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 has created humanity in Your image, look upon us and hear our prayers.

Today, give our lawmakers the desire to do Your will and the energy to complete the tasks that will glorify Your Name. That which they don’t know, reveal it; that which they lack, supply it; and that which they doubt, confirm it. Keep them blameless in Your service so that their lives will be living letters causing people to exalt Your Name. Lord, strengthen their minds for Your service so that Your wisdom will permeate their endeavors.

We pray in Your mighty 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 (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I think we should save the taxpayers a lot of money by giving States more options under Medicaid. Unlike Medicare and private insurance, Medicaid doesn’t incentivize bundled payments. This prevents States from testing a method that could potentially save money.

The bipartisan prescription drug pricing reform legislation I introduced with Senator WYDEN allows States to collect rebates from drugs in outpatient settings. This removes an existing exemption in statute for some outpatient drugs and allows States to more completely utilize and test bundled payments to possibly save money. Giving States flexibility allows them to focus on the best care for different populations. Encouraging bundled payments in Medicaid would do just that.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, the Senate has accomplished a significant amount of business this week for the American people.

We have made a big dent in the backlog of President Trump’s well-qualified nominees for Federal office. With respect to the judiciary, we have confirmed 13 impressive individuals to lifetime seats on the Federal bench. We have also ensured that two more key components of the President’s foreign policy team will be on the job before the Senate adjourns for the August work period.

We confirmed the Deputy Secretary of Defense and a new ambassador to

- This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
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.

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 $7.7 billion as scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

4. The debt limit will be suspended for two years, through September 30, 2021. Any emergency spending levels, 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 362(b) 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. Currency levels for the President’s 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 if it includes poison pills and policy riders entirely out of the process.

8. The President, Congressional leaders and the leadership of the Appropriations Committees shall work together to reach bicameral 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 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.

9. The BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019 is passed.

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 nation 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 years 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 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:

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 for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 pursuant to the table below. The spending cap adjustments are intended to reflect the effects of the BCA sequester for two years, plus a slight increase in spending for both defense and non-defense programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense Base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense GOC</td>
<td>650.000</td>
<td>660.000</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondefense Base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nondefense GOC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Census Adj.</td>
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<td>2.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondefense base plus adjustments</td>
<td>599.500</td>
<td>624.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondefense GOC</td>
<td>622.000</td>
<td>626.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,299.500</td>
<td>1,329.000</td>
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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 to build 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.
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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move that the Senate do now proceed to consider the BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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—including 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 that the President, clearly called for action.

Robert Mueller is a modern-day Paul Revere, sounding the alarm about the Roberts 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 the techniques employed in 2016 were 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 dire warnings 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—misinformation—to distract, divide, and sow discord here and in other democracies around the world.

There is nothing unknown to many of us about the intent and the designs of these other nations. It is 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 history judges this day it is not the end of the 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 during an election. 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 attacks 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 can’t 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 aid 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 norm. 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 be 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.
Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I first thank my colleague from Connecticut, Senator Blumenthal, for his incredible work and leadership on this important bill, the Duty to Report Act, as well as for all of the other work that he has done.

He gets it. He gets that we are about to adjourn this day without passing election security legislation. We had bipartisan election security legislation. We have had that for years. Yet it has been stopped in every step of the way.

Russia invaded our democracy. Let's be clear about that. I don't like it when we use the word "meddle" because that is what I do when I call my daughter on a Saturday night to ask her what she is doing. This foreign country didn't just meddle in our election. They invaded it. They didn't use missiles or tanks. They used a new kind of modern warfare, which is cyber warfare, and they did it to invade our democracy.

The day before our Founders literally set up a country and a Constitution because they wanted to be independent of a foreign country. In this case, it was England. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost their lives fighting for our democracy and democracies across the world. That is what World War I and World War II were about. They were fighting for democracies across the world and fighting for the simple right that they would be able to determine their own destiny and vote.

Yet, in 2016, we know for a fact—we know it from President Trump's own intelligence advisers, Dan Coats, who was once a Senator in this very Chamber and who is someone we are going to miss, is leaving his position. Dan Coats made it clear. He said they are getting bolder. So this is something right in front of us right now, and we must respond to it.

Yet we haven't passed a bill to address it. Yes, Senator Lankford and I, along with Senators Leahy, Coons, Shelby, and others have worked to get some money, over $200 million, into the States, which is important. We got that done, but it doesn't really end there because, actually, there were no strings attached to that in terms of what we want to have done in this country, and I will get to that in a minute.

So let's first go back over the facts, because some people in this Chamber seem to have trouble with facts. Let's go over those. Special Counsel Mueller, under oath, just last week and in his report, concluded that Russian interference in our democracy was sweeping and systematic. Those were his words and not my words. We know that they are actively working again to undermine our democracy. In his words, when he was testifying under oath, "they're doing it as we sit here." That is what he said under oath.

The day before Special Counsel Mueller testified in the House, the FBI Director testified in front of the committee that I am on, the Senate Judiciary Committee. I was there and asked him questions. I asked him whether he thinks having things like paper ballots makes sense in the event that the Russian hacking happens again. He said: Yes, this is important. This is the FBI Director for the United States of America who was appointed by Donald Trump. Again, he was under oath.

We have multiple pieces of legislation that would require backup paper ballots. There are different versions, but they all really do the same thing. Some of them have different kinds of audits, but the one thing they have in common is that they put a backup paper ballot in place, which is a bipartisan bill, which we continue to work on today.

But what has happened? What do all of these bills have in common? They have been blocked by the leadership on the Republican side and opposed by the White House. That is right. They weren't vetoed because they never got to the White House but because the White House made the move of stopping them in their tracks before they could get to the White House. I know because I am the ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee, and our jurisdiction is elections. Our job was to get that bill to the White House, to the Senate floor. It was actually scheduled for a markup, which means you get the bill all done, and you send it to the Senate floor, where I predict it would have gotten at least three-fourths of the Members working and voting for that bipartisan bill.

What happened? The White House made calls. They made calls. The White House counsel actually called Senators on the committee and said that they didn't want it to advance. That is what we call "smoking gun" evidence. That happened. That happened. We know why this bill was blocked. In addition to that, Republican leadership, including the leader, has made very clear that they did not want that bill to advance in the Senate. Our top intelligence officials and law enforcement officers are sounding the alarm about the fact that our elections are a target, and that they are making it happen. They have blocked this, despite the best advice from the intelligence officials in the United States of America.

And it doesn't stop there. It doesn't stop there. As to other bills that they will not allow to advance, one of them involves social media. You all know what it is like, when you have your Facebook page or your Twitter feed or you are searching something on Google, something comes up, and an ad pops up. Sometimes it is scarred related to something you were searching for, but, yes, ads pop up.

Well, you know what other kinds of ads pop up? Political ads pop up. Those ads are paid for by some kind of political entity. I see my friend Senator Warner is here on this floor. He is an expert on this, as the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

As to the fact that actually some of these ads in 2016 were paid for in rubles, this is illegal. A foreign country cannot pay for ads on the Internet, but they were doing that because there are no checks and balances.

So what kind of ads are on there? Well, what would you do if you were on a campaign or an issue group and you want to put a bunch of dirty ads out there? Would you do it on TV? No, you wouldn't do it on TV. If you are a foreign country, would you do that? No, because there are rules in place for TV and newspaper and radio that they have to check those ads out, and they have to show who has paid for them. There are no rules like that on social media.

That is why I have formally introduced with my friend from Wyoming, Senator McCaskill and now with Senator Graham and Senator Warner, the Honest Ads Act, which simply puts those rules in place. Literally, if we pass that bill right now, today, before we left for the recess, well, they can get this done. In the large platforms. Some of them are voluntarily doing it, but it is a mishmash, and some of them aren't doing it at all. We cannot go into this next election when last time over a billion was spent on them and next time it is $3 billion to $4 billion without any rules of the road.

I go back to the same argument I made. Hundreds of thousands of people risked their lives and died on battlefields to protect that right to vote and not to be influenced by foreign countries. Why aren't we doing things that protect that democracy now in this modern age?

Four little girls in a church in Birmingham lost their lives at the height of the civil rights movement. Why? Because people were trying to take away people's rights and because they didn't want them in on this democracy. That is the American history. And yes, these things we are talking about sound new-fangled—cyber attacks and ads on social media—but it is actually the same version of what our Founders fought for in the very beginning, and that is the American history. And yes, these things we are talking about sound new-fangled.
The Russians knew that when they attacked us in 2016. Well, we can’t do it this way. We are not going to be able to use battleships. What way would work today? What is their big vulnerability? Let’s go for the soft spot where they haven’t been putting the money into to support themselves.

They conducted sophisticated influence operations, hacked political committees and campaigns, revealed the emails of the chairman of the Democratic candidate, targeted election administrators and even private technology firms responsible for manufacturing and administering election systems. In Illinois, the names, addresses, birth dates, and partial Social Security numbers of thousands of registered voters were exposed.

Just recently, we learned that the election systems in two Florida counties were hacked by the Russians. The Department of Homeland Security is conducting forensic analysis on computers used in North Carolina after it was revealed in the Mueller report that a voting software company was hacked by Russia.

So we have a common set of facts about what has happened. What we need to do is address these problems with purpose. There must be an outcry about this from the American people. This must be done now, not after 2020. It has to be done now. We have a long way to go to make sure our election systems are resilient against attacks.

Here are some more facts to consider. Forty States rely on electronic voting systems that are at least 10 years old. Eleven States have either no or partial backup paper ballots. Sixteen States have no statewide audit requirement.

These are alarming statistics. I am not stating anything secret; the Russians know this today. That is why I have worked with my Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate on legislation that would provide critical election security funding in the coming year, and mostly it would be tied to a requirement that they have backup paper ballots. Otherwise, what are we going to do if we don’t have those backup paper ballots if there is a hack? It doesn’t even matter if three counties in a swing State were hacked if we can’t figure out the results. If it were just their State elections, that would be embarrassing or pathetic, but it is going to be a national Presidential election. We cannot risk having counties or States hacked into because then we would have chaos and not know the results.

Last week, my bill was offered by Senator BLUMENTHAL. It could have gone to the President’s desk that day. Instead, Leader MCCONNELL objected. During his objection, he said that election legislation must be drafted with “great care” and on a bipartisan basis. We did that.

Senator BLUMENTHAL was there. He worked on it. We did that with Senator LANKFORD, but we were blocked at the Rules Committee. We were blocked.

That is a documented fact. The markup had been scheduled. It was ready to go. Senator BLUMENTH had been willing to hold a markup on the bill, and it was stopped.

I am going to tell that story every day until we advance this. We have an opportunity to do that, and I am going to do it because people need to know what is going on. This should not be about partisanship or about what benefits which party.

What were the Founders thinking when they decided to declare independence from a foreign country? They were thinking of our country as one. A ramshackle group of those early Founders, farmers and small business people, came together and said: We love this land, and we don’t want to have another country influencing us.

That is exactly what this is about. Election security is national security. It is time we started acting like it. The Federal Government spends more on military bands every year than it does on election security assistance to the States. I love military bands, but let’s get real.

In 2018, we fought to get $380 million in election funding. That was a first step. This is the cost of one aircraft carrier. Recently, 22 State attorneys general sent a letter asking us to take action to protect the integrity of our election structure, including the attorneys general from States such as Indiana and Mississippi, these are not blue States. They did not see this as a partisan issue. This is not about one election or one party; this is about our democracy and our national security. We need to be a unified front, I say to my colleagues, a united front in fighting against those who interfere with our democracy.

I am glad to see Senator WARNER, someone who is on the frontlines every day in his very important position on the Intelligence Committee. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, first of all, I want to thank my friend, the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. Klobuchar, for her leadership and passion on this issue.

This shouldn’t be that hard. I know we addressed some of the legislation she has talked about, and also earlier this evening, we passed the Supreme Court bill. But I think the theme you are going to hear from all three of us is that while we may have made some progress, the truth is, we are simply not doing enough to secure our election infrastructure.

There is a series of bills that I think are common sense and, if they got to the floor, would get 75 votes and maybe even more.

Over the past few weeks, I have come to the floor a couple of times to try to make this common-sense consent my legislation known as the FIRE Act. I am not going to do that this morning, but I do want to highlight this bill as one more example of commonsense, bipartisan election security legislation that unfortunately is not getting its chance to be debated on the floor of the Senate.

The FIRE Act would simply require Presidential campaigns to do the right thing and report offers of foreign assistance—offers which are already spelled out as illegal—to the FBI. Any one who says it does anything else, such as limiting contacts with the foreign press or limiting contacts with foreign diplomats and Spooks, it might eliminate communications with Dreamers—just flat wrong.

If there are ways to improve the bipartisan legislation, I am wide open to that. I don’t know how anyone could be against the idea of putting our country over narrow interests or putting our national security concerns over political advantage. In fact, a new poll last week found that 87 percent of Americans support this idea. The same poll found that the vast majority of Americans believe that it is wrong for campaigns to accept foreign assistance and that Congress should pass legislation to secure our elections.

Unfortunately, in the nearly 3 years since we uncovered Russia’s attack on our democracy, this body has not held a single vote on stand-alone legislation to protect our election security. It is true that we did approve some additional funding to secure the midterm elections, and I commend the folks at DHS for the job they did. I am proud of that. But we would be making an enormous mistake if we simply patted ourselves on the back and said that because the Russians or others didn’t launch a full-frontal attack in 2018, we are safe on a going-forward basis.

Please, don’t take my word for it. Let’s look at what Special Prosecutor Bob Mueller said last week. He said that the Russians are continuing to attack virtually every day. The bipartisan Intelligence Committee election security report said that we have made progress, but there is more that needs to be done. Christopher Wray, the Director of the FBI, in recent testimony said this is an ongoing challenge. Dan Coats, for whom I have enormous respect and feel it is unfortunate that he left the position of Director of National Intelligence—and maybe he left because he was unable to speak truth to power—said that our election security system is not secure enough. Even Gina Haspel, the Director of the CIA, has continued to point out that Russia and other foreign influences are trying to attack our democracy.

