, during the six month notice period, the Russian Federation made no attempt to return to compliance with the terms of the INF Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) in accordance with all powers delegated and implied to Congress, concurs with the decision to withdraw the United States from the INF Treaty; and

(2) declares that—

(A) the United States is free and exonerated from the stipulations of the INF Treaty; and

(B) the treaty shall not be regarded as legally obligatory on the Government or citizens of the United States.

Whereas the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action has designated the first week of August as “World Breastfeeding Week”, and the United States Breastfeeding Committee has designated August as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

Whereas National Breastfeeding Month focuses on how data and measurement can be used to build and reinforce the connections between breastfeeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics and initiatives;

Whereas World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month provide important opportunities to address barriers to breastfeeding faced by families across the United States and around the world;

Whereas, according to the 2016 Breastfeeding Report Card of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 81.1 percent of mothers in the United States, or about 4 out of every 5 mothers in the United States, start breastfeeding their babies at the birth of their baby;

Whereas by the end of 6 months after the birth of a baby, breastfeeding rates for mothers in the United States are 51 percent, and only 22.3 percent of babies in the United States are exclusively breastfed at 6 months of age;

Whereas 2 of every 3 mothers report that they are unable to reach their personal breastfeeding goals;

Whereas there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding initiation and duration;

Whereas, in 2014, 85.7 percent of non-Hispanic White infants were breastfed, as compared to—

(1) 68.0 percent of non-Hispanic Black infants; and

(2) 79.5 percent of non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native infants;

Whereas the Healthy People 2020 objectives for breastfeeding are that—

(1) 82 percent of babies are breastfed at some time;

(2) 61 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 6 months; and

(3) 31 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 1 year;

Whereas breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness;

Whereas the evidence of the value of breastfeeding to the health of women and children is well supported, and continually reaffirmed by new research;

Whereas a 2016 study of maternal and pediatric health outcomes and associated costs based on 2012 breastfeeding rates indicates that if 90 percent of infants were breastfed according to medical recommendations, 3,340 deaths, $3,000,000,000 in medical costs, and $14,200,000,000 in costs relating to premature death would be prevented annually; and

Whereas the great majority of pregnant women and new mothers want to breastfeed but face significant barriers in their community, health care, and employment settings; and

Whereas a 2016 study found that universal breastfeeding—

(1) could prevent 800,000 child deaths per year across the world; and

(2) is an invaluable tool for mothers to provide essential nutrients to protect newborns against infectious diseases in developing countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of August 2019 as “World Breastfeeding Week”;

(2) designates August 2019 as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

(3) supports the goals of World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month; and

(4) supports policies and funding to ensure that all mothers who choose to breastfeed can access a full range of appropriate support from child care and health care institutions, health care providers, employers, insurers, employers, and government entities.

WHEREAS, breastfeeding—

(A) is an invaluable tool for mothers to provide essential nutrients to protect newborns against infectious diseases in developing countries; and

(B) the treaty shall not be regarded as legally obligatory on the Government or citizens of the United States.

(1) 82 percent of babies are breastfed at some time;

(2) 61 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 6 months; and

(3) 31 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 1 year;

Whereas breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness;

Whereas the evidence of the value of breastfeeding to the health of women and children is well supported, and continually reaffirmed by new research;

Whereas a 2016 study of maternal and pediatric health outcomes and associated costs based on 2012 breastfeeding rates indicates that if 90 percent of infants were breastfed according to medical recommendations, 3,340 deaths, $3,000,000,000 in medical costs, and $14,200,000,000 in costs relating to premature death would be prevented annually; and

Whereas the great majority of pregnant women and new mothers want to breastfeed but face significant barriers in their community, health care, and employment settings; and

Whereas a 2016 study found that universal breastfeeding—

(1) could prevent 800,000 child deaths per year across the world; and

(2) is an invaluable tool for mothers to provide essential nutrients to protect newborns against infectious diseases in developing countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of August 2019 as “World Breastfeeding Week”;

(2) designates August 2019 as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

