

the United Nations—both with bipartisan support, just as it should be for nominees who are so fully prepared for jobs that are so important.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will turn our attention to legislation. We need to address the debt limit and secure the full faith and credit of the United States. We need to continue to secure the funding our national defense demands. Fortunately, the pending legislation will accomplish precisely that.

In recent weeks, key officials on President Trump's team engaged in extensive negotiations with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic House. Given the exigencies of a divided government, we knew that any bipartisan agreement on funding levels would not appear perfect to either side, but the administration negotiated a strong deal.

First and foremost, it ensures our Federal Government will not approach any kind of short-term debt crisis in the coming weeks or months. It secures our Nation's full faith and credit and ensures that Congress will not throw this kind of unnecessary wrench into the gears of job growth and a thriving economy.

What is more, despite the desires of the Democratic House, the administration has successfully kept far-left poison pills and policy riders entirely out of the process.

We had heard that our Democratic colleagues across the Capitol were clamoring to take us backward on the issue of life, perhaps even targeting the Hyde Amendment or forcing more taxpayer dollars back toward Planned Parenthood. We had heard they were clamoring to try to handcuff the administration's important work on border security, but on those fronts, and many others, the far left was denied any such victories. There are no poison pills—a big win for the White House.

I ask unanimous consent that the terms of this agreement and the specific prohibition of poison pills be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021

1. The 2019 Bipartisan Budget Agreement for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 ("Agreement") is agreed to by the bipartisan leadership of Congress and the administration of Donald J. Trump. The bipartisan Congressional leadership and the administration agree to cooperate in the Agreement's implementation.

2. The Agreement modifies the discretionary spending caps imposed by the Budget Control Act ("BCA") for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 pursuant to the table below. The spending cap adjustments are intended to reflect the elimination of the BCA sequester for two years, plus a slight increase in spending for both defense and non-defense programs.

3. The parties agree to partially offset the Agreement's modifications to the discretionary spending caps legislation by extending the BCA mandatory sequester and customs user fees to achieve a total offset level of \$77.4 billion as scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

4. The debt limit will be suspended for two years, through July 31, 2021. No additional restrictions will be placed on the Secretary's extraordinary measures authorities. The debt limit suspension, spending cap adjustments, offsets, and any necessary procedural matters, will be included as part of a single piece of legislation.

5. Appropriations bills: Specific spending decisions shall be left to the members of the Appropriations Committees, with 302(b)s set through the regular process of the committees. Congressional leaders and the administration agree that, relative to the FY 2019 regular appropriations Acts, there will be no poison pills, additional new riders, additional CHIMPS, or other changes in policy or conventions that allow for higher spending levels, or any nonappropriations measures unless agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President. Current transfer funding levels and authorities shall be maintained, and any modifications must be agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President. Any emergency spending levels must be agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President.

6. The agreement also establishes a new cap adjustment for FY 2020 to help ensure the necessary resources for the decennial Census are provided.

7. Senate Leaders agree that if a bill has been reported on a bipartisan basis from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is consistent with the BCA spending caps, and has the support of the Chairman and the Ranking Member, they will work together to minimize procedural delays. The Majority Leader will continue to consult with the Democratic Leader to sequence bills in a bipartisan way, and acknowledges that bipartisan concurrence is required to expedite the consideration of any appropriations bill.

8. The President, Congressional leaders and the leadership of the Appropriations Committees shall work together to reach bicameral and bipartisan agreement on the orderly and timely consideration of FY 2020 appropriations bills to avoid a government shutdown, and a 12-bill omnibus. The President, Congressional leaders and the leadership of the Appropriations Committees shall also work together to reach bicameral and bipartisan agreement on the orderly and timely consideration of FY 2021 appropriations bills to avoid a government shutdown, and a 12-bill omnibus.

	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Defense Base	647.00	666.500	671.500
Defense OCO	69.0	71.500	69.000
Defense subtotal	716.000	738.000	740.500
Nondefense Base	597.000	621.500	626.500
Census Adj.	--	2.500	0
Nondefense base plus adjustments	597.000	624.000	626.500
Nondefense OCO	8.0	8.000	8.000
Nondefense subtotal	605.000	632.000	634.500
Total	1,321.000	1,370.000	1,375.000

Adjustments permitted under current law for disaster relief, wildfire suppression, program integrity, and 21st Century Cures Act continue.

Agreement calls for increased OCO funding in FY 2020 (relative to FY 2019) of + \$2.5 billion for defense funding. Defense OCO returns to FY 2019 levels in FY 2021.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, perhaps more importantly—particularly to my Republican colleagues and to me—this legislation sets a sufficient funding level for our national defense.

Over the past few months, as we have worked through important legislation like the NDAA, we have been reminded of one glaring reality: The forces that seek to harm the United States and our interests are ever-changing, and they demand the full attention of a fully equipped, modern, and ready military.

Since President Trump took office, Republicans in Congress have made remarkable progress. Working together, we have begun rolling back the damage caused by the previous administration's neglect, atrophy, and misguided approach. We have begun to rebuild and restore our military. We have taken important steps toward modernization, so we aren't just rebuilding the capabilities we need today but investing in those we will sorely need tomorrow.

I trust none of my colleagues are under the illusion that our work is finished. As our adversaries grow stronger, critical gaps remain in our ability to counter expansion, influence campaigns, and direct acts of violence toward America and our allies around the world.