Candidly, it has been a little bit disappointing that some of my colleagues are trying to turn this into a partisan issue. Securing our democracy is not a Democratic or Republican issue. The same poll I referred to earlier found that 84 percent of Americans believe it is wrong for campaigns to accept foreign assistance—offers which are already spelled out as illegal—to the FBI. Any one who says it does anything else, such as limiting contacts with the foreign press or limiting contacts with foreign diplomats and Spooks, it might eliminate communications with Dreamers—just flat wrong.

For the sake of this body and for the sake of the American people, let’s work together to secure our elections. We can do this. We need to do this.
of foreign efforts to try to interfere with our power grid. Well, the country steps up and puts security measures in place. Shouldn’t we expect the same kind of attention and commonsense approach when we see those same foreign adversaries attack our election infrastructure? I think we do need to take that kind of step and move forward.

Senator KLOBUCCHAR already made mention of some of this legislation, and I know my friend the Senator from Georgia is here, so I will try to wrap up.

There was a broad bipartisan group of Senators in the last Congress who introduced the Secure Elections Act—something I was proud to be part of. That bipartisan bill would have provided the additional resources for State and local election officials while still preserving local control of elections. What that legislation would have done was simply say that if local or State election officials want additional help from the Federal Government, they have to meet some basic, de minimis standards. We have to make sure that every polling station in America has a paper ballot backup. We have to make sure that there is appropriate auditing of how the election system works. I wish the bill would have done more and gone up the food chain to the three private companies that control 90 percent of all of our voter files. Maybe that could be action we could take in the same way we require local officials to be hacked into, they wouldn’t have to change the vote totals; they simply would have to move people from one voting precinct to another to create chaos on election day.

Senator KLOBUCCHAR also mentioned legislation that she, Senator GRAHAM, and I worked on, a bipartisan bill to prevent disinformation—particularly on the internet—called the Honest Ads Act. It would require the same disclosure for political ads on Facebook that are already in place for television, radio, and newspaper.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of another bipartisan bill called the DETER Act, sponsored by Senator RUBIO and Senator VAN HOLLEN. They are absolutely right in saying that we need to put in place automatic consequences if Russia or other nations use their 2016 playbook once again to try to interfere in our 2020 elections. Let’s warn our adversaries that there will be consequences if they once again try to interfere in our election process.

These are just a few of the largely bipartisan ideas with regard to protecting the United States against foreign attacks on our election systems. I am sure there would be suggestions on how we can improve this legislation. That is fine. That is what we are here to do. Let’s debate, vote, and add amendments.

What we should not do is simply pretend this threat is going away. We should not simply assume that because we improved in 2018, we are safe in 2020. We should recognize that local and State election officials need the kind of assistance, paper ballot backup, and the same responsibility that Federal campaign officials in Presidential campaigns ought to have—an affirmative duty to report. Political ads that pop up on Facebook ought to have the same transparency that ads on television have. I don’t think this is too much to ask. I think the overwhelming majority of Americans expect us to do our job on this issue.

I hope when the Senate reconvenes in September, we can be recharged by their voters back in their home States, because I am sure that when you go to whatever State and visit with folks and talk about election security, they will say to the Congress and Senate: Do your job and pass commonsense legislation.

Let’s make sure our election security is absolutely as safe as it can be as we move into the 2020 elections.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, in 1974, Congress passed a new Budget Act. It was revolutionary and comprehensive. It was supposed to stream- line how Congress appropriates money to fund the business of the Federal Government every year.

Unfortunately, now 45 years later, we know that bill was an unmitigated disaster. Only four times in the last 45 years has Congress actually passed a budget that has Congress funded the government through the appropriations process before the end of the prior fiscal year—four times.

Today is the end of July. We are about to leave Congress today, hopefully—if our Senate today gets these bills passed. Then we will go back to our States, and we will work in August. We heard a lot of people talking yesterday about what they were planning to do in their States, and I wish it were a vacation month, but it is not—not nor should it be—given the things we have to do today.

When we come back in September, there will be 10 working days left before the end of this fiscal year, September 30—10 working days.

As I stand before this body today, this is not a partisan observation. As I stand here today, we have not appropriated $1 for next year’s budget to run the Federal Government of the United States of America. That is an indictment. It is an indictment of the process, an indictment of the Members, and an indictment of the fact that we have no consequences by not funding the government by September 30—not one.

So today we are about to do something that could cause us to actually use a continuing resolution for the 187th time, potentially, since the 1974 Budget Act passed. We now know how draconian these continuing resolutions are. I will talk about that in a minute. Hopefully, we will vote today on a bill that is a compromise bill that actually sets the stage. It sets the upper limit. It doesn’t do the appropriating at the detail level. It sets the topline number for the fiscal year 2020, which starts October 1, 2019. That number is roughly $1.375 trillion. I have a debt clock in my office. I can watch the national debt spin about $100,000 a second—going up every single day. This bill actually begins to address that. President Trump had a couple of priorities here.

Before I talk about that, I want to put in perspective what this bill actually does. We talk about mandatory spending and discretionary spending. Again, the problem is in our Federal Government. This whole budget drama we have seen this year and every year for the last 45 years only deals with the discretionary budget, which is $1.375 trillion for 2021.

The dotted line here is where we are for the 2019 discretionary budget. Discretionary budget is 30 percent. That is the blue line here.

Above line is the total spending of the Federal Government. Today we spend $1.3 trillion in discretionary spending. We spend $3.3 trillion in mandatory spending. That is a total of $4.6 trillion.

What is in discretionary spending? Military spending and all other discretionary spending is in there: health, education, agriculture, labor, the Attorney General’s office, State. All the discretionary spending is in there. Mandatory expenses are in there—$1.33 trillion.

In any business, any enterprise, or your personal budget, if you only deal with 30 percent of what you spend in your budgeting process, wouldn’t we all have a good time? It wouldn’t matter how much we did on discretionary spending because we could just go borrow more money. That is what the Federal Government does.

Let me remind everybody today that we are also borrowing about 30 percent of what we spend every year—a little less than that, but we are borrowing between 25 percent and 30 percent.

Mandatory is like your home mortgage, car payment, and insurance payment. It is automatically deducted. So all these mandatory expenses that today are 70 percent of what we spend, get spent with no debate in Congress—none, zero. Why? Because it is mandatory. It gets spent like your home mortgage and insurance automaticlly. Once that is done, just a few pennies are left to take care of discretionary.

The point I am trying to make is, all this drama we had this year—and every year—is over a piece of the budget that is totally borrowed. Over 90 percent of what we spend in our Federal Government’s military expenses today—our national defense—is borrowed money, by definition.

Right now, what we are talking about is a spending bill that actually reduces spending every discretionary item. We are not even talking about the mandatory side, the 70 percent. If you look at the 70 percent over the
next decade or the next two decades, discretionary spending is relatively flat. These are aggregate numbers—total numbers adjusted for inflation.

The orange line is the mandatory expenses. They are projected to skyrocket from about 30 percent today to almost 85 percent of every dollar the Federal Government spends in the next 20 years—from 70 percent today to well over 80 percent—to almost 85 percent by 2035. 20 years from now, I argue that is the problem. Until we address the mandatory side of our spending and save Social Security and save Medicare, we will never be able to solve this debt crisis we see before us in very real terms today.

Let’s move to this bill we have today. I ran for the Senate because of the debt crisis and because of the global security crisis. This debt issue is real. I have been working on it for 4½ years. Yet this bill today actually lowers spending as a percentage of our economy, as the bill proposes $54 billion increases in discretionary spending over 2 years—2 percent per year for the next 2 years. That actually lowers spending as a percentage of our economy. As a matter of fact, since 2011—the last 10 years—our budget, as we have seen, if we do not change the budget, is Federal spending on discretionary items goes from 8.7 percent of our total economy down to 6 percent.

When I ran a business, I looked at my overhead. That is what this is. Overhead on discretionary items as a percentage of what we spend totally and a percentage of our total economy.

President Trump had two goals. One is he wanted to continue to reduce discretionary spending as a percentage of GDP. Check that box. This bill does that. All the so-called debt hawks out there and all the budget hawks who say: I am voting no to any new spending, need to recognize that this bill actually lowers spending as a percentage of the economy.

The second objective the President had—and the Senate is just now coming to realize how draconian these 186 CRs have been over the last 45 years. The Obama administration, reduced spending in the military by 25 percent. So readiness had been reduced to a point by January 1, 2017, when President Trump was inaugurated—readiness in the military had been devastated of our F-18s and fighter jets could not fly. Only three of our Army brigades could go to war that night. I saw that. I am on the Armed Services Committee. You can see when you travel the world how absolutely gutted our military had been. For the last 2 years, we have been rebuilding that, getting readiness back. In the month of June, the FA-18s got back to 80 percent readiness.

The second thing this bill does is it continues. In the second and third year, to rebuild the military after it had been gutted by the prior administration. Focus of the military today is readiness and recapitalization, which means rebuilding burnt-out equipment and absolutely rationalization.

We had the first DOD audit—thanks to President Trump—in the history of the United States. Last November, President Trump, after telling the DOD he wanted to continue, there was a law that passed in 1981 that said we would have a DOD audit. President Trump is the first President in U.S. history that provided that. We now have that and understand opportunities to rationalize our spending.

When you vote yes, you look at making decisions in life. There are two choices—two votes—that lead to three potential outcomes today. A "yes" vote continues to support the military and defend our country at a level that meets the near-peer competitors' level of volume. When adjusted for purchasing power parity, China, today, is actually spending the same amount on their military as we are. They can get there quicker because they don’t have 45 years of overhead. That is what we have in the United States, but a vote yes means that we continue to do that; we continue to lower discretionary spending as a percentage of our economy; and we set the precedent that we have to have the hard conversation of how we save Social Security and save Medicare. The major thing it does is it avoids the drama around not funding the government. It gives us a chance, anyway, to fund our government before October 1. Remember, September 30 ends this fiscal year.

A "no" vote has two potential outcomes. A "no" vote could lead to a sequestration. People say that cuts 10 percent out of all spending. That sounds good to me. The reality is that happened over the last decade. We see now the draconian impact that had on certain parts of our discretionary spending like military—veterans and so forth—so we had to come back and rebuild. We then came back and had to rebuild it, it costs dramatically much more. That is the point.

If we take a long-term view of this, we have to end up voting yes to this. The second outcome of a "no" vote is actually more of the same.

Well, we will avoid sequestration, but we will pass a continuing resolution and kick the can down the road again for the 187th time. It sounds easy. Everybody gets to go home. We pass a CR. Yet the military gets gutted again and devastated. It disrupts the supply chain and keeps our vendors from hiring people.

Imagine if you are a midcareer military officer or noncommissioned officer—imagine what that tells you about what we think of our military and our men and women. I hear people on both sides beat their chest: "I love our military..." "We have to support our military..." Then they vote no on a bill like this. We cannot let that happen.

Ironically, because of the two alternatives, a "no" vote is actually a vote to increase spending dramatically—not just a little bit but dramatically—over the next decade or so.

This bill is a compromise. People back home tell us to come here and work with the other side and compromise and make decisions and get to a result. We just did that. President Trump and Speaker PELOSI just did that. That is what this is reflective of. I am here to tell you today that it is our job to back that up.

In closing, it is imperative that we get this bill passed. I have seen our appropriators get busy and start appropriating, so by September 30—the end of this fiscal year—we have a chance to get the government funded. We know a "no" vote leads to more spending. It is our responsibility to be fiscally responsible, and I think a "yes" vote here does just that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

MR. MURPHY. Madam President, I am on the floor today to talk about a crisis overseas.

Before I do, I just want to take one moment. The Senator from Georgia talked about the increases in defense spending. I think that is what we want to do. It is bipartisan and suggested that it was the prior administration that had gutted defense spending. That is not true. I think we should clear the record about that.

In fact, in the first 3 years of the Obama administration, defense spending was on the rise. It was the election of a Republican Congress that led to what we call sequestration—the downward descent of discretionary spending of both defense and nondefense dollars. To the extent that my colleagues are worried about what happened to defense spending in the last 10 years, there is only one explanation for that; that is, the election of Republicans to the House of Representatives in 2010 and their demand that in order to vote for an increase in the debt ceiling, discretionary spending had to be slashed. In the first several years of the Obama administration, defense spending was on the rise.

YEMEN

Madam President, I am on the floor to once again talk about a dire humanitarian nightmare happening on the other side of the world in a country called Yemen, the U.S. complicity in that horror, and the national security disaster that comes with staying involved in this war.

I could have brought a bunch of much more disturbing charts to the floor to talk about the world's worst humanitarian disaster—a country in and on the brink of famine and with a cholera epidemic that the world has never even seen before in recorded history. Instead, I chose to bring you a picture of a child with his back turned to you in order to spare you the worst of this nightmare.

Before we break, I am here to make an urgent plea to my colleagues because, as bad as the situation is today,
it is about to get much worse over the course of the summer and this fall. There are millions of Yemenis who are going to die if we don’t make some decisions and pressure our allies to make some decisions in the coming days. The reasons are:

At the beginning of this year, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which are the primary military partners with the United States in Yemen, made a pledge they have made in the past, which is that they would be dropping bombs and fighting battles on the ground in Yemen, they would be putting up money to make sure that people would be fed and that children would be immunized. They made that pledge at the beginning of this year. We are now halfway through the year, and the UAE and the Saudis have reneged on that pledge.

Saudi Arabia pledged $750 million to the United Nations. It still owes, today, $595 million. The UAE pledged $750 million. It still owes, today, $500 million. They have always been tough negotiators and have been difficult to get the money from, but this year is different. This year, 6 months in, the Saudis and the Emirates are essentially saying: We are not giving the U.N. its money.

If you meet with them, they will tell you that they are spending that money in other ways. They are working with other partners inside Yemen to do the same kind of work. Don’t let them put that argument over on you. There is no one in Yemen who can do the nutrition work, the healthcare work, or the sanitation work that the U.N. can and does. There are no other partners who have the capacity to keep people alive like the U.N. You can’t just create and stand up that capacity outside of the United Nations.