(3) supports the goals of World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month; and

(4) supports policies and funding to ensure that all mothers who choose to breastfeed can access a full range of appropriate support from child care and health care institutions, health care providers, employers, insurers, employers, and government entities.
improving the health of the people of the United States;
Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs; and
Whereas vaccination is 1 of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in:
(1) the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and
(2) the amount of health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; whereas each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to:
(1) a 2 percent decrease in infant deaths; (2) a 3.2 percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease; and (3) a 4.1 percent decrease in cancer-related deaths;
Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including—
(1) disease outbreaks, such as the Zika virus and measles; (2) natural disasters; and (3) disasters caused by human activity;
Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners that are not in the health sector, such as city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors have an important influence on health;
Whereas, in communities across the United States, people are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, becoming more physically active, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and
Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;
(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals and Federal Governmental, Tribal, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;
(3) recognizes the role of public health in improving the health of individuals in the United States;
(4) encourages increased efforts and resources to improve the health of people in the United States and make the United States, in 1 generation, the healthiest nation in the world—
(A) by providing greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and
(B) by strengthening the public health system in the United States; and
(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 301—HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THE INDIANA RANGERS
Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

SENATE RESOLUTION 302—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS "NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH" TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES
Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. CORTÉZ MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to: S. RES. 302

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;
Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and benefit the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;
Whereas raising awareness of, and increasing support for, organizations that provide access to health care services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;
Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase focus on children and youth throughout the United States;
Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight, and be mindful of, the needs of children and youth;
Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth;
Whereas designating September 2019 as "National Child Awareness Month" would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2019 as "National Child Awareness Month":
(1) to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States;
(2) to recognize the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; and
(3) to recognize the importance of meeting the needs of at-risk children and youth, including children and youth who—
(A) have experienced homelessness;
(B) are in the foster care system;
(C) have been victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of child sex trafficking;
(D) have been impacted by violence;
(E) have experienced trauma; and
(F) have serious physical and mental health needs.

SENATE, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23—HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE FUGHT DURING WORLD WAR II, RECOGNIZING THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF THE ALLIED FORCES IN DECEMBER 1944 AND REMEMBERING THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, ALL OF WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE ALLIED VICTORY IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER
Mr. CRAKER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. RISCH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. JONES, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Whereas the Battle of the Bulge was the last major German offensive in Western Europe during World War II, designed to split
the Allied Forces, regain the initiative in the West, and pressure the Allies to seek a negotiated peace;

Whereas, in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg, more than 650,000 troops from the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, and other Allied Forces defeated Germany in the Battle of the Bulge, which began December 16, 1944, and ended January 25, 1945;

Whereas the Battle of the Bulge resulted in over 89,000 United States casualties, including 19,000 soldiers killed, 47,500 wounded, and more than 23,000 captured or missing-in-action;

Whereas the Allied Forces overcame formidable obstacles that included being greatly outnumbered by the German Army, harsh weather conditions, and the treacherous and unknown terrain of the Ardennes forest region of Belgium;

Whereas on December 17, 1944, during one of the worst atrocities of the war in Europe, the 94th Infantry Division, an arm of African American soldiers of war were shot by troops of the 1st SS Panzer Division;

Whereas 11 African American soldiers of the 332nd Field Artillery Battalion were massacred near Wever, Belgium, and were identified as James Stewart of West Virginia, Due Turner of Arkansas, Curtis Adams of South Carolina, Mager Bradley of Mississippi, George Davis, Jr. of Alabama, Thomas Moten of Texas, Robert Green of Georgia, James Leatherwood of Mississippi, Nathaniel Moss of Texas, George Moten of Texas, and William Pritchett of Alabama;

Whereas the impressive leadership of Lieutenant General George S. Patton of the Third Army accelerated the success of the Allied Forces during the Battle of the Bulge;

Whereas, although Belgium lost more than 74,000 civilians during the war, in addition to many more having suffered through other atrocities that come with war, the people of Belgium persevered through the difficult period of World War II and rebuilt with the hope that they could after the war ended;

