

For too long, sequestration has handcuffed Congress's ability to make investments in middle-class priorities that advance the health, financial security, and well-being of the American people.

I am pleased that this agreement goes even further than previous budget deals by increasing nondefense spending by \$10 billion more than defense spending.

With this budget deal, Democrats have secured an increase of more than \$100 billion in funding for domestic priorities since President Trump took office.

I am especially pleased that this budget deal will allow us to continue making the big investments in medical research conducted at the National Institutes of Health, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that will improve and save lives.

Because of NIH funding, new treatments have been developed that reduced cancer deaths more than 25 percent over past two decades.

Thirty years ago, HIV was a death sentence. Because of NIH funding, that is no longer the case.

Because of NIH-funded research, deaths from heart disease and stroke have fallen by nearly 80 percent since 1970.

Because of NIH funding, we are on the verge of curing—yes, curing—sickle cell anemia.

Consider this: Between 2010 and 2016, the Food and Drug Administration approved more than 200 new drugs and treatments for use in the United States; every single one of them was developed with NIH dollars.

Congress has recognized the importance of NIH, which is why we have, on a bipartisan basis, provided the NIH with \$9 billion in additional funding over the past 4 years, a 30 percent increase in that time.

This agreement will allow us to continue those vital investments.

Most importantly, this agreement will help prevent another harmful government shutdown from occurring this fall.

While not perfect, this budget deal will finally allow Congress to get to work on this year's appropriations bills and invest in the programs that the American people rely on.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in passing this agreement with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all cloture time is expired.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. WICKER. 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Alexander	Graham	Portman
Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Roberts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Shaheen
Cantwell	Jones	Shelby
Capito	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Sullivan
Cooms	McConnell	Thune
Cornyn	McSally	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cramer	Merkley	Warner
Crapo	Moran	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Ernst	Murray	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	
Gillibrand	Peters	

NAYS—28

Bennet	Gardner	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Johnson	Sasse
Carper	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Tester
Crux	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	Paul	
Fischer	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Isakson	Warren
Harris	Sanders	

The bill (H.R. 3877) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, when the Senate gavels out at the end of this day, Members will head home for the August work period to spend time with our constituents and family. I, for one, am eager to get back home to Texas and spend time with folks in about every region in my State. I have the honor of representing roughly 28 million people, and it takes a little bit of time and effort to get around the State, but I am looking forward to it.

I will have the chance to highlight some of the work that we have been

doing here in Washington and, yes, hear from my constituents, my fellow Texans, on what they care most about, what they agree with, what they disagree with, and everything in between.

With the passage of this bipartisan budget deal, we have now taken care of our final piece of business for this work period. The funding agreement we just passed will provide stability for our Nation through 2020 and deliver on some of the administration's key priorities. It has been the result of extensive negotiations between President Trump and Speaker PELOSI and represents a compromise between two sides that typically don't agree on much, and, yes, "compromise" is still not a dirty word. It is the only way things get done around here.

Obviously, this agreement is not perfect. That is the nature of compromise and the hallmark of responsible government. By passing this funding agreement, we are avoiding the possibility of a government shutdown again this fall. Instead, it provides us the time and space for wide-ranging debate about our government's spending habits. As our national deficit continues to grow, that could not be more critical.

I was glad to see that through the President's tough negotiations, it prevents 30 poison pills—or policy riders—from reaching the President's desk. It is no secret that our friends across the aisle have tried their best to eliminate the Hyde amendment, which, since 1976, has defined a consensus that no taxpayer funds be provided for abortions. That argument is over until 2020.

We also know there will be no Green New Deal done—no undoing of the President's regulatory reform through the backdoor.

Most importantly though, this funding agreement invests in our military. If there is one priority for what we ought to be doing here as elected representatives in the Federal Government, it is to provide for the common defense and for our national security.

This funding agreement provides the Pentagon with the predictability and flexibility they need in order to keep our country safe today and tomorrow. A predictable and steady budget gives our military leaders the ability to plan for the future and allows them to invest in the innovative and cutting-edge tools our servicemembers need and ensure that when the call comes, we are ready.

I was proud to support this funding agreement, and I am glad it is now headed to the White House for the President's signature.

DEBBIE SMITH ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the last few months, I have spoken at length on the Senate floor about a bill I introduced earlier this year to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act—legislation to help us end the nationwide rape kit backlog.

This legislation carries the name of a fierce and courageous woman—a sexual

assault survivor whose advocacy was born of her personal experience.

Three decades ago, Debbie Smith was taken from her home and taken to a wooded area where she was robbed and raped by an unknown attacker. She reported the crime to police and went to the emergency room for a forensic exam, but because of the rape kit backlog, she had to wait 6½ years before finally receiving the call that her attacker had been identified through a DNA test.

During that time, she lived in constant fear, wondering who he was, where he was, and whether he would return to hurt her again. Identifying offenders through DNA evidence is critical to providing not only justice but peace of mind for those assaulted and delivering justice to victims, and, yes, even exonerating the innocent. The power of DNA testing is such that it can essentially rule out people from being the alleged assailant or the actual assailant. So this is really important for a number of reasons.