If the Saudis and the UAE were not planning on giving the U.N. the money, then they shouldn’t have promised it at the beginning of the year. The U.N. went out and built infrastructure, it gave money based on those pledges. If the Emirates and the Saudis were not planning on giving the money, then they shouldn’t have promised it at the beginning of this year.

Let me tell you what is happening right now inside Yemen.

Work has been suspended on 30 new feeding centers in the most famine-stricken parts of Yemen.

Vaccinations have been suspended for 13 million people, which increases the risk for things like measles and malaria.

The procurement of new medical supplies and equipment has been suspended.

UNICEF has stopped its clean water and sanitation services for 8.4 million people, including 3 million kids, which means more cholera, and cholera is already on the rise. There have been more cholera cases reported in the first half of this year than had been reported in all of 2018. There have been half a million new cases of cholera just in the first 6 months of this year.

A U.N.-supported treatment plant that purifies water for agriculture has started to shut down as well, meaning an additional 4 million people could be eating vegetables that are irrigated with dirty water.

Starting very soon, the World Food Programme will not be able to buy vouchers for 3 million people.

Sixty more feeding centers will close in the coming weeks.

The World Food Programme has stopped providing nutrient bars to 2.6 million malnourished women and children, which will tip them now into the category of “severely malnourished,” just like this child is.

The U.N. is going to have to stop providing fuel for hospital generators.

There are 35,000 cancer patients who will stop receiving treatment.

I could go on and on and on.

Why are we standing here? Why aren’t we all pressing our friends—the Saudis and the Emirates—to come up with this money? While we all enjoy our August recess, there are going to be millions of children in Yemen who will look like this who don’t look like this today. There will be people who will either die or reach the brink of death all because of a war that the United States has perpetuated and because of funding commitments that can’t keep all of these people alive, that can’t save all of these children’s lives but that could save tens of thousands if our friends, our allies, would simply do the right thing.

I am furious about this, my colleagues, because I don’t know what the Trump administration is getting for this bear hug it has put around Saudi Arabia. After the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, we transferred to it more nuclear technology and sold it more weapons. Maybe the hope was, in exchange for that, Saudi Arabia would do something humane, do something that is not a nightmare, but it is making it worse. Saudi Arabia is getting everything from us, and it is not even feeding the people on the ground in Yemen who are dying as we speak.

At a 2015 campaign rally in Alabama, the President said: I go along great with the Saudis. They buy apartments from me. They spend, like, $40 million, $50 million. Am I supposed to dislike them? I like them very much.

From 2015 to 2017, a lobbying firm connected to the Saudi Government paid $270,000 to the Trump International Hotel in DC. In 2018, a 5-day visit from Saudi officials to the Trump International Hotel in New York City helped to boost the hotel’s quarterly revenue by 13 percent.

Boy, I hope this isn’t the reason the administration isn’t pressing the Saudis harder to come up with their funding commitment, but the President has been pretty clear that the Saudis and their family have a lot of money. He has been open about that. I hope this is not the reason for our not forcing our partners to step up. This is life-or-death time right now. If the administration is not going to do it, then we will have to do it. Members of Congress will have to do it.

I hope, before my colleagues go home and enjoy some rest and relaxation for the month of August, will get on the phone with their friends in the Saudi Government, that they will get on the phone with the Emirates Government, and that they will get on the phone with the Trump administration and tell them that it is time to pony up the money they have pledged.

The United States is the No. 1 donor, but we could do more. The Saudis and the Emirates have come through on a quarter of the money they have promised, and the consequences of that continuing are absolutely nightmarish. So, before we go home for our break, let’s do something to make sure that a handful more of these kids are alive when we come back. I would urge them to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, some say it is irresponsible not to raise the debt ceiling. Well, true fiscal conservatives say it is irresponsible to raise the debt ceiling without any reform of our profligate spending ways. To allow the debt ceiling to go up an infinite amount—as much as Congress can possibly spend and borrow over a nearly 2-year period—is fiscally irresponsible and has never been seen in our history. This may well be the most fiscally irresponsible thing we have done in the history of the United States.

The Federal Government is currently spending nearly $2 million every minute. Don’t let anybody fool you—this is a spending problem. The annual deficit this year will exceed $1.2 trillion. What is irresponsible is recklessly indenturing our children and our grandchildren. What is irresponsible is binding our kids to this massive burden of debt. What is irresponsible is a Congress that believes it is Santa Claus and that it can be everything to everyone and that everything is free.

At least the Democrats are honest. The Democrats don’t care about deficits, and they will tell you that to your face. The Democrats, in fact, are falling all over themselves to propose more than $50 trillion in new spending relative to the trillion-dollar annual deficits. They want to add $50 trillion in spending.

Yet it is not just the Democrats. The Republicans are also guilty—at least the Big Government Republicans who will vote for this monstrous addition of debt. Many of the supporters of this debt deal ran around their States for years and complained that President Obama was spending too much and borrowing too much. These same Republicans now—the whole disingenuous lot of them—will support a bill that puts us on the front of the spending trough to vote for as much or more debt than President Obama ever added.
Get this. All of those who said the debt was bad under President Obama will today snuggle their way up, wiggle their way up to the spending trough, and they will do exactly what they condemned under President Obama. Shaming the public on the politicians who have campaigned as conservatives but who have governed as big spenders.

America, wake up. The two parties are often one. The two parties that ostensibly fight are in reality one party of big spending and the other separate only where they want to spend the money.

The media reports of a lack of compromise. The opposite is true. There is too much compromise, and the compromise is always more debt, more pork barrel spending, and more burden for our kids.

Yet there is another path. There is another form of compromise. Instead of compromising to raise spending for guns and border security and give a blank check to a government that has never made a sensible budget. When the balanced budget is passed and sent to the States, when it has been doing very well since the sequester, it includes a significant increase in support for domestic priorities. In fact, the budget deal increases the debt ceiling. It is an agreement that will strengthen our national security and give our troops the resources they need to do a very difficult and often dangerous job. Importantly, it will clear the way for critical investments in America’s middle class, as well as for those struggling to get to the middle class, in healthcare, education, childcare, cancer research, our veterans, and more.

For too long, the arbitrary, draconian limits of sequester have hampered our ability to invest in working Americans and our military readiness. This deal ends the threat of sequester permanently. That is huge.

As large forces erode the financial security of the middle class—globalization, automation, technological advancement—the only forces large enough to push back on the side of the middle class and help them is the Federal Government.

Investing in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and childcare is how we give middle-class Americans, greater security and give Americans struggling to get into the middle class a ladder up—something this government has done for decades and decades but hasn’t been doing very well since the sequester has been in effect. The sequester has hamstrung our ability to make investments in the middle class for 8 years—but no longer. Thank God.

Not only does this agreement end the sequester, it includes a significant increase in support for domestic priorities. In fact, the budget deal increases domestic budget authority $10 billion more than defense. In the 3 years of Trump’s Presidency and a Republican Senate, Democrats have secured over $100 billion in increases for domestic priorities. That means additional resources for the States to combat the opioid epidemic; support for VA hospitals caring for our veterans; cancer
research and other critical medical research that have saved the lives of literally millions; climate and clean energy technology; reducing the burden of college debt; infrastructure and transportation improvements.

So this $100 billion is not abstract. It means jobs; it means ladders up; and it means hope for the American people, who are often pushed around by forces much larger than themselves.

Finally, this legislation lays the groundwork to avoid another government shutdown and will preserve the full faith and credit of the United States.

As my colleagues know well, the House has already passed this legislation and recessed for the State work period. The President supports it. Reportedly he is calling Members to encourage them to vote yes. The final piece to this puzzle is the Senate’s stamp of approval.

I want to salute Senator LEAHY, our ranking member, all of the members of the Appropriations Committee, and all of those who came up with this bipartisan agreement.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote yes. Let’s give our military, our middle class a boost before the Senate adjourns today.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

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

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 932

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the Paul Amendment No. 932.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a second?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is ready to ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), 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. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 23, nays 70, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 260 Leg.]

YEAS—23

Barrasso
Blackburn
Braun
Corzine
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Enzi
NAYS—70

Alexander
Baldwin
Blumenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Brown
Burr
Canwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Duckworth
Feinstein
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
NAYES—7

Risch
Romney
Rubio
Russe
Scott (IC)
Lee
Morgan
Paul

NOT VOTING—7

Hasean
Hawley
Heinrich
Hirono
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Jones
Kaine
McConnell
McSally
McKellar
Murray
Perdue
Portman

Bennet
Booker
Gillibrand
Isakson
Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 23, the nays are 70.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to. The amendment (No. 932) was rejected.

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 an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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, shall be brought to a close?

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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 New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), 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. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Alexander
Baldwin
Barrasso
Blumenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Brown
Burr
Canwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Duckworth
Feinstein
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Jones
Kaine
King
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cotton
Crapo
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Booker
Isakson
Sanders

Bennet
Booker
Gillibrand

Risch
Romney
Rubio
Russe
Scott (FL)
Lee
Morgan
Paul

NOT VOTING—6

NAYES—27

Bennet
Booker
Gillibrand

Davis
Lee
Enzi
Fischer

Hawley
Johnson
Kennedy
Klobuchar
Lankford
Lee
Morgan

Gardner
Perdue
Young

Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

NAYES—7

Bennet
Booker
Gillibrand

Risch
Romney
Rubio
Russe
Scott (FL)
Lee
Morgan
Paul

NOT VOTING—7

NAYES—7

Bennet
Booker
Gillibrand

Risch
Romney
Rubio
Russe
Scott (FL)
Lee
Morgan
Paul

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 67, the nays are 27.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I support the bipartisan budget deal that will extend the debt ceiling and lift the current budgets caps for the next 2 years.

This important deal will avoid harmful cuts to domestic priorities, prevent a default on our Nation’s debt, and finally allow appropriators to get to work on this year’s appropriations bills to fund the government.

Despite proposing draconian cuts in this budget, I am glad that President Trump has agreed to join Democrats in permanently ending the threat of sequestration.
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 especially 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 won 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 two 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.

Congressional Record - Senate S5289

August 1, 2019

**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 deferred 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. 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 profile. 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 a suspect or a victim, a powerful tool in our criminal justice system.

Sharing this information across State lines through the Federal system can help us identify repeat offenders and link victims and perpetrators. By allowing it to expire or lapse this year, it would be one of the few significant tools we have to combat these crimes—though it has 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 I introduced the bill in February 2019, 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.

Each 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 PRESIDENT. 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. This caps give us the 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 project that would provide clean drinking water in our community.

These budget caps, again, give us the opportunity to move forward on priorities like that that our 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 helping to discover how we could deal with 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 the most pressing issues 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 legislature. It gives us the opportunity to know that 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 child care or dealing with our veterans. We all talk about how we want to do the right thing. 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 which 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.

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.
Now the appropriators have to make those judgments on the priorities, and we will have to reconcile between the House and Senate and get the President's signature.

That is what we should be doing—setting the priorities so our country is not having a reasonable pool of money to deal with discretionary spending. We have been denied that for many years. Now we have the opportunity to do what Congress should do and set the priorities for this country.

In addition, we have the drug problems. I probably have more meetings in my State on dealing with the drug crisis. It is in every community in Maryland and this Nation. I hope we will see increased Federal participation in that area.

Another part of the budget agreement was to extend the debt limit for 2 years. This, to me, is one of the absurdities of what we do on debt limits. We incur money—we incur debt—and then we have to tie it to whether we will pay for the bills we incurred. You don't default on your debt. That is not what America is about. We have to control what we spend, but we have to pay for what we spend. We have to honor credit ratings where we are at risk. The Secretary of Treasury made this one of his top priorities. I agreed with him on this issue. Now we no longer have the fear that America will not honor its debt.

The bottom line is the budget agreement gets rid of sequestration. Good riddance. This was put in as a placeholder for us to deal with the budget deficit. It didn't work in that way. All it did was cause uncertainty, and in many respects, it would have required across-the-board cuts. That is not the way we should do business. We have to make decisions. Sequestration could have been used for us to avoid making the tough decisions. We have to do that ourselves.

The bottom line is the budget agreement gets rid of that and gives us a much better chance of avoiding a government shutdown, which makes absolutely no sense at all, and, hopefully, not having to deal with continuing resolutions. Continuing resolutions put us on autopilot because we can't pass a budget. Now, I hope we will be able to pass budgets and avoid not only shutdowns but continuing resolutions.

I want to emphasize this point. Discretionary spending has been a smaller part of the overall budget of this country. It has been a shrieking song. So why do we have growing deficits? By the way, discretionary spending is at historically low levels in this country. Revenues, unfortunately, are also at historic low levels. In other words, we are not raising the traditional amount of revenue that is necessary for us to pay our bills.

I come from a family who believes you have to pay your bills. I think it is wrong for us to spend money today and ask our children and grandchildren to pay for our current spending. We should have the courage to provide the revenues that are necessary to pay our bills. Instead, what have we done? We have cut revenues again and again so our deficit today is not sustainable. We have to deal with it.

The major culprit has been these irresponsible increases in mandatory spending, the last of which went primarily to the wealthiest people in the country. According to the Congressional Budget Office, it will add $1.9 trillion to the deficit over the next decade. That is the culprit of the deficits, and that is what we should be dealing with.

I have heard a lot of my colleagues come in here and lament this agreement. They have said it is going to add to the deficit. Some of these people are the same people who voted for the tax cut. Let's be direct about this. We have to have the revenues that are necessary to pay for what we incur in spending.

Yes, there is another area in which we can do better, and that is in the overall growth in mandatory spending, not discretionary spending. These are the appropriations that have to be made. We can do a much better job of reining in the cost of healthcare. We had a chance to do that last week, and we didn't take full advantage of that.

I am a member of the Senate Committee on Finance. We passed a bill to deal with the escalating costs of prescription drugs. Today, in Maryland, I have learned that roughly four dollars out of every healthcare dollar is spent on medicines. We pay so much more in America for medicines than do the other industrialized nations of the world.

Yes, we have recommended to the Senate body a bill to deal with the cost of prescription medicines. It will deal with the issue of putting a cap on the escalation of the current drug prices. It will put a cap on the out-of-pocket costs that the people on Medicare Part D will have to pay. That is good. Those are two good things.