Whereas the success of the Allied Forces in beating back the German attack in the Battle of the Bulge did possibly the final defeat and surrender of Nazi Germany in May 1945;

Whereas the citizens of Belgium and Luxembourg have generously hosted thousands of United Nations and kept the memory of the Battle of the Bulge alive through numerous memorials and museums, including the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial, the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial, the Luxembourg American Cemetery, the Battle of the Ardennes Museum, the Bastogne War Museum, and the Bastogne December Historic Walk; and

Whereas on December 15, 1945, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate—

(1) commemorates, on December 16, 2019, the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge;

(2) recognizes the valiant efforts of the various Allied Forces; and

(3) remembers the individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice, which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following concurrent resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 24

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service was founded on August 8, 1965, and has worked in partnership to reduce food insecurity and promote nutritious diets among the people of the United States;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service partners with local governments, Tribal organizations, school systems, non-profit organizations, private sector companies, and faith-based organizations;

(1) to address hunger, poverty, and nutrition; and

(2) to provide support to over 36,000,000 people in the United States who live in households that face hunger on a daily basis;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that reduce the agricultural surplus of the United States to ensure that children, seniors, and low-income individuals and families have access to nutritious food;

Whereas on December 17, 1945, during one of the most significant battles of World War II, the Food and Nutrition Service reach 1 in 4 people in the United States each year;

Whereas it is the mission of Food and Nutrition Service to increase food security and reduce hunger while maintaining the integrity and efficiency of programs that provide nutrition assistance to the people of the United States when those people are in need; and

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Service co-deploys with State and local governments, Tribal nations, and other nonprofit American organizations, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of Federal nutrition policy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the valuable historic and continuing contributions of Food and Nutrition Service and the employees of the Food and Nutrition Service to the nutrition, health, and well-being of the people of the United States;

(2) commends the partnership efforts of States, territories, local governments, Tribal nations, and other nonprofit charitable organizations, private sector companies, and community-based organizations to end hunger and provide nutritious food to the people of the United States;

(3) encourages continued efforts—

(A) to educate the people of the United States on the importance of eating nutritious; and

(B) to provide nutrition assistance to all people of the United States when those people are in need;

(4) recognizes that the Food and Nutrition Service uses the bounty of the farmers and ranchers of the United States to reduce food insecurity; and

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to—

(A) ending hunger in the United States; and

(B) continuing to lead the world in ending hunger worldwide.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 933. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. VAN HOLLEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2052, to authorize the honorary promotion of Colonel Charles E. McGee to brigadier general in the United States Air Force.

SA 934. Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. LEI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a concurrent budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 933. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. VAN HOLLEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2052, to

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS.

No person is entitled to any bonus, gratuity, pay, or allowance by reason of section 1.

SA 934. Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. LEI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a concurrent budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS.

(2) the term "amount of the increase in the debt limit" means—

(A) the dollar amount of the increase in the debt limit specified in the Act increasing the debt limit; or

(B) in the case of a suspension of the debt limit, the amount by which the Secretary of the Treasury estimates the debt limit shall be increased at the end of the period of the suspension, which the Secretary shall submit to Congress on the date of enactment of such an Act, or in the case of section 301(b) of title 31, United States Code;

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON DEBT GROWTH.

(2) the term "direct cost of Federal regulations" means all costs incurred by, and expenditures required of, the Federal Government in issuing and enforcing Federal regulations, rules, statements, and legislation; and

(4) the term "joint resolution" means a joint resolution—

(A) reported by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate or the House of Representatives in accordance with subsection (b) of section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code;

(B) which does not have a preamble;

(C) the title of which is as follows: "Joint resolution relating to repeal of costly rules"; and

(D) the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: "That the following rules shall have no force or effect:"

the blank space being filled in with the list of major rules recommended to be repealed under subsection (b) of the committee of the House in which the joint resolution is reported;

(6) the term "major rule" means any rule that has resulted in or is likely to result in—
(A) an annual effect on the economy of $100,000,000 or more;
(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions;
(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or other economic performance; or
(D) a rule that would impose a significant new burden on the States, local governments, or small entities.