The bipartisan funding deal is the opportunity—the only opportunity on the table—to continue filling in these gaps before it is too late. So make no mistake, Russia is not waiting idly by as we sort out whether to deliver full funding to missile defense or uphold our support of partner forces in Europe. China will not scale back its own aggressive ambitions and military investments if Americans decide to take a breather ourselves. Iran's financing of terrorist organizations and regional troublemaking is not going to stop if we stop investing in our own ability to check their efforts and project power.

So if we say we are serious about countering threats to our homeland, our allies, and our men and women deployed overseas, then we have to actually deliver on our promise to equip our forces for the job.

We have to invest in improved readiness to help our military commanders plan for emerging challenges—in research and development to support the U.S. military of the future—and in rock-solid support for our alliance commitments, which help preserve the peace and extend the reach of our values.

This deal is an opportunity to do exactly that. This is the agreement the administration has negotiated. This is the deal the House has passed. This is the deal President Trump is waiting and eager to sign into law. This is the deal that every Member of this body should support when we vote later this morning.

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.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3877, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (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, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 165, H.R. 3877, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

Lamar Alexander, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Susan M. Collins, Tom Cotton, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Bill Cassidy, John Thune, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Rob Portman, Lisa Murkowski, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will move to consider the measure on the floor, probably pass it, and then leave town. There will be efforts to describe what we have done as a reason for satisfaction and pride. There have been accomplishments, but on one critical issue—really a range of issues—involving our national security, we have only abject failure to show for the months we have been here.

I am proud to come to the floor of the Senate today to advocate for that cause—election security—with colleagues like Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota and Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia, who have been tireless champions, articulate, and eloquent advocates for this cause.

Election security is national security. The testimony from Robert Mueller, whatever you think about his verdict on the President, clearly called for action.

Robert Mueller is a modern-day Paul Revere, sounding the alarm about the

Russians and many other nations—as he put it—who are mounting a renewed attack on this country.

In the next election, this attack will make 2016 look like child's play, a dress rehearsal, because the tools and techniques they will bring to bear in attacking our democracy are so much more sophisticated. Already, in 2016, Robert Mueller called that attack sweeping and systematic. It was the reason he first spoke about it in his statement and in May closed that statement with a severe and dire warning about the ongoing interference in our democracy.

Those many other nations already include Iran, which just last week the Washington Post reported to be mounting its own disinformation campaign using social media and misinformation—disinformation—to distract, divide, and sow discord here and in other democracies around the world.

There is nothing unknown to many of us about the Russians' intent and the designs of these other nations. It is hiding in plain sight.

From all of the classified briefings that we have received over these months, the Russians know what they are doing, we know what the Russians are doing, and we know what we are failing to do. The ones in the dark are the American people, and that is why Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator WARNER, and I are on the floor today—to make sure that when we leave today, it is not the end of this topic. It is the beginning of a drumbeat, a cry of outrage, and unhappiness around the Nation.

There are a number of measures that we have championed that involve more funding for the States to do election security, paper ballots by the States to provide backups, auditing standards, and cyber security criteria. These measures are a matter of common sense. That word “common sense” is overused these days, especially in a city where it is on display so infrequently, but common sense is the reason we are here.

I want to talk specifically about the Duty to Report Act. It is based on a very simple idea: If you see something, say something. The Duty to Report Act would require all campaigns, all candidates, and family members to immediately report to the FBI and the Federal Election Commission any offers of foreign assistance. It would codify in the law what is already a matter of moral duty, patriotic duty, and common sense. It is already illegal to accept foreign assistance during a campaign. It is already illegal to solicit foreign assistance during a campaign. All this bill would do is require individuals and campaigns and family members to report those illegal foreign assistance efforts to the FBI.

When Robert Mueller came before Congress, he outlined the most serious attack on our democracy by a foreign power in our history. It includes 140 contacts between the Trump campaign and Russian agents—Russian covert

and overt efforts to influence the outcome of our election by helping one candidate and hurting another. But the Russians and those many other nations that will engage in similar attacks on our democracy have no particular partisan preference. They are doing what is in their interest to disrupt our democracy, and the victim in one election may be the one preferred in the next. So we have a common cause here.

Indeed, Robert Mueller testified:

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

This deserves the attention of every American. We have an obligation, above all, as Members of this body, where there has been so much history of bipartisan action, to come together in this cause.

Christopher Wray, the Director of the FBI, recently came before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and he warned that the Russians are still actively trying to interfere in our elections. Again and again, our intelligence community has warned severely, repeatedly, powerfully about this threat.

Yet when asked whether he would accept foreign help in 2020, the President of the United States said: “I'd take it.” It is much like his son Donald Junior said during this last campaign in response to an offer of assistance from the Russians: “I love it.”

When Robert Mueller was asked about this point during his testimony, he said: “I hope this is not the new normal. But I fear it is.”

That is the reason we need this measure. That is the reason we need the measures that my colleagues, Senator KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota and Senator WARNER of Virginia, have helped to lead, and that is why I have been proud to join them in this effort.

To my Republican colleagues in the leadership, I say: Lead or get out of the way. To the President of the United States: Lead or get out of the way. Our national security is too important to make a partisan issue. We ought to join together, as we did after 9/11, to prevent more disaster and to join in this common cause.

This legislation is a matter of moral duty, patriotic duty, and common sense. With the 2020 election literally on the horizon before us, we must act now. Time is not on our side. It is only on our adversary's side.

As much as we take pride in the National Defense Authorization Act, the threat to our national security is not only from the planes and the submarines and the aircraft carriers. It is also from the cyber attacks and the social media campaigns to disrupt and destroy our democracy.

I am proud to be joined today by a great colleague who has been a wonderful champion on this issue, Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Minnesota.