We had a chance to really make a difference by eliminating the prohibition in the current law that prevents Medicare from negotiating the costs of medicines. Think about that for one moment. Where else do we do that? We tell businesses they can't leverage all of their buying to get the lowest possible prices, and we tell Medicare it can't leverage the total market it is paying in order to get the best price on prescription medicine.

What does that mean? That means we are overpaying. Whether you are paying it in Part D premiums, whether you are paying it in private insurance premiums, or whether you are paying it as a taxpayer, we are paying too much for medicines. It is the primary reason the international price on medicines is so much lower than what we pay in America.

We had a chance to deal with it this week, and we didn't. We will have another opportunity when the bill comes to the floor, and I hope we will do the right thing by removing the prohibition that is in the current law on negotiating price.

I am very pleased we got this budget agreement done. No, I am not pleased about the deficit, but I recognize that we need to deal with revenues and that all the money we need to pay for our prescription drugs, which were not part of today's vote. I hope, when we return in September, the good will we have used in order to get this budget agreement done will continue and that the appropriators will be able to reconcile their appropriations bills with each other so we will not need continuing resolutions and so there will be no threat of a government shutdown.

I hope we will have the same type of bipartisan commitment by which people have expressed their outrage on the growth of the deficit in order to deal with the real causes of the deficit. We will have a chance on prescription medicines to deal with those costs. Let's have the courage to sit down and make sure we raise revenues we need in order to pay for our expenses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST MICHAEL ISAIAH NANCE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise on my behalf and on the behalf of Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, the express condolences of the family of SPC Michael Isaiah Nance. He and fellow paratrooper, PFC Brandon Jay Kreischer, of Ohio, gave their lives in service to our country on July 29 in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

The early reports on their deaths are that they were shot by an Afghan soldier at a military base—a so-called green on blue attack. The incident is under investigation. Isaiah was 24 years old. Isaiah was the 96th Illinois soldier to have been killed in Afghanistan since our invasion began in 2001, and he is 1 of 2,289 American troops who have died there since that invasion. He was a proud and outstanding member of the 82nd Airborne. Since enlisting in 2017, he earned the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge, and he qualified as a Basic Parachutist.

As a member of the Nance family noted, "He loved his country and wanted my condolences to the family of SPC Michael Isaiah Nance. He died doing something that he loved." Isaiah arrived in Afghanistan just a few weeks ago, shortly after a trip to Europe with his mother Shawn Gregoire. He and thousands of other Americans who are still there were deployed in support of our NATO-led mission to train, advise, and assist the Afghan Army, a mission known as Operation Freedom's Sentinel. As fate would have it, when uniformed Army personnel arrived at his home to break this terrible news to his family, much of the family had already gathered after having attended the funeral of the Nances' great-grandfather, Sam
Forest, Jr., who had served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war.

As one member of Isaiah’s family noted, “It was the worst day in our family’s history.”

Isaiah was raised by his mother and grandfather in Chicago, which is on the South Side of Chicago. He attended college in Florida. After 2 years, he insisted to his mother that he wanted to join the Army. He wanted to continue his family’s tradition of military service not only as his great-grandfather had but also as several members of his family still do in the Chicago Police Department.

He told his mother he wanted to pursue his dream. He promised her that after it was over, he would finish his degree. Shortly after enlisting, he completed basic training and earned his wings at the Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA. He became an Automatic Rifleman who was assigned to Company B, First Battalion, 556th parachute Infantry Regiment of the storied 82nd Airborne Division.

The motto of the 82nd Airborne is “Airborne all the way.” Isaiah lived every bit of this motto in his faithful service to America and with his family and friends. He enjoyed wrestling, traveling the world, and cheering for his beloved Chicago White Sox. He was a foodie. He loved good soul food. Perhaps, most especially, he loved spending time with his younger brother.

As a member of his family noted, he was “energetic, athletic, funny, humble” — all of the things you would want your kid to be.

Every member of the Senate would be proud to have a son like Isaiah. All of the Members join me in expressing their condolences to his family at this painful moment and in grieving with them over Isaiah’s bright light—ended all too soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the presence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, we just had our last vote here in the Senate before going into the August recess, and I am looking forward to being home in Ohio during the week. I come here during the weekdays and home on the weekends, but during this August recess period, it gives me a chance to get all around the State because we are home during the workweek.

I will be in a few dozen counties by the end of the recess, but I also go to start by being at the Ohio State Fair tomorrow. Tomorrow morning at 7:30 a.m., we have the biggest ag event in the State, which is our annual ag breakfast. I will be hearing from farmers from all over the State.

It has been a tough year for us in Ohio. Because of all the water, we have had lots of farmers who weren’t able to plant their crops, and, therefore, there is no harvest. Others who did plant their crops have found that their crops aren’t doing very well because of all of the water damage early in the year.

So it has been a hard year, and, frankly, we have the same problems in the future for a few years in terms of the price, particularly, of corn and soybeans. On top of that, we have less exports of soybeans, which I hope is now being addressed with the new agreements being made with relation to China in particular, but that has put pressure on price, because without having those additional overseas markets, it has had the effect of lowering the price, particularly for soybeans and corn. On top of that, it has just been generally a tough time in farm country because of inputs going up and the price of the product being flat.

So my hope is that tomorrow I will get more input from farmers all across the State, and we will be able to continue to talk about the things we are doing.

I supported the U.S. Department of Agriculture providing some emergency loans and grants to Ohio farmers to get us through this season to avoid bankruptcies and to get people back on their farms. This new flow of money is now beginning to flow. I am happy to say. We are beginning to see some progress. The new farm bill is helping.

So my hope is that we will see better weather here going into the end of the season for these crops, that the harvest season will be better, and that we will be able to get back on our feet.

Also tomorrow, after touring the fair, I will be having some meetings with the business community, talking about what is working and what is not working in terms of regulations and taxes.

I will also be meeting with business leadership about how to get these new opportunity zones in the tax bill up and going. At those meetings, we will have community leaders and we will have people from neighborhoods that have had a tough time. Even during the economic growth, we have seen that some neighborhoods have been left behind. The unemployment is very high, and, unfortunately, they still have real problems of stubborn poverty. These opportunity zones are a perfect example there. This actually puts money into these communities by lowering and sometimes removing altogether the capital gains taxes for people if they agree to invest.

I will be talking to small businesses and housing advocates who are excited about this and see how this is working in Columbus, OH.

I will also be in Youngstown, OH, early next week, talking about this same topic, as well as some other economic development issues we have there in terms of how we deal with the Lordstown plant, the plant that General Motors, unfortunately, has chosen to walk away from, which is very discouraging.

So we will be all over the State.

One of the things I will be doing next weekend is visiting the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This is actually the 13th most visited national park in America. I haven’t heard of it, unless you are from Ohio. But if you are from Akron or Cleveland, you certainly know about it because it is nestled right in between these two big cities, and it gets a lot of visits from a lot of school kids. It is an incredible park because it is really a suburban and urban, as well as rural, park all at once. There is a lot of outdoor education going on there. There is a beautiful river that runs through it, the Cuyahoga River. There is also a train that can commute you back and forth. I will be there with Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, doing a kayak trip down the river, again looking at some of the needs the park has.

This leads me to a topic I had hoped to discuss on the floor yesterday, but because of a string of votes we were unable to do so. I was going to be out here on the floor giving a colloquy with some of my colleagues—Senator Alexander, Senator Warner, Senator King, and others. We were going to talk about the need for us to provide more repairs in our national parks.

Unfortunately, Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of those parks badly in need of it. We have about a $48 million maintenance backlog. What does that mean? It means that every year we do fund the parks, but we don’t fund these capital expenses that are needed. In the case of Cuyahoga Valley, as an example, there is an old railroad bridge they use for pedestrian traffic that is falling apart, and they may have to close it off soon. For every year that you don’t attend to this deferred maintenance, things get worse and worse. Think about your own home. If you stop taking care of the roof, what happens? You get leaks. You get leaks and then you have drywall damage. Then, you have paint damage. So the Federal Government over time has not taken care of...
the parks and not provided the right stewardship in terms of these longer term deferred maintenance projects. Yes, we fund the naturalist programs and we fund the immediate needs of the park, but these, frankly, more expensive items, like deferred maintenance, do not get to priority status, and we really hope that we will pass legislation to do that.

For more than a century, we have been blessed as Americans to have these National Parks. They are amazing. I have experienced the majesty of the Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Grand Teton of the world. They are amazing. There are some more modest ones, like the boyhood home of William Howard Taft in Ohio, that maybe you don’t know as well, but they are all important. A lot of them are focused on history, in terms of the historic homes. There are now 84 million acres of national parks and historical sites. They attract over 330 million visitors every year. Think about that. That is more than the population of our country.

Again, we have eight of those parks in Ohio. We are proud of those. And 2.7 million visitors go to Ohio’s National Parks every year. They are part of our history and part of our culture. This $12 billion backlog of long-delayed maintenance needs is a real concern, though. It is $12 billion now. These parks are treasures, but they have unfortunately been allowed to deteriorate to the point that some of the assets in these parks are totally unusable.

If you go to a park today, you might find out that a trail is closed or a visitors center can’t be visited. We have a visitors center in Ohio that had to be closed down because the roof was leaking. They didn’t have the funds to replace the roof. They had funds to run the programs within the visitors center, but these long-term maintenance problems are a real problem. You may find that you can’t use overnight lodging facilities are not available.

In a way, our parks are crumbling from within. They may look good on the outside, but they have serious problems.

I mentioned the fact that we have long-term maintenance problems at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We also have that at others, to the point of about $100 million in backlogs.

Last August, I visited Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial on the shores of Lake Erie, which was established on Lake Erie to honor those who fought in the famous Battle of Lake Erie during the war of 1812, as well as to celebrate the long-standing peace we have had between Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. There, I saw $48 million in long-delayed maintenance needs at the site, primarily a seawall. There is a seawall on Lake Erie to keep Lake Erie from destroying the park, and it is cracking. There are construction signs in front of it. You can see why when you go there, because there are construction signs in front of it. You can go in the Visitors Center, but pretty soon you will not be able to stay.

Our parks have had a lot of issues that have built up over time. This deferred maintenance is really important. So we have legislation to address that. It is important that we do it now because if we don’t, the costs just go higher. For taxpayers, it is a good deal to move now to make these improvements so that the costs don’t compound and you make the situation even worse.

This is at a time when more and more people want to go to our parks. Visitation over the last 10 years has increased by about 58 million people. That is putting a lot of pressure on the parks, of course. But it is good that people want to go to our parks. Our national treasures are a great place to go with your family, but we can’t keep the parks healthy through band-aids alone. We need this legislation.

Along with my colleagues Senators Martha Coakley, and ANGUS KING, about whom I spoke earlier—two Republicans, one Democrat, and one Independent—we have proposed what is called the Restore Our Parks Act. It is a commonsense solution.

Specifically, the legislation creates what is called a legacy restoration fund, which will get half of all the annual energy revenues over the next 5 years that are not otherwise allocated to be used for these priority deferred maintenance projects. This money would come from royalties from our offshore and onshore energy projects.

By the way, the Trump administration is doing more energy exploration and development. So there is actually more funding coming out of here. The funding and the royalty would go to this purpose to the extent it is not being used for other purposes. The bill caps deposits into the fund at $1.3 billion annually, which would provide a total of $6.5 billion for deferred maintenance over the next 5 years. You might notice that $6.5 is not the $12 billion we need, but, No. 1, it is a great start. No. 2, we have asked the Park Service to give us a specific list of what are the most urgent problems, and that is about $6.5 billion. We will continue to work on this, but right now we need that funding badly because, again, if we don’t provide it, not only will we lose the parks we need people to enjoy, with certain assets off limits, but also the costs only get higher and higher. It is a historic step in the right direction.

In Congress, we proposed this legislation and we got a lot of support. We had a total of 40 cosponsors here in the Senate, more than one-third of this Chamber. There was a House bill also offered, companion legislation in the House, that actually got 302 Members supporting it. So these are totally bipartisan approaches. That is two-thirds of the House of Representatives.

We also got it through our committee here in the Senate last year. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed a bill on a bipartisan basis by a vote of 19 to 4.

Importantly, we also received support from all over the country. As people found out about this legislation, people who love the parks stepped forward. The National Trusts, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Outdoor Industry Alliance, the National Trust for Public Land, and others. During the legislation hearing last year, the director of the Pew Charitable Trusts agreed, saying: “Supporting this bipartisan bill is a wise investment for our National Parks System and has overwhelming support from the American public, generates hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars for the economy each year and provides access to world class recreation opportunities and helps preserve our nation’s history.” That is all true.

This is a critical piece of legislation that can actually all agree on here on a bipartisan basis. We urge that it be moved quickly.

As we enter the August recess, a lot of my colleagues are going to go to one of our national parks or more. Some of them live, as one told me recently, in the shadow of one of our national parks. Folks who live in places like Montana and Wyoming see the parks all the time. As I said, I will be at our largest park, Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This is the opportunity to go to see the parks, tour the parks, find out what the needs are, and, hopefully, come back here to Congress in September and do something about this deferred maintenance.

I urge my colleagues, first, on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, to take this bill up. Let’s mark it up, again, as soon as possible after the recess. Let’s not wait any longer until things get worse. I look forward to working with my colleagues to get this legislation passed on the floor of the Senate, to get it voted on, and to have a companion bill that is still being worked on in the House voted on as
well. Let’s get something done and send it to the President for his signature so we can ensure that these treasures, our national parks, are there for generations to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from New Jersey.

EBOLA ERADICATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to the growing risks of an Ebola epidemic in Central Africa and to urge the Senate to take up and pass S. 1340, my bipartisan bill authorizing USAID to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This legislation passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June, and it is time for the full Senate to act.

On July 17, the World Health Organization declared this Ebola outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern,” with experts predicting the outbreak will last well into 2020.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, or the DRC, as it is known, has been hit by an Ebola outbreak exactly 1 year as of today. Despite the best efforts of the Congolese, the World Health Organization, and international partners, this outbreak is now the second worst in history. More than 1,800 people are dead and more than 2,600 confirmed and probable cases have been identified.

It took just over 7 months to reach 1,000 cases of Ebola, but only 2 months to reach 2,000. According to the World Health Organization, up to 25 percent of all infections may be going unreported.

The scope of the outbreak continues to grow. Just today, press reports indicate that there is a third case in the city of Goma, home to over 1 million people.

Imagine the consequences of an unrestrained outbreak in a city of over 1 million people. Under the best of circumstances, it would be difficult, but not impossible, to control the outbreak. However, we are not dealing with ideal circumstances. Today’s Ebola outbreak is unfolding amid a noxious mix of political mistrust and overall insecurity.

Consider that eastern Congo has been plagued for years by armed opposition groups and militias. Dozens of armed groups opposed to the government operate in the areas most affected by Ebola, periodically preventing health officials from reaching communities in need of treatment and prevention. Likewise, criminal gangs operating with near impunity have made it dangerous for healthcare workers to travel to Ebola-affected villages without security.

To complicate things further, we have witnessed community resistance specifically to the Ebola response. Long marginalized by the capital of the DRC, Kinshasa, communities in east-ern Congo remain skeptical that the crisis is real. They fear the government is using the disease as another tool of disenfranchising them, especially after the former government canceled elections. Some actors even oppose medical interventions to promote disinformation and conspiracy theories questioning the existence of the Ebola outbreak.

To date, there have been more than 100 attacks on health facilities, severely compromising the DRC and the international community’s ability to do its work. Misinformation, mistrust of the government, and fear of violence at health centers has resulted in between 25 and 50 percent of new Ebola deaths taking place outside treatment facilities. This means infectious patients are less likely to receive lifesaving treatment and more likely to infect others.

We no longer have the luxury of half-hearted or even total resistance to Ebola. We need a multifaceted, multisectoral, international response to get this under control. We know all too well that infectious diseases have no borders. It is one airplane flight away from coming to our own country. That is what has happened in the past.

It is in our national and international interest to ensure the United States uses every resource available to get this outbreak under control. To date, however, the White House response has not only been inadequate but downright counterproductive.

In early May, USAID developed a new strategy focusing on basic assistance for disaffected communities to help build trust and improve access for healthcare workers. This strategy, while a good start, has not been implemented. As a result, needless delays and bureaucratic hurdles have slowed down the response.

In mid-June, the administration had granted exceptions for all Ebola-related activities proposed under USAID’s new plan, but they have yet to be launched. To make matters worse, those exceptions were granted only for fiscal year 2018 money.

Finally, the exception is not a country waiver, creating loads of redtape for future activities related to combating Ebola. In other words, we are shooting ourselves in the foot with unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles that serve no purpose and slow down our response even as the disease continues to kill more and more people.

Fortunately, the DRC and bordering countries together with the World Health Organization, have lessened the overall impact by successfully vaccinating more than 120,000 people. They have also administered experimental treatment regimens to over 300 people, which, if caught in time, can save more lives. I am hopeful that this is the start.

As a tier 3 country under the law, the DRC is therefore severely restricted from receiving U.S. aid. But let’s use some common sense here. This legislation was never, never intended to hurt the most vulnerable in society or to be used as an excuse to ignore a deadly epidemic with local implications. In fact, Congress foresaw the need for exceptions to these sanctions in extraordinary cases in 22 USC, chapter 78, section 4 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This language was just cited by the United States to waive sanctions and provide assistance when it is in our national interest to do so. Indeed, the law specifically says: “The President shall exercise the authority”—shall exercise the authority—“under section (4) when necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children.”

According to the World Health Organization, the Ebola virus disease has a 50-70 percent mortality rate. We can’t deny its effects on vulnerable populations. If the people of eastern Congo, including women and children, are not vulnerable, then I don’t know who is.

Yet the White House has refused to exercise its waiver to ensure we need the Ebola Eradication Act. This simple legislation directs the USAID Administrator to immediately provide assistance, including multisectoral, nonhumanitarian, and nontrade related assistance, including multisectoral, nonhumanitarian, and nontrade related assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other vulnerable countries to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak, notwithstanding the sanctions required by the Trafficking and Victims Protection Act.

Make no mistake, President Trump could have done this himself months ago. But as a Bloomberg editorial published today points out, President Trump has failed to respond with urgency. As a result, needless delays and inaction have hampered our response.

In mid-June, the administration—notably the former government canceled elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in mid-June, the administration—and the administration—had granted exceptions for all Ebola-related activities proposed under USAID’s new plan, but they have yet to be launched. To make matters worse, those exceptions were granted only for fiscal year 2018 money.

Finally, the exception is not a country waiver, creating loads of redtape for future activities related to combating Ebola. In other words, we are shooting ourselves in the foot with unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles that serve no purpose and slow down our response even as the disease continues to kill more and more people.

Fortunately, the DRC and bordering countries together with the World Health Organization, have lessened the overall impact by successfully vaccinating more than 120,000 people. They have also administered experimental treatment regimens to over 300 people, which, if caught in time, can save more lives. I am hopeful that this is the start.
we can certainly step up the U.S. response and our support for local and international efforts. We have a moral obligation to help contain and combat this outbreak before it becomes an epidemic. Likewise, we have an obligation to protect the safety and security of the American public. Our goal must be to save lives and prevent the spread of Ebola before it stands a chance of reaching America’s shores. Ultimately, we ignore the tragedy unfolding in the Congo at our own peril. It is time for this body to act.

USAID Administrator Mark Green testified in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year and expressed strong support for this legislation as it is currently written. I urge my colleagues to work with me in passing S. 1340, the Ebola Eradication Act of 2019, as it is currently drafted and as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed it in June. This is an opportunity to ultimately save lives. It is an opportunity to stop an epidemic. It is an opportunity to preserve our own interests by making sure Ebola doesn’t come to the shores of the United States. It should be a no-brainer.

I hope we can work through the one objection I understand that exists with our colleague from Utah so that we can actually control the epidemic, save lives, and ultimately ensure our own interests.

With that, 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. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the question be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order of July 31 with respect to district judges be modified to allow for confirmation votes notwithstanding rule XXII.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 421.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statement related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 803 to be Admiral: Vice Adm. Michael M. Gilday?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 57 and 58.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of M. Miller Baker, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade; Timothy M. Reif, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Baker and Reif nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN892, PN492, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stayin and Karpel nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN692, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN692, PN492, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN692, PN492, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN692, PN492, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN692, PN492, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN692, PN492, PN154, PN159, PN160, PN161, PN163, PN164, PN165, and PN167.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.
G. Malcolm, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020; Frank X. Neuner, Jr., of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2018; Frank X. Neuner, Jr., of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020 (Reappointment); and Gloria Valencia-Weber, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2022 (Reappointment).
Malcolm, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026; and Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 366.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Wilmer Ocasio, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Marshal for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 366.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Eric Wooten, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: PN21, PN563, and PN363.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 243, 244, 388, and 389.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of James A. Crowell IV, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; Jason Park, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; Raine R. Brandt, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; and Shana Frost Matini, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the
Senate’s action; that no further motion be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Crowell, Park, Brandt, and Matini nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 293, 158, and 7.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; and Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 178, 181, 397, 400, 401, 404, 405, 406, and 361.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Kenneth S. George, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Union of Uruguay; W. Patrick Murphy, of Vermont, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire; Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt; Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Nations during her tenure of office; and Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea; Courtney Bell, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the African Republic; and Mary Beth Leonard, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Central African Republic.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Toro nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motion be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 403.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

_CLOTURE MOTION_

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike
EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 174.

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

The motion was agreed to.

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 246.

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

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of fourteen years.

Served by the Senior Assistant Legislative Clerk.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020. (Re-appointment)

Served by the Senior Assistant Legislative Clerk.

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 333.

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

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020. (Re-appointment)

Served by the Senior Assistant Legislative Clerk.

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

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

The motion was agreed to.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 407. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the nomination with no objection. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kilbridge nomination? The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TRIBUTE TO JANE TSCHETTER LUCAS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jane Tschetter Lucas. This month, she is leaving government service after serving her home State of South Dakota as a member of my staff for 10 years and, most recently, serving in the executive branch for the last 2 years.

In 2007, Jane graduated from South Dakota State University, SDSU, in her hometown of Brookings, where she was a Briggs Scholar and a student athlete. After graduating from SDSU, Jane moved from South Dakota to Washington, DC, to take a position as a staff assistant in my office.

In the 12 years since then, a lot has happened for her both personally and professionally. She quickly moved on from the front office and went on to serve on my legislative team in several capacities, including as a legislative assistant, health policy counsel, and finally as legislative director.

Jane was a fierce advocate for rural healthcare and education priorities, and I know many South Dakotans benefited from her tireless work on these issues.

While working full time in my office, through healthcare debates and education reform, and all that came with them, Jane earned her law degree from Georgetown University. In 2017, Jane and her husband Chris welcomed a future SDSU Jackrabbit, their daughter, Grace. During that time, she transitioned to a senior role at the Department of Health and Human Services. Shortly after, she accepted a role in the White House Counsel’s office.

For the last 13 months, she has served as the Chief of Staff, a legislative assistant to the President in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

Since her days as an intern in the South Dakota State Legislature, Jane has demonstrated an affinity for public service and a knack for developing strong policy, a natural leader, a patient mentor, and thoughtful and thorough in her work. I would like to thank her for her decade of
service to my office and the State of South Dakota and for her service to the American people.
I wish her continued success in her new endeavors.

DREAM CENTER
Mr. DURBIN.

“We’ve got a friend in Trump; He’s lifting us out of our slump; Too many regs, were way too tough; After all the years we’ve gone; We’d just had enough, but; Now, we’ve got a friend in Trump."

Mr. President, that was a song, sung to the tune of Randy Newman’s “You’ve Got a Friend in Me,” written by a former lawyer for Dream Center Education Holdings about the prospects for their for-profit college enterprise under a Trump administration.

Earlier this month, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott, a Virginia Democrat who is the chairman of the House Education Committee, unveiled a trove of documents, including internal communications between the Department of Education and Dream Center, in a letter to Ms. DeVos this month. He said the documents suggest that Ms. Jones misled Congress about her efforts to help shield Dream Center from its misdeeds.

“The actions of Dream Center and the Department of Education of its responsibility to protect students raise grave concerns,” Mr. Scott wrote.

Instead of requiring Dream Center to take action, “the department informed Dream Center executives that it would work to retroactively license the chain of schools,” Mr. Scott wrote. “The Department categorically rejects these allegations,” he wrote.

The Education Department has maintained it did nothing wrong.

“This story is based entirely on a wrongful premise,” the department wrote in a statement. “The full and complete timeline shows Dream Center did not receive any unique treatment from the department. We simply worked to try and get as many students into a new program as possible. While we did not achieve a perfect outcome, our actions helped thousands of students land on their feet.”

In a response letter to Mr. Scott on Monday, the department’s acting general counsel, Reed D. Rubinstein, submitted documentation that he said contradicted the committee’s “unfair suggestions” that the department tailored its policies to assist Dream Center and was not forthcoming with Congress. “The Department categorically rejects these allegations,” he wrote.

“Dream Center’s management received no special treatment,” he wrote.

President Trump has moved to deregulate any number of industries, from mining and offshore oil exploration to chemicals and Internet providers. But Ms. DeVos’s efforts to get the government off the backs of for-profit colleges have come under particular scrutiny, in part because of the spectacular misdeeds that have marred the industry only a few years ago, in part because policies that once worked in the sector have led the DeVos deregulatory push.

Dream Center was the first of the new deregulatory era. Yet Education Department officials insisted, repeatedly, that its demise had nothing to do with the administration’s policies or efforts. Ms. Jones told Congress that she did not even know of Dream Center’s accreditation problems at the time the department said she was working to get it out of its jam. She also told lawmakers the policy change extending retroactive accreditation had “nothing to do with the DeVos deregulatory push.”

These assurances are now being questioned.

“The documents further suggest that department officials were not forthcoming to Congress and the public about the information they had about Dream Center’s status and practices,” Mr. Scott wrote. He is requesting emails, text messages and interviews with several department officials, including Ms. Jones.

The letter and documents “raise questions about whether the department took steps to allow Dream Center to mislead students,” Mr. Scott said.

From the start, the Education Department overlooked red flags when, in late 2017, Dream Center took control of more than 100 campuses with 50,000 students from a for-profit higher-education company, Education Management Corporation. Around that time, Dream Center’s accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, notified the organization that it was about to change two of its schools’ accreditation status. Two Education Department officials, including the agency’s director of accreditation, were copied on the letter.

In January 2018 the accreditor published a notification on its website stating that the two Dream Center schools were not accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. It ordered Dream Center to tell students that their courses and degrees “may not be accepted in transfer to other institutions of higher education, whether public, private, or religious. It is unknown whether any other institutions of higher education, whether public, private, or religious, will accept credits earned at Dream Center.”

Yet for five months, Dream Center kept advertising “We’re ready to go.”

By July 2018, Dream Center was running out of cash and knew its accreditation problems could worsen its financial strain.

In written responses to questions from Congress, the Education Department said it was first aware of Dream Center’s problems in May 2018, after the two Dream Center institutions were not accredited on July 10, 2018. Ms. Jones was unaware of the public notice that the Higher Learning Commission had issued nearly six months earlier.

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Ms. Jones was asked during a House Oversight Committee hearing this spring whether she had issued later that month that allowed accreditations to be granted retroactively was aimed at helping Dream Center.

“As absolutely not, it had nothing to do with Dream Center,” she answered.

But in company emails, Dream Center executives indicated the Education Department tipped them off on July 3, 2018, that a new retroactive accreditation policy was coming, a week before Ms. Jones said she even knew Dream Center had a problem.

“We just got off the phone with DOE,” Mr. Barton wrote. “It appears HLC is in sync with retro accreditation.”

He said Ms. Jones—whom he directly cited by name—had worked with accreditors, and “I believe we all agree to one plan with department blessing.”