(2) The Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, upon receiving recommendations from all relevant committees under paragraph (1), shall report to its House a joint resolution carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

(e) Expedited Procedures.—

(1) Consideration in House of Representatives.—

(A) Placement on Calendar.—Upon a joint resolution being reported by the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, or upon receipt of a joint resolution from the Senate, the joint resolution shall be placed immediately on the calendar.

(B) Proceeding to Consideration.—

(i) In General.—It shall be in order, not later than 60 days after the date on which the debt limit is increased or a suspension of the debt limit takes effect, to move to proceed to consider a joint resolution in the House of Representatives.

(ii) Implementation.—For a motion to proceed to consider a joint resolution—

(I) all points of order against the motion are waived;

(ii) such motion shall not be in order after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed to the joint resolution;

(iii) the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adopt without involving motion;

(iv) the motion shall not be debatable; and

(V) a motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(C) Consideration.—The House of Representatives shall establish rules for consideration of a joint resolution in the House of Representatives.

(2) Expedited Consideration in Senate.—

In the Senate—

(A) Placement on Calendar.—Upon a joint resolution being reported by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, or upon receipt of a joint resolution from the House of Representatives, the joint resolution shall be placed immediately on the calendar.

(B) Motion to Proceed.—

(i) Timeliness.—A motion to proceed to a joint resolution is in order at any time after the resolution is placed on the calendar.

(ii) Motion by any Senator.—Any Senator may move to proceed to a joint resolution.

(iii) Privilege.—A motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is privileged.

(iv) Application.—This clause shall apply only to a motion to proceed to a joint resolution reported by the Committee on the Budget under subsection (d) or to the first joint resolution placed on the calendar after passage in the House of Representatives.

(C) Debate.—Debate on a motion to proceed to a joint resolution is limited to not more than 10 hours, of which shall be divided equally between Senators favoring and Senators opposing the resolution.

(D) Motion Not Amendable.—The motion to proceed to a joint resolution is not amendable. A motion to reconsider is not in order. A motion to table is not in order.

(E) Other Motions Not in Order.—After a motion to proceed to a joint resolution is agreed to, motions to postpone or to consider other business are not in order.

(F) Motion to Amend.—All motions and appeals in connection with a joint resolution shall be disposed of by the Senate without debate.

(G) Floor Consideration Generally.—If the Senate proceeds to consideration of a joint resolution—

(i) all points of order against the joint resolution and against consideration of the joint resolution are irrebuttable; and

(ii) consideration of the joint resolution, and all amendments thereto and debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees;

(iii) a motion to postpone or a motion to commit the joint resolution is not in order; and

(iv) a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business is not in order.

(2) Limitation on Subsequent Rule-Making.—

(A) In General.—The rules of the Senate shall be in order only to the extent that they are consistent with such rules and

(B) With Full Recognition of the Constitutional Right of Either House to Change the Rules (So Far as Relating to the Procedure of That House) at Any Time, in the Same Manner, and to the Same Extent as in the Case of Any Other Rule of That House.

(f) Effect of Joint Resolution.—

(1) In General.—A major rule shall cease to have force or effect if Congress enacts a joint resolution repealing the major rule.

(2) Limitation on Subsequent Rule-Making.—A rule that ceases to have force or effect under paragraph (1) may not be reenacted substantially as a new rule that is substantially the same as such a rule may not be issued, unless the reissued or new rule is specifically authorized by law, enacted after the enactment of the joint resolution repealing the original rule.
The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate: the Committee on Armed Services.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate: the Committee on Armed Services.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Sharon K. Gibson, 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.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate: the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to my interns Christopher Brown, Finn Carnahan, Ayden Koval, Selma Matiashowski, Elizabeth Mears, Kaeli Peltola, Kali Spencer, Riley Vivlamore, Riley von Borstel, Nicholas Schok, and Clare Baldwin for today.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

U.S.C. 1754(d), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

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*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 925(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, July 11, 2019.
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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 501(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977. S. 3127.

Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 26, 2019.
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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

---

### Delegation Expenses: * 

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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.
### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued**

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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2019**

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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019**

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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22

**U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019**

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* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.
### Delegation Expenses:

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---

### Delegation Expenses:

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<th>Name and country</th>
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<th>Transportation</th>
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**S5268**

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

July 31, 2019

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22

U.S.C. 175q(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued
<table>
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<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>Foreign currency</th>
<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Foreign currency</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
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**Note**: The table above represents the consolidated report of expenditure of funds for foreign travel by members and employees of the U.S. Senate, under authority of Sec. 22, P.L. 95-384—22.
## Delegation Expenses: *  

### Roger Wicker  
- **Italy**  
  - Birr: 2,731,616.00  
  - Yen: 40,800.00  

### Lindsey Graham  
- **United States**  
  - Dollar: 4,278.33

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**Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.**

**Senator JAMES RISCH,**  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, July 26, 2019.
**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22**

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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22**

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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22**

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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22**

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**Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, July 25, 2019.**
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 376 and 399; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statement related to the nominations be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Mary P. O’Brien

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment to serve as the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve in the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 2212(b):

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (h) Eric C. Jones

Rear Adm. (h) Michael P. Ryan

The following named officer for appointment to serve as the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve in the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 3009(b):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Rear Adm. Todd C. Wiemers

CONFIRMED NOMINATIONS

The nominations confirmed are as follows:

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following nominated officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Mary P. O’Brien

IN THE ARMY

The following nominated officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ronald J. Place

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following nominated officer for appointment as Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, and appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine Corps Reserve while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 4084:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David G. Bellon

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN653 AIR FORCE nominations (196) beginning MARK C. ALDERMAN, and ending DENIEN Y. V. E. ZOZO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2019.

PN688 AIR FORCE nomination of Robert K. Rankin, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN869 AIR FORCE nomination of Judy A. Rattan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 18, 2019.

PN871 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning GAYLAN A. GRAY, and ending JOR-
PN916 ARMY nomination of Ernest M. Dorema, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN917 ARMY nomination of Simone M. Edwards, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN918 ARMY nomination of Luciano G. Mizerani, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN919 ARMY nomination of Rochelle S. Pressley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN920 ARMY nomination of Howard G. Rice, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN921 ARMY nomination of Virginia L. Egli, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN922 ARMY nomination of Darren K. Purcell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN923 ARMY nominations (317) beginning JOSEPH R. ADAMS, and ending LIANG ZHOU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN925 ARMY nominations (112) beginning JOSUE V. T. WHORTON, and ending CHRISTOPHER M. VOLKMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN926 ARMY nominations (132) beginning VINCENT L. ACKERMAN, and ending YU ZHENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN927 ARMY nominations (37) beginning RICARDO M. ABAKU, and ending YU ZHENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN928 ARMY nominations (56) beginning ALEXANDER ALDANA, and ending ROBERT J. WISHMEYER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN929 NAVY nominations (22) beginning TIMOTHY G. BOYLE, and ending DELICIA G. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN930 NAVY nominations (21) beginning AARON T. ALLISON, and ending KRISTIN B. WHITEHOUSE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN931 NAVY nominations (17) beginning RYAN B. BARENG, and ending TIMOTHY A. SPRINGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN932 NAVY nominations (61) beginning KEVIN L. ALBERT, and ending JAMES R. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN933 NAVY nominations (38) beginning ARTURO ALVARADO, JR., and ending ELIZABETH M. ZULOAGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2019.