Sharing this information across State lines through the Federal system can help us identify repeat offenders who would otherwise go undetected. Knowing the potential impact, Debbie became one of our Nation's most vocal advocates for eliminating rape kit backlogs, including the reprehensible rape kit backlog I have been speaking about.

In 2004, a bill that carries her name was signed into law to help local and State crime labs partner with Federal law enforcement to receive resources to end the Federal DNA evidence backlog. It is because of the Debbie Smith Act that more than a billion dollars has been provided to forensic labs across the country.

Since 2005, more than 860,000 DNA cases have been processed, accounting for 43 percent of all forensic profiles in the FBI's DNA database.

The Debbie Smith Act has also been central in eliminating the rape kit backlog in my home State of Texas, which had reached the point of more than 20,000 untested kits at one point earlier this decade.

As I said at the beginning, I introduced the Debbie Smith Act of 2019 to reauthorize this important funding stream that supports the auditing, testing, and sharing of DNA evidence so we can eliminate that backlog and ensure that it will not grow again in the future. The benefits of continuing the programs created under the original Debbie Smith Act cannot be overstated, and we must get this important legislation to the President's desk before it expires at the end of September.

Since it was first enacted in 2004, the Debbie Smith Act has never lapsed or expired, and there is no excuse for allowing it to expire or lapse this year. This bill is not controversial; it is not partisan; and it is not divisive. In fact, when it came to the Senate floor, not a single Senator voted against it.

Since we passed the legislation in May, the House of Representatives has

sat on its hands and has done nothing. After repeated requests from myself, our other colleagues, and countless victims' advocates, Speaker PELOSI has refused to bring the Debbie Smith Act up for a vote.

Earlier this week, the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents more than 348,000 members, sent a letter to Speaker PELOSI and Leader MCCARTHY urging the House to move this legislation.

We also heard from the National District Attorneys Association, RAINN, the Sergeants Benevolent Association, and several other law enforcement and victims' rights groups which are fully supportive of this legislation. All of us are ready for the House to act.

I urge Speaker PELOSI to take up the Debbie Smith Act once the House returns to Washington in September and before it expires or lapses. It is simply unconscionable to let unrelated partisan bickering stop a bill that brings justice to victims.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, first, I want to compliment the leadership in being able to come together on a budget agreement. This was a good day for the Senate, a good day for Congress, and a good day for the American people.

We now have predictable spending caps not only for the fiscal year that begins October 1 but for the following year. This is good news. It provides the predictability we need in order to have early process for the consideration of the appropriations bills. When we return in September, it is our anticipation that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will be hard at work, and we will have an opportunity to get our work done prior to the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1.

I want to explain why I think this was the right vote and why I proudly supported it. It provides a reasonable growth rate for discretionary spending. If you look at the trend line over several decades, you will find that discretionary spending has become a smaller and smaller part of the Federal budget. We held back on discretionary spending in this country, whether it is defense or nondefense needs, and those needs have grown.

We have not kept up with the needs of funding these programs. This budget agreement will now give us the opportunity to set priorities and move forward with many important programs that are funded by discretionary spending. Once again, discretionary spending has grown much slower than the growth rate of our budget, generally.

It is a reasonable expectation that we can meet the needs of the people of this country by allowing some growth. What does it mean? Well, this past week, the Environment and Public Works Committee has recommended a

transportation reauthorization bill for service transportation that would grow by about 10 percent. I think everyone in this Chamber understands that we have tremendous unmet needs in transportation infrastructure in this country. These caps give us a better opportunity of meeting those types of needs.

Tomorrow I will be in the city of Bowie—which is not far from here—meeting with the mayor who has a simple request: His drinking water pipes need major maintenance or replacement. There is not enough capacity within the ratepayers in order to be able to do that work. He needs the Federal partnership, State-revolving funds, or other areas in order to help fund a modern water infrastructure so we have safe drinking water in our community.

These budget caps, again, give us the opportunity to move forward on programs like that so the Federal Government can help us meet our needs.

I am proud, in the State of Maryland, that we have the National Institutes of Health located and headquartered in our State. We are all very proud of the work they do. They are unlocking the mystery of diseases in this country. We need to fund them. At the present time, so many worthwhile grant applications go unmet and unfilled that could discover how we could deal with some of the most dreaded diseases in our country. Funding NIH is in our national interest, but we have been held back because of the budget caps that have been in place. This allows us now to move forward with that priority.

This is the year we prepare for the census. We only do that every 10 years. We take the census of our country. This budget will allow the Census Bureau to have the tools so we can accurately count the people in this country. Why is that important? The Constitution says it is important. It is important so we have proper legislative representation in the congressional districts as well as in the State legislatures. That gives us the numbers so the communities are properly represented and so their voices can be adequately heard. It is also used for distribution of Federal funds so proper distribution can be made to the people of this country. I can go on with a whole list of issues that are important. Each one is important.

We will set the priorities, whether it is childcare or dealing with our veterans. We all talk about how we want to do what is right for our veterans. We know there are a lot of unmet needs. This budget will allow us to move forward in that area.

I am proud to represent the State of Maryland that has major urban centers. This bill will allow us to deal with some of the challenges we have in our urban centers.

I also represent rural Maryland. This bill will allow us to move forward with their needs. We will be able to move forward on education, which should be our top priority. It is a great equalizer in this country.