Mr. Barton did not respond to requests for comment on his emails.

On July 11, Dream Center’s chief operating officer told faculty in a meeting on an Illinois campus that the department would allow the schools’ accreditor to grant retroactive accreditation. He said department officials “changed their regulation to open the door to letting it happen,” according to a report of the meeting obtained by the committee. He referred to a conversation with Ms. Jones the week prior where “she said everybody was going to be accommodating.”

Mr. Barton told faculty in the meeting he underestimated the plan allowing retroactive accreditation, which was a major win for Dream Center.
While the schools were already slated for closure, retroactive accreditation would have shielded the company from legal action for making misleading statements about its accreditation status.

Ms. Jones said she had begun to revise that guidance months earlier to allay long-standing concerns about the department’s policy stemming from a dispute involving an accreditor of a nursing program. The retroactive policy would have also allowed students to transfer their credits if they were earned at an accredited institution.

In response to Mr. Scott’s accusations, Ms. Jones said she had “even stated in an op-ed in the New York Times, ‘the retroactive accreditation policy—which had been under discussion long before I arrived at the department—decided not whether Dream Center would live or die, but whether or not students could transfer their credits for the hard work they had completed.’”

In August, after it became public that the two schools would close, Dream Center’s head of regulatory and government affairs wrote an email to Dream Center officials reminding them that communication should be kept confidential because “Diane is really working behind the scenes to help guide the department.”

Ms. Jones did not directly address the July 3 and July 11 communication from Dream Center officials. In those messages, the company executive who had worked with accreditors. She called the Dream Center accreditation issue a “messy and complex situation” and said the accreditors had sent mixed messages about the status of Dream Center’s schools.

Ms. Jones had acknowledged to Congress that she had concerns about the organization’s ability to manage its closure, and was in regular communication with a group of accreditors to devise a plan to allow Dream Center students to complete their degrees. Ms. Jones had written an email to other Dream Center officials reminding them that communication should be kept confidential because “Diane is really working behind the scenes to help guide the department.”

Mr. Scott also pointed to emails documenting the steps the Education Department took to help Dream Center get hold of some much-needed cash to prop up its failing campuses.

In an October 2018 email, Dream Center officials were preparing to request funding from an escrow account managed by the department. The funds were intended to offset taxpayer liabilities if some of the chain’s schools closed or failed. Dream Center wanted to use part of the money to pay for expenses associated with closing campuses and helping current students complete their degrees. The department had in August agreed to release up to $50 million; Dream Center wanted more.

Mr. Cariello declined to comment on the exchange. The department had released a total of $40 million from the escrow account to Dream Center by the end of last year, according to records it sent in response to questions from Congress.

Education Department officials have maintained that they worked tirelessly to mitigate the fallout of the Dream Center collapse. The department restricted the schools’ cash flow from federal student loans after Dream Center encountered financial problems in January, barely a month before it cut off federal student loan funds to Argosy University. That final move was considered the death knell for the company.

But until then, Dream Center executives had reason to believe they had friends at the White House. In August 2018, just as Dream Center’s schools lost their accreditation, Ronald L. Holt, a regulatory lawyer on the Dream Center team, sent a presentation to Dream Center executives on the state of higher education a year into the Trump administration.

It included a song he wrote titled, “You’ve Got a Friend in Trump,” to the tune of Randy Newman’s “You’ve Got a Friend in Me,” used in the movie “Toy Story.”

We’ve got a friend in Trump. He’s lifting us out of our slump. We were down, but now, we’ve got a Trump.”

Dream Center’s schools were closed. Dreams were dashed. ‘Too many regs, were way too tough.”

After so many years. We’d just had enough, but Now, we’ve got a Trump. We’re gonna rise again. We’re gonna thrive.”

Mr. Durbin, Mr. President, back in 2017, Dream Center Education Holdings, the spinoff of a Christian charity with no previous experience in higher education, announced its intention to acquire the campuses of the failing for-profit giant Education Management Corporation, EDMC, and convert them to nonprofit status.

Among EDMC’s most notable brands were the Art Institutes and Argosy University. I joined several of my Senate colleagues at the time, raising concerns about Dream Center’s ability to effectively manage this higher education enterprise in the best interests of students and taxpayers.

But, according to emails obtained by the American Legislative Exchange Council asking them to investigate.

Instead, Ms. Jones appears to have already working to change Department regulations to allow Dream Center to obtain retroactive accreditation before these dates.

As the Trump administration, Department of Education. It appears HLC is in sync with retro-accreditation.

Diane Jones is specifically mentioned in the email as being the Department official working with accreditors to facilitate this.

As reported by the New York Times, in a recorded meeting on July 11, 2018, Dream Center’s chief operating officer told a conference in Illinois that the Department was working to change its regulations to allow retroactive accreditation.
As evidence, he specifically referred to a conversation the week before with Ms. Jones.

These revelations raise the prospect that Secretary DeVos, Ms. Jones, and other Department officials may have misled me and other members of Congress in their responses to questions on this matter.

Ultimately, the Dream Center debacle led to thousands of students being lured into a predatory enterprise on the verge of collapse.

The question is, to what extent did the DeVos Department of Education, and Ms. Jones in particular, inappropriately aid and abet Dream Center's exploitation of students and bilking of taxpayers as the company collapsed.

In February of this year, House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro and I asked the Department's Office of Inspector General to investigate the Department's role in the Dream Center collapse.

Now, the revelations accompanying Chairman SCOTT's letter, raise serious questions about the Department's truthfulness with Congress and a potential attempt to cover up inappropriate involvement by Ms. Jones or others.

In his letter, Chairman requested transcribed interviews with several Department officials, including Ms. Jones, and a host of documents and correspondence.

I call on Secretary DeVos to immediately comply with these requests, to direct her Department to fully cooperate with Chairman SCOTT without delay. Anything less and we will be forced to ask what exactly Secretary DeVos is trying to hide.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW BLADE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to tell you about a remarkable young man from my hometown of Springfield, IL. His name is Matthew Blade. In late May, Matthew graduated from Lutheran High School in Springfield as his class valedictorian. He was also the president of his senior class, president of his school's Spanish Honor Society and an Illinois State scholar. He was involved in theater and Madrigal singers and his school's praise band. He was a member of Student Council Against Destructive Decisions. Outside of school, Matthew volunteered at a local food pantry, and he is an Eagle Scout.

If Matthew Blade had done nothing else, he would be exceptional. What makes Matthew's accomplishments even more extraordinary is that Matthew Blade spent half of his high school years battling bone cancer.

He first felt the pain in his left arm when he was 15 years old, a sophomore. At first, he thought he might have pulled something playing soccer. When the pain didn't go away, Matthew went in for x rays, then an MRI. The same day he underwent the MRI, Matthew and his parents, Doug and Tricia, received the devastating diagnosis. The pain in Matthew's arm was not a strained muscles; it was most likely osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

What Matthew did next tells you a lot about his character. He went to school, didn't tell anyone his diagnosis, took a biology exam—and aced the test.

But Matthew wasn't able to keep his diagnosis private for long. Over the next 9 months, he underwent 18 grueling chemotherapy treatments. Each time, he had to be hospitalized for 4 or 5 days. His mom Tricia never left his side. Matthew lost his hair and his eyelashes. When he was up to it, he went to school, often pulling an I.V. bag on a pole. When he was too sick for school, he kept up with his lessons from home or from his hospital bed.

What got him through those hard times, he said, was his faith, prayers, the love of his family, and ‘great doctors and nurses’ at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield and Children’s Hospital in St. Louis. His other saving grace, he says, were his friends, who never treated him differently and helped him to feel like a normal kid, even at his sickest.

Matthew undergoes scans every 6 months to monitor his health. His latest scans, in June, showed “no detectable cancer.” These days, his hair has grown back. He is playing soccer again. He is looking this summer as a counselor at a church camp, working with little kids, ages 5 to 7.

But the cancer changed Matthew in some ways. Early in his treatment, he had to have a 6-1/2 inch section of his left humerus bone—the long bone in his upper arm—removed, so he can no longer lift his left arm above his head. After the surgery, Matthew had to wear a sling, which made playing his guitar impossible, but Matthew adapted.

He learned how to play the ukulele. Before the surgery, Matthew wanted to be a lawyer. Now, he wants to be a pediatric oncologist, to help other kids with cancer. He is looking forward to starting college in the fall at St. Louis University.

In his valedictory remarks, Matthew told his classmates: “Life—like a hike through the mountains—is full of peaks and valleys. The more time you spend in the valleys, the sweeter the peaks will seem.” By his example, Matthew Blade has taught us all how to endure life’s valleys, and how to cherish its peaks.

HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, anyone who follows the situation in Honduras, as I and many Vermonters do, cannot help but be disappointed and concerned by what is happening there. I won't take the time to discuss in detail the lengthy litany of circumstances that have resulted in the deep social and political divisions, the rampant corruption, violence and insecurity, the prevalence of threats and assassinations by drug cartels and organized crime, the system, and the sense of desperation and hopelessness that so many Hondurans are feeling, but I do want to mention several that should concern every Senator.

To put the situation there in perspective, it is important to keep in mind what is happening in our own country.

For purely political reasons, President Trump has directed his wrath and contempt on the thousands of Central American migrants seeking entry to the United States, many of whom are women and children and many of whom are from Honduras. Regrettably, his xenophobic attacks have encouraged other extreme voices demonizing migrants and asylum seekers and asking Congress to pretend that the American people are not victims of this administration's disregard for human rights.

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the 2013 election that was plagued with vote buying, violence, and fraud and that ended with President Hernandez declared the winner. The situation was exacerbated by the 2017 election that was widely regarded as flawed before it even took place. After President Hernandez secured the support of the National Assembly, the electoral commission, and the Supreme Court, each of which was beholden to him, to change the Constitution so he could run for a second term, the election was marred by reports of egregious vote counting irregularities.

Given these circumstances, after being sworn into office a second time, President Hernandez would have been wise to appoint a politically, ethically, and geographically diverse cabinet and to promote policies designed to rebuild confidence and trust with the opposition and civil society. Instead, he and his government have often embraced policies and practices that have further deepened divisions in an already polarized society.

Popular protests over election fraud, corruption, land disputes, and seemingly intractable poverty have been met with indiscriminate use of live ammunition by the police and armed forces resulting in multiple deaths, arbitrary arrests, beatings, and prolonged detention without trial. Despite repeated appeals by the international community, including by the United Nations and the U.S. Embassy, to the Honduran Government to respect the rule of law and use restraint against protesters, the situation has not improved, and those responsible have not been held accountable. The country is afflicted by near daily confrontations, and the number of people seeking refuge outside the country continues unabated.

Many of us also remember the emblematic case of Berta Caceres, a courageous indigenous environmental activist who was repeatedly harassed and threatened and ultimately assassinated for opposing the illegal construction of a hydroelectric plant. After the police tried to cover up the crime, it was only thanks to international outrage that seven individuals, including an employee of the DESA hydroelectric company, a former security chief for the company who was an ex-U.S.-trained army lieutenant, another U.S.-trained specialized officer, and a former official police sergeant, were arrested and convicted. Yet more than 3 years after that horrific crime, none of them has been sentenced. The prosecution of an eighth individual, David Castillo, the former DESA president who was also a U.S.-trained former military intelligence officer, has been stalled for months. It is also widely believed that there are other coconspirators who have not been charged. Scores of similar assassinations of social activists and indigenous leaders in this and in other countries have never even been investigated, much less resulted in prosecution or punishment. By its inaction, the Honduran Government is sending the unmistakable message that impunity for these crimes is acceptable.

For many years, Vermont and Honduras were “sister states.” I have traveled there, as have many Vermonters, including representatives who have served as volunteers providing primary health care, education, and other humanitarian services to isolated rural communities. So I have a longstanding interest in Honduras and its people, and over the years I have supported hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. assistance for Honduras.

Yet today Honduras faces every imaginable problem. It is a transshipment point for Colombian cocaine and a haven for ruthless drug gangs. Millions of Hondurans live in dangerous, squalid conditions with no hope for the future. The police have a history of corruption and are mistrusted. Violent crimes are common and almost never result in conviction. And the government’s corruption and its official often seeming to be more concerned with staying in power and enriching themselves than addressing the needs of their people.

Why is this? There are obviously many factors, but one is undoubtedly a failure of leadership in Honduras and in the United States. For too long, successive U.S. administrations made excuses for and continued to support Honduran Governments that were corrupt, ineffective, unaccountable, and whose commitment to fundamental rights and democratic principles was lacking. It was a waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars and a disservice to the Honduran people.

In a reversal, the White House has suspended assistance for Honduras and the other Northern Triangle countries because President Trump says they have not done enough to stop the exodus of migrants. The President seems to believe that the Honduran Government should somehow prevent its citizens from leaving, even though they have a legal right to. At the same time, there is no doubt that the Honduran Government can and must do far more to address the violence, poverty, corruption, and injustice that cause people to seek refuge elsewhere. That includes firing corrupt officials, enacting and implementing the plea bargaining legislation that has been pending for years, and strengthening the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity instead of weakening it, as the Honduran Government is trying, and defending civil society activists who are frequently harassed, threatened, arbitrarily arrested, and even assassinated.

The United States has not had an Ambassador in Tegucigalpa for more than 2 years. The message this sends to the Honduran people is that it doesn’t matter, that Honduras is not important. That is wrong. We need an Ambassador who is a strong voice for good governance, for human rights, for accountability, and for defending the independence of the judiciary and other democratic institutions against fraud, exploitation, or improper influence.

Those who were involved in conceiving, carrying out, and attempting to cover up the assassination of Berta Caceres should be brought to justice further war against those who have languished in jail without due process for a year and a half. Justice delayed is justice denied YET, unfortunately, that is the norm in Honduras.

Finally, it is the Honduran Government’s urgent responsibility to take whatever steps are necessary to reform Honduran election laws and procedures. The Honduran people need to have confidence that the next election—only 2½ years away—will be unlike the 2017 election, free and fair and will not result in more social and political violence and further exodus of people seeking safety and a better life.

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this scholarly article “Civil Affairs, Winston Churchill, and the Power of Paying Attention,” originally published in Small Wars Journal, which analyzes the value of Civil Affairs to supported commands and agencies through the lens of Winston Churchill’s conception of generalship and statesmanship. Its author, Capt. Andrew J. Bibb, U.S. Army, is from Santa Fe, NM.

Although often overlooked, our civil affairs forces contribute to the ability of policymakers and military commanders to understand the full landscape and make fully informed decisions. Civil Affairs helps us navigate conflicts where we frequently confront civilians than combatants. As the article puts it, Civil Affairs “helps the commander understand the factors that contribute to civil unrest and make sociales vulnerable to nefarious actors [and] enables them to make decisions that not only defeat threats but prevent them from arising in the first place.”

I want to thank our men and women in Civil Affairs and let them know we value and appreciate their often unheralded work.

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

CIVIL AFFAIRS, WINSTON CHURCHILL, AND THE POWER OF PAYING ATTENTION CAPTAIN ANDREW J. BIBB, U.S. ARMY

Readiness, the top priority of the U.S. military in the 21st century, begins with awareness. This applies from the individual level all the way up to the national and international levels, from the tactical level to the operational and strategic. In this context,
awareness is defined as the state of con- 

sciousness in which one attains a functional 

realization of the state and nature of reality. 

It is achieved when one pays attention to a 
given situation, identifies the factors that con- 
tribute to it, analyzes and examining until he 
or she achieves an actionable level of un- 
derstanding. When the observer understands 
the situation, the necessary conditions are 
met, the solutions present themselves.

Clinical psychologist Dr. Jordan Peterson 
explains that "by identifying things, the capac- 
tive attention and language, you bring them 
forward as viable, obedient objects, detach- 
ing them from their underlying near-univ- 
eral essence. You make them specific and useful, 
and reduce their complexity." This process 
of enabling awareness and understanding in 
support of commanders is what Army Civil Af- 
fairs (CA) does best.

This paper aims to show the value of CA to 
both the statesman and general as they are 
understood by Winston Churchill in Dr. 
Larry P. Arm's scholarly work Churchill's 
Trial. Winston Churchill and the Salvation of 
Free Government. Although Churchill 
uses the term "general" to refer to com- 
manders, CA's value is by no means limited 
to flag officers. The CA team, the lowest-ech- 
elon of the battlefront, provides information 
and can interpret tactical decisions as well as 
operational and strategic ones. Similarly, 
CA support to statesmen is not limited to 
electoral forecasting, parties within and 
supporting the various branches of government fall directly within the pur- 
vue of Civil Affairs.

There are at least three good reasons to 
use Winston Churchill's concepts of states- 
manship and generalship as the lens through 
which to examine the value of CA. The primary 
purpose of all Civil Affairs Operations (CAO) 
is to enable and execute the decisions of 
commanders (generals) and policy makers 
(statesmen). By 1940, all of the warfare per- 
ers in the past hundred years few are as 
qualified to speak authoritatively on both of 
these topics as Winston Churchill. Third, 
none of these world leaders were as qualified 
as Churchill at recording their perspectives, 
so through his work we are able to clearly 
see what the general and statesmen need 
that Civil Affairs can provide.

Churchill served as Prime Minister of 
Great Britain during and after World War II, 
as well as in numerous other government po- 
sitions. He was a "conception" as an "all-embracing view which conquerors, painting, and writing. He was also a painter, and writer. He was also a painter.

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Churchill believed that the "right thing to 
do depends on the circumstances," but those 
circumstances must be defined in order to 
determine what the right course of action is. 
CA's most critical function is to establish 
and maintain awareness of both the raw civil 
affairs (CAAs), the core competency of which CA is the proponent, are "enduring 
capabilities that increase the commander's 
understanding of interaction with, and planning for the civil component." 

While CA forces are capable of supporting 
Military Governance Operations and other 
commander's core functions, Joint Inter- 
agency Task Force, Civil Affairs, Policing and 
Population and Resources Control, CA def- 
ines CA as the commander's asset. The five 
civil components: Civil Engagement, Civil 
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When properly gathered, analyzed, de- 
ployed, civil reconnaissance will push infor- 
mation into the commander's common op- 
erational picture (COP). 

Policymakers benefit from this civil infor- 
mation as well, as it enables them to make 
decisions in light of their real-world implica-
tions. Churchill believed that, although the 
"statesman lives and judges amidst the de- 
tails of action," he "serves a master beyond all 
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Someone else must pay close attention to 
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Army CA has only two tactical mission 
tasks in its doctrine, and both of them are 
oriented toward the particulars of the civil component. Civil Reconnaissance (CR) 
and Civil Engagement (CE) are both primary 
tasks. The first tactical task is "proactive in nature, not reactive. It 
continually refines the commander's picture of the on-the-ground reality frees the com- 
mmander to make timely decisions con-
firmly. Without that picture every decision is a gamble. In Churchill's mind, the spe-
cifics surrounding each individual cir-

nance should drive military decisions. For him, "Circumstances alone . . . decide 
whether a correct conventional maneuver is right or wrong." That these circumstances 
"are many in number and constantly mov- 
ing" only emphasizes for CA's ability to 
fit into the commander's common operational 

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tails of action," he "serves a master beyond all 
particulars." For the policy maker to rise 
above the particulars someone else must 
gather, process, and interpret the detailed 
information that drives policy decisions. 
Someone else must pay close attention to 
the specifics of a given civil situation. CA 
forces meet the civil information require-
ments of both the general and the statesmen 
in this regard and are uniquely "trained in understanding" the particulars of "foreign 
cultures, socio-economic dynamics, and gov-
ernance structures."

Churchill described this single unity of 
conception as an "all-embracing view which 
conquerors, painting, and writing. He was also a painter.

Painting was his favorite leisure activity 
man, and writer. He was also a painter.

Churchill believed that the "right thing to 
do depends on the circumstances," but those 
circumstances must be defined in order to 
determine what the right course of action is. 
CA's most critical function is to establish 
and maintain awareness of both the raw civil 
affairs (CAAs), the core competency of which CA is the proponent, are "enduring 
capabilities that increase the commander's 
understanding of interaction with, and planning for the civil component." 

When properly gathered, analyzed, de-
ployed, civil reconnaissance will push infor-
mation into the commander's common op-
erational picture (COP). 

Policymakers benefit from this civil infor-
mation as well, as it enables them to make 
decisions in light of their real-world implica-
tions. Churchill believed that, although the 
"statesman lives and judges amidst the de-
tails of action," he "serves a master beyond all 
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man, and writer. He was also a painter.
Perhaps CA as a branch is best seen, using Churchill’s language, as a master painter who accurately depicts the civil component of the OE in the commander’s COP, reflecting reality. Information gathered from the canvas that feeds the overall COP is needed to reflect reality. In this process “data relating to the civil component of the operational environment is gathered, collated, processed, analyzed, recorded, and distributed.” 

CIM is how the particulars become actionable to the general and the statesman. The purpose of the COP is to enable the commander to achieve a single unit of conception. In a properly “painted” picture of the civil component of the COP, everything is in order, “distant, however subordinate, is set forth naturally and in its true proportion and relation.” This is vital because, “Like the details, the conception of the work must be true. For the painter, nature appears on the canvas with ‘startling obedience,’ but only when the painter studies it attentively and faithfully.” The civil information gathered during CR and CE must be accurate, but their aggregation must not skew any aspect or make it any more or less significant than it is. A Canvas-Acquired Professional is like the art, movie, or craft that he or she grasps details that would slip by the average consumer unnoticed as the significant particulars they are. Properly trained, CA forces are so intimately familiar with all cultural nuances, nuances given region that they recognize factors that others would consider inconsequential. Their “cultural orientation, regional expertise, linguistic proficiency, and advisory abilities” enable them to discriminate between priority and ancillary data points.

For CA forces, the COP is the canvas and the pieces of civil information gathered through CR and CE are the colors on the palette. Information management systems and practices must be in place that feed this information into the overall COP. The Civil Information Management (CIM), the third CAA function, is the process by which the colors are blended, collated, and then “on the canvas, reflect reality.” In this process “data relating to the civil component of the operational environment is gathered, collated, processed, analyzed, recorded, and distributed.” The purpose of CIM is not academic but actionable. “CIM becomes actionable as that which wins a great battle.” CA staff acts as the commander’s conduit to CIM and facilitates its integration into his planning process. Without CA staff, the commander need not be so focused on his secondary objectives, bearing the burden of making consequential decisions. For this reason, the purpose of CA is to enhance the commander’s ability for effective decision making. Due to the constant flux of circumstances, the statesman and general must “choose at the moment when choices are possible, in the present when the future though imminent is obscure.”

Statesmen and generals, policy makers and commanders, bear the burden of making consequential decisions. For this reason, the purpose of CIM is not academic but actionable. “CIM becomes actionable as that which wins a great battle.” CA staff not only provides the commander with actionable information through the COP, but also forges partnerships within and without the U.S. military. CA forces engage “IPI and unified action partners to establish and maintain relationships and communication channels that influence the relationship between military forces and the civil component.” The nexus of this coordination is the Civil-Military Operations Center (CMOC). The CMOC, the fourth CAA function, is the workhorse of the CA branch. It is “a primary capability for coordination of the activities of all levels of the Department of State and with unified action partners, IPI, and inter-agency.” When necessary, the CMOC can also augment with relevant specialists, such as engineers, medics, public relations, and transportation to provide the supported commander with a one-stop-shop for subject-matter experts.

The effects produced by CA staff are felt in nearly every aspect of military operations. CA staff acts as the commander’s conduit to CIM and facilitates its integration into his planning process. Without CA staff, the commander need not be so focused on his secondary objectives, bearing the burden of making consequential decisions. For this reason, the purpose of CA is not academic but actionable. “CIM becomes actionable as that which wins a great battle.” CA staff not only provides the commander with actionable information through the COP, but also forges partnerships within and without the U.S. military. CA forces engage “IPI and unified action partners to establish and maintain relationships and communication channels that influence the relationship between military forces and the civil component.” The nexus of this coordination is the Civil-Military Operations Center (CMOC). The CMOC, the fourth CAA function, is the workhorse of the CA branch. It is “a primary capability for coordination of the activities of all levels of the Department of State and with unified action partners, IPI, and inter-agency.” When necessary, the CMOC can also augment with relevant specialists, such as engineers, medics, public relations, and transportation to provide the supported commander with a one-stop-shop for subject-matter experts.

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This being the case, for Churchill it was “not enough to win. One must win in the right way in order to serve the purposes of peace, which are the purposes of politics.” The greater was those who conducted war in ways that were compatible with the aims of politics.” They “manage to make the gravest choices well because they combine statesmanship and strategy.” Churchill described war as essentially political, human, and moral. "The point of view is raised. All the angles of strategy diminish as the point of view is raised. "not enough to win. One must win in the right way. He saw war and politics as two extremes on the same spectrum, in which “the real work of politics begins where war ends—and ends where war begins.” He found that “the distinction between politics and strategy diminishes as the point of view is raised. At the summit true politics and strategy are one.”

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Nation thanks to the work of people like Mr. Hutson.

He has no doubt touched countless lives in Colorado as he has provided his time, talent, and resources to advance the causes he cares deeply about. He served as a mentor for the Denver Petroleum Club in 2013 and helped a group of young industry professionals raise more than $700,000 for the Wounded Warriors Project. He has also supported the Children’s Hospital, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the Tennyson Center, and the Newman Center.

Mr. Hutson will be honored next week at the Navy Seal Foundation’s Denver Evening of Tribute. He is worthy of this recognition, and I thank him for serving and impacting so many people in the State of Colorado.

**TRIBUTE TO ERIK BECKER**

- Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Erik Becker of Lancaster, NH, as August’s Granite Stater of the Month for his dedication to improving the community he grew up in and for lending support to those in need.

As the Student Assistance Program coordinator at Groveton High School—the very same high school that he graduated from—Erik sees firsthand how important it is to ensure that students have both emotional and material support throughout the year, not just during the school months.

During the summer, kids usually lose the relationship that they have formed with teachers during the school year. To prevent his relational so from weakening during the summer, Erik spends 15 hours a week at the school helping to distribute free lunches to kids in need, while also acting as a “big brother” for students who just need someone to talk to.

Erik also works at the community homeless shelter, Tyler Blaine House. He started out as a support staff member but moved his way up to a full-time case manager position to help individuals seeking to break the cycle of homelessness and get back on their feet.

In addition, Erik is the founder of the Black Crow Project, which he and a few friends founded after seeing how the substance misuse epidemic had negatively affected their community. The Black Crow Project seeks to act as a support system for those impacted by substance abuse. Right now, Erik serves as a mentor with the Denver Petroleum Club in 2013 and helped a group of young industry professionals raise more than $700,000 for the Wounded Warriors Project. He has also supported the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, the Tennyson Center, and the Newman Center.

Mr. Hutson will be honored next week at the Navy Seal Foundation’s Denver Evening of Tribute. He is worthy of this recognition, and I thank him for serving and impacting so many people in the State of Colorado.

**RECOGNIZING TAPPAN CHAIRS**

- Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the 200th anniversary of Tappan Chairs of Sandwich, NH.

One of the first settlers of Sandwich, Abraham Tappan first created a ladder-backed Tappan chair in 1819. The chairs became an iconic and treasured part of the town’s history, with subsequent generations of family members continuing the tradition of crafting chairs from stout rock maple and hardy white ash and selling and trading them throughout the region.

In the 1990s, the business moved out of the family and was run by various members of the Sandwich community. The business continued in affiliation with the Sandwich Home Industries, an original incarnation of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. Tappan Chairs almost disappeared in the early 1960s but was saved at auction. In the 1980s and 1990s the company was revitalized once again by Gunnar Berg, who established a national market for this unique type of furniture.

Currently, the business is run by Adam Nudd-Homeyer, who has dedicated himself to studying the chairs’ story, design, and build, bringing older models back into production and expanding the selection of the furniture’s materials. The tradition of using Tappan Chairs to help raise money for local, regional, and national nonprofits.

Tappan Chairs is the only commissioned chairmaker in the world for the living Shaker community and is developing a limited edition historic reproduction piece with the foremost Shaker museum in the country. This iconic business and pillar of the community is now housed in the former Sandwich General Store building, having transformed the space into an open workshop, showroom, and history exhibit.

For 200 years, Tappan Chairs has crafted high-quality, beautiful chairs, innovating in numerous ways while also staying true to techniques and designs that have stood the test of time. As the business has passed from one maker to the next over, from generation to generation, this wonderful company has encouraged Granite Staters to treasure our past and embrace the future.

Mr. President, I hope you will join me in honoring the 200th anniversary of a treasured New Hampshire business, Tappan Chairs.

**32ND ANNIVERSARY OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA**

- Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, on August 15, 1887, 2 years after the end of the Civil War, history was made in Florida, when a group of newly freed slaves voted to incorporate the town of Eatonville. Named for a town in British Columbia, the founding of Eatonville became the first African-American incorporated city in America. I want to congratulate Eatonville as they celebrate their 32nd anniversary and Founders Day this August. The story of Eatonville is one that all Americans should be proud of, and it stands today as an example to our Nation and the world.

This town started as a tightly knit community, built around church, school, and family, and they have maintained that heritage through over a century of growth and development. They share the challenges faced by all of our communities: the need for good jobs, a great education for their children, and a safe community.

Eatonville is famous for being the home for two influential authors, Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker. Zora Neale Hurston wrote Eatonville in her 1937 novel, “Their Eyes Were Watching God.” Forty-five years later, Alice Walker would write “The Color Purple,” which shared similar themes.

Today, Eatonville and Zora Neale Hurston are recognized in the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

In 2018, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded Eatonville the prestigious Culture of Health Prize for their efforts to address the high rates of obesity and heart disease in their community. This is an honor awarded to just a handful of communities across the Nation each year, with only 4 winning cities out of 200 entries.

To address the health needs of the entire community, they created the Healthy Eatonville Initiative and established a diabetes education and research center, the Healthy Eatonville Place, where residents can come to learn how to improve diet and exercise habits. They improved access to fresh fruits and vegetables. They built safe sidewalks and bike paths and placed historical markers along the way for all residents to learn and take pride in their rich history.

I am proud of the community spirit of Eatonville and the work they have put in to make the community so successful. As Governor and now as Senator, it is an honor to work with partners like the Town of Eatonville to make Florida the best place to live, work, and raise a family, and I look forward to their future achievements.
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRAWFORD PATH

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Crawford Path on its 200th year of continuous operation. As the first trail to the summit of 6,288-foot Mount Washington, the Crawford Path has provided adventure, physical challenge, and natural beauty for two centuries of hikers and travelers.

Ethan Allen Crawford, for whom the trail is named, first proposed the idea for a path to the peak of Mount Washington. Ethan and his father Abel operated the Crawford House, a modest wayside inn which provided shelter and accommodations for travelers at the inception of the tourism industry in the White Mountains. As an entrepreneur, he realized he could make a little extra money serving as a mountain guide to these travelers. After seeing and hearing how difficult it was to move through the thick mountain brush, Ethan and Abel set out to cut some trees and build a footpath that offered better access to the Northeast’s highest peak. Their path snaked through the woods, eclipsed the tree line, and traversed ridges and peaks on its way to the summit. The finished product was among the first hiking trails in the United States and established Ethan as an early mountain guide.

The Crawford Path capitalized on growing interest in the wilderness, and more travelers viewed the mountains as an outlet for recreational experiences. On one of Ethan’s guided treks to the top of Mount Washington, he led a group that named the surrounding peaks—Mount Adams, Mount Jefferson, Mount Madison, Mount Monroe, Mount Franklin, and Mount Pleasant, now famously known as the Presidential Range.

The family continued to cut trails on the mountain, including a bridle path in the late 1800s that led horse riders to the summit. Abel—by then in his seventies—became the first person to ascend Mount Washington on a horse. Years later, the mountain pass where they worked was renamed ‘Crawford Notch’ as a tribute to the family’s contributions to the region.

Generations of hikers have walked along the path first forged by the Crawfords, and generations of trail crews have maintained the 8.5-mile route at the enjoyment of the public. The Crawford Path carries day hikers as well as thru-hikers tackling the Appalachian Trail. Each is instantly connected to 200 years of experiences and adventures.

The White Mountains are now a thriving, well-known, four-season tourist destination, where travelers in numbers Abel and Ethan could not have imagined come to observe unparalleled natural beauty.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in recognizing the Crawford Path on its 200 year anniversary and in thanking its many stewards for preserving the oldest continually-used mountain trail in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JAYDEN BIES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Jayden Bies, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Jayden is a graduate of St Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, where she is majoring in government with an emphasis in legal studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jayden for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ALLYSON MONSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Allyson Monson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Allyson is a graduate of Clark High School in Clark, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, where she is double majoring in political science and communication studies and minoring in legal studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Allyson for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE TAYLOR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Katherine Taylor, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Katherine is a graduate of George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church, VA. Currently, she is attending Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, where she is majoring in finance. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Katherine for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO EDA UZUNLAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Eda Uzunlar, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Eda is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Yale University in New Haven, CT, where she is pursuing a degree in global affairs. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Eda for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1969

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, on Saturday, June 29, 2019, more than 125 members of the Class of 1969 of Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD, held their 50th graduation class reunion celebration. Over the years, Walt Whitman High School has been recognized as one of the best high schools in the Nation. The WWHS class of 1969 is an outstanding representation of that excellence.

The Mighty Sixty-Niners, as they call themselves, have earned the characterization of “mighty.” From its beginning in 1962, Walt Whitman High School was experimental and forward-looking. The original school setting included a Buckminster Fuller-type geodesic dome that served as the school’s main gymnasium and auditorium and as its unique visual focal point. For years afterwards, WWHS was locally and proudly known as “The Home of the Dome.”

The WWHS class of 1969 contributed much to the rich history of the school. In 1968, a time of heightened racial tensions throughout the country, Whitman students and faculty established an exchange program with several high schools in the District of Columbia. Participating Whitman students lived for a week and attended classes at DC’s McKinley High School and Cardozo High School. The following week, the McKinley and Cardozo students spent a week at WWHS with their Whitman counterparts. Those exchanges helped develop greater understanding between the participants.

The WWHS class of 1969 also instituted a weeklong Experiment in Free Form Education. This novel educational program gained nationwide media attention and accolades, including a tribute on the floor of the U.S. Senate on April 23, 1969, by then-U.S. Senator Joseph Tydings of Maryland.

The Mighty Sixty-Niners have served our Nation in many productive ways, and they continue to do so, excelling in many fields—the arts, politics, government, education, literature, engineering, law, business and publishing, and others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our very best wishes and congratulations to the Walt Whitman High
MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms.RIDgeway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States to the Budget, and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

THE SENATE PRESENT:

At 2:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2695. An act to rename the Success Dam in Tulare County, California, as the Richard L. Schafer Dam.
H.R. 3253. An act to provide for certain exemptions from the requirement to meet the Service-Learning 64-Hour Requirement for students majoring in the liberal arts or sciences.
H.R. 3877. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget committee, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2169. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation’s annual report for calendar year 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2170. A communication from the Chief of the Environmental Management Division, Office of Procurement and Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Product Categories for Federal Procurement” (RIN0899-AA26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2171. A communication from the Acting Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports transmitted in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2172. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Enrolled Bills Signed

At 2:52 p.m., a message from the Office of the President of the United States, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

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The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

Petitions and Memorials

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–124. A resolution adopted by the Board of the Village of Tivoli, New York urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–125. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to the construction and maintenance of physical barriers between the United States and foreign nations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Reports of Committees

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2302. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

Executive Report of Committee

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Global Terrorism Sanctions Regulations; Transnational Criminal Organizations; and Hizballah Financial Sanctions Regulations” (31 CFR Parts 566, 590, and 594) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2173. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Definition of ‘Employer’ Under Section 3(5) of the ERISA Retirement Plans and Other Multiple-Employer Plans” (RIN1210–AB88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2174. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “Low-Ranked Projects Secure Affordable Housing Funds”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.


EC–2176. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “D.C. Schools Shortchange At-Risk Students”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2177. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “Panel Meets Most Requirements for Domestic Violence Fatality Review”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2178. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Changes to Trademark Rules of Practice to Mandate Electronic Filing” (RIN0651–AD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2179. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Panel Meets Most Requirements for Domestic Violence Fatality Review”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2180. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Allegheny River, Mile 0 to Mile 0.6, Pittsburgh, PA” (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0581) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2181. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Beaufort Water Festival Air Show, Beaufort, SC” (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0621) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2182. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Cleveland, Cuyahoga River, Mile 0.6, Cuyahoga River” (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2019–0514) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
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. TESTER:
S. 2412. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of addiction counselor services under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEE, Mr. JONES, Ms. SINKA, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. HASSAN):
S. 2413. A bill to establish the imposition of duties and import quotas from the authorities provided to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY):
S. 2414. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. KING):
S. 2415. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a grant program for training wind technicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. of North Carolina):
S. 2416. A bill to provide States with the option of applying for and receiving temporary waivers for the States to experiment with new approaches that integrate Federal programs in order to provide more coordinated and holistic solutions to families in need, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MOHAN, and Mr. CASSIDY):
S. 2417. A bill to provide for payment of proceeds from savings bonds to a State with title to such bonds pursuant to the judgment of a court; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. MUKOWSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JONES, and Mr. SULLIVAN):
S. 2418. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to modify a definition and the disposition and authorized uses of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues under that Act and to exempt State and county payments under that Act from sequestration, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 2419. A bill to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Coconino National Forest land in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCOTT)
S. 2420. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require a DNA test to determine the familial relationship between an alien and a companion minor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):
S. 2421. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve accountability of disaster contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SCHATZ:
S. 2422. A bill to advance the integration of clean distributed energy into electric grids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS):
S. 2423. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for purposes of the tax on private foundation excess business holdings to treat as outstanding any employee-owned stock pursuant to certain employee stock ownership retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRAPPO):
S. 2424. A bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):
S. 2425. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the CHIP Technical Assistance Partnership Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):
S. 2426. A bill to establish a new timeline for certain State implementation plan and attainment requirements for the Fairbanks North Star Borough of the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):
S. 2427. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a new quarterly dollar in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):
S. 2428. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain reforms with respect to Medicare supplemental health insurance policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. HIRONO):

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. PERDUE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):
S. 2430. A bill to provide an exemption from certain requirements for federally funded projects and activities in areas not in metropolitan statistical areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. JONES):
S. 2431. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations requiring voice service providers to provide consumers opt-out call-blocking programs by default unless given written consent, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MANCHIN:
S. 2432. A bill to require Amtrak to place at least 1 station agent in every State in which Amtrak operates; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):
S. 2433. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORNYN):
S. 2434. A bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. PERDUE):
S. 2435. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs resulting from servicing the public debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):
S. 2436. A bill to establish in the States of North Carolina and South Carolina the Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:
S. 2437. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for parents who take leave from employment following the birth or adoption of a child; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):
S. 2438. A bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BRUIN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. Cramer):
S. 2439. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the licensing of a mark for use by a related company may not be construed as establishing an employment relationship between the owner of the mark, or an authorizing person, and either that related company, or the employees of that related company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SASSE:
S. 2440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand permissible distributions from an employee’s health flexible spending account or the Health Reimbursement Arrangement a savings account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SASSE:
S. 2441. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals who are not enrolled in a high deductible health plan to have access to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHAN):
S. 2442. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for complaints and, for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):
By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HAWKINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Mr. Murphy, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKET, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. CASEY, Ms. PEITSMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 305. A resolution designating the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

S. 511. 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.

S. 566. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 638. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 655. A bill to amend title XVII of the Social Security Act to provide for a comprehensive, patient-centered, Medicare demonstration project for the diagnosis and management of advanced renal disease.

S. 684. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for exclusion of certain lump-sum payments made by employers in lieu of severance or redundancy benefits.

S. 706. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 727. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the construction or renovation of community college facilities in rural areas.

S. 752. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the construction or renovation of community college facilities in rural areas.

S. 775. A bill to provide funding for community college facilities in rural areas.

S. 880. A bill to provide funding for community college facilities in rural areas.

S. 901. A bill to provide funding for community college facilities in rural areas.

S. 903. A bill to provide funding for community college facilities in rural areas.

S. 934. A bill to provide funding for community college facilities in rural areas.
BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 934, a bill to prohibit mandatory or compulsory checkoff programs.

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 938, a bill to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to provide funding for federally qualified health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1015, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1047, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) 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 Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1126, a bill to provide better care for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers, while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure.

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1141, a bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1157, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program for educators of rural students and provide loan forgiveness for rural educators, to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide professional development grants for rural elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of Inclusivity and Sexual Health and a rural outreach grant program carried out by that Office, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to support the education of Indian children.

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1168, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HONOLUNO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve nutrition in tribal areas, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. HOLOFTEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1357, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1391, a bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1475, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1564, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agencies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1601, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a child safety alert system, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1612, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support community college and industry partnerships, and for other purposes.
At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1615, a bill to amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to provide compensation and credit for retired pay purposes for maternity leave taken by members of the reserve components, and for other purposes.  

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1625, a bill to promote the deployment of commercial fifth-generation mobile networks and the sharing of information with communications providers in the United States regarding security risks to the networks of those providers, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1723, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account.  

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1782, a bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.  

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUHLE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPTO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to require the security assistance to Lebanon, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1974, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to enhance the rights of domestic workers, and for other purposes.  

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social services agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.  

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 1987 to provide for the board of directors of the Travel Promotion Authority to provide for direct marketing to attract tourists and to protect American workers.  

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2303, a bill to provide for the establishment of a working group on electric vehicles, and for other purposes.  

At the request of Mr. DUFFY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2359, a bill to provide for the establishment of a working group on electric vehicles, and for other purposes.  

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2380, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State and 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.  

At the request of Ms. SHAHEEN, her name and the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2330, a bill to amend the National Travel Promotion Act of 1998 to provide for the establishment of the Travel