PN934 NAVY nominations (81) beginning Vanessa L. Adams, and ending Michael L. Maloney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN935 NAVY nominations (117) beginning Allison Margaret Bartels, and ending YANG Q. ZHOU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN937 NAVY nominations (81) beginning Vanessa L. Adams, and ending Michael L. Maloney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN939 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (66) beginning Sonja Joy Andersen, and ending Sandra M. Zuniga Guzman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN940 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (81) beginning Vanessa L. Adams, and ending Michael L. Maloney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN941 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (117) beginning Allison Margaret Bartels, and ending YANG Q. ZHOU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the Sparse act of Legislative Council Nos. 408, 409, 410, and 412, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the motions be confirmed; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; the nominations be notified to the Senate; and that the Senate resume the legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE
The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career Members:

James J. Higgiston
Bobby G. Richey, Jr.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DISK
IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE
PN787–1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (25) beginning Uchenna Nnayelugo Agu, and ending Jaime Alber Zea Cifuentes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

PN788–1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (102) beginning Jennifer Ann Amos, and ending Michael L. Maloney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2019.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE
The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career Members:

Robert Mason

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE
The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Career Members:

Legislative Session
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the Resolutions. Mr. M CCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 300, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 300) supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week.

The question being on the resolution, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 300) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no interfering action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s Record under “Submitted Resolutions.”)
HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THE INDIANA RANGERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 301, submitted earlier today.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 301) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 24, submitted earlier today.

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

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 24, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution (H. Con. Res 24) was agreed to.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) was agreed to.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 776.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 776) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill (H.R. 776) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 302, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 302)-designating September 2019 as “National Child Awareness Month” to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States, and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res 302) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, August 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3877 under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 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 6:26 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, August 1, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANTHONY J. COTTON

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DANIEL L. KARBLER

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. COLIN J. KILRAIN

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named individual for appointment to the grade indicated in the regular air force under title 10, U.S.C., section 51:

CREATING ADVANCED STREAMLINED ELECTRONIC SERVICES FOR CONSTITUENTS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 127, H.R. 1079.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1079) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed 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. 1079) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.
The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be major

To be major

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel

To be colonel
CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate on July 31, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

KAREN J. IMMENGUT, OF OREGON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON, TO A VACANCY, AND TO SERVE IN THE GRADE OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE, UNDER TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.

JEFFREY V. BROWN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, TO A VACANCY, AND TO SERVE IN THE GRADE OF JUDGE, UNDER TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.

MARK T. PITTMAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, TO A VACANCY, AND TO SERVE IN THE GRADE OF JUDGE, UNDER TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.

JASON K. FILLIAM, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, TO A VACANCY, AND TO SERVE IN THE GRADE OF JUDGE, UNDER TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.

MARSHA MARISHA P. FORD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, TO A VACANCY, AND TO SERVE IN THE GRADE OF DISTRICT JUDGE, UNDER TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.

THE IN THE NAVY

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF M. LAMBERT, OF OHIO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF D. HESS, OF WYOMING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF A. GREGORY, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF S. DONNELLY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

FOSSY, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF T. JUIN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF J. HINES, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF A. RONALD, OF GEORGIA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF M. DAVIDSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF K. OTTOSON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF R. PRICE, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. SULLIVAN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. LANE, OF MONTANA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. RITCHIE, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. VANCE, OF MONTANA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. Bamba, OF CHICAGO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. LANDON, OF COLORADO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. HILL, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. ADAMS, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. Davenport, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

NAVY NOMINATION OF J. MCINTYRE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. ALDER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH W. BERNARD, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH R. KIRKBO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. WELDON, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. CARR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH S. McALISTER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH B. HART, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH R. LEE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH T. HARRIS, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. JONES, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. WOODWARD, OF MISSOURI, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. BROWN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. HARRISON, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. RODGERS, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. THOMAS, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. SMITH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.

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FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. BROWN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CONSUL, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS ABROAD.
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 Thursday, August 1, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

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
D938

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5207–S5277

Measures Introduced: Sixty-five bills and twelve resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2347–2411, S.J. Res. 52, S. Res. 294–302, and S. Con. Res. 23–24.

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Review of Legislative Activity During the 115th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 116–68)

S. 1441, to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of certain vessels for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1992, to amend the FAST Act to repeal a rescission of funds.

Measures Passed:

Amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 639, to amend section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that National Urban Search and Rescue Response System task forces may include Federal employees, and the bill was then passed.

Restore the Harmony Way Bridge Act: Senate passed H.R. 3245, to transfer a bridge over the Wabash River to the New Harmony River Bridge Authority and the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority.

Colonel Charles E. McGee Honorary Promotion: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. 2052, to authorize the honorary promotion of Colonel Charles E. McGee to brigadier general in the United States Air Force, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Cornyn (for Van Hollen) Amendment No. 933, to prohibit entitlement to benefits by reason of the honorary promotion.

Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 53, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for an event to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 263, honoring the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, and the resolution was then agreed to.

National Airborne Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 294, designating August 16, 2019, as “National Airborne Day”.

Campus Fire Safety Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 295, designating the month of September 2019 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

School Bus Safety Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 285, designating September 2019 as “School Bus Safety Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

National Public Health Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 300, supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week.

Indiana Rangers 50th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 301, honoring the 50th anniversary of the return of the Indiana Rangers.

Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture 50th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 24, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture.

Creating Advanced Streamlined Electronic Services for Constituents Act: Senate passed H.R. 1079, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms.

Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 776, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.
National Child Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 302, designating September 2019 as “National Child Awareness Month” to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States, and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States.

Page S5275

Bipartisan Budget Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, August 1, 2019, Senate begin 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, under the order of Tuesday, July 30, 2019.

Page S5275

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Karin J. Immergut, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Page S5228


Page S5228

Mary M. Rowland, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Page S5228

By 54 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 253), Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Pages S5210–16, S5228–29

By 50 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 254), Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Page S5229

By 51 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 255), Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Page S5229

By 54 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 256), Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Pages S5229–30

By 87 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 257), Martha Maria Pacold, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Page S5230

By 56 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 258), William Shaw Stickman IV, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Page S5230

By 56 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 259), 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.

Pages S5230–31

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.

6 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.


Pages S5273–74

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps.

Pages S5275–77

Executive Communications:

Pages S5246–47

Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S5247

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S5249–52

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S5252–56

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S5244–46

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Pages S5260–62

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S5262

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—259)

Pages S5229–31

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:26 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5275.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

U.S. GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine perspectives on reauthorization of the United States Grain Standards Act, after receiving testimony from Brian Linin, National Association of Wheat Growers, Goodland, Kansas; David Ayers, on behalf of Tom Dahl, American Association of Grain Inspection and Weighing Agencies, Sioux City, Iowa; Bruce Sutherland, Michigan Agriculture Commodities, Lansing, Michigan, on behalf of the National Grain and Feed Association; and Nick Friant, Cargill, Inc., Wayzata,
Minnesota, on behalf of the North American Export Grain Association.

**FAA OVERSIGHT**

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Aviation Administration, after receiving testimony from Carl E. Burleson, Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration.

**NOMINATION**

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

- S. 2297, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, with an amendment;
- S. 2299, to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety and reliability of pipeline transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION**

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine next steps for positive train control implementation, after receiving testimony from Ronald L. Batory, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation; Susan Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; Robert Bourg, Wabtec Corporation, Wilmerding, Pennsylvania; James Derwinski, Metra Commuter Railroad, Chicago, Illinois; and Chris Matthews, BNSF Railway Company, Fort Worth, Texas.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1441, to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of certain vessels for the construction of Russian energy export pipelines, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

**NOMINATIONS**

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing 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, who was introduced by Senators Shelby and Jones, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, who was introduced by Senator Boozman, and Justin Reed Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, who was introduced by Senator McConnell, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

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**House of Representatives**

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 11 a.m. on Friday, August 2, 2019.

**Committee Meetings**

No hearings were held.

**Joint Meetings**

No joint committee meetings were held.
COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
AUGUST 1, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

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, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Thursday, August 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3877, Bipartisan Budget Act.

Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 a.m., Friday, August 2

House Chamber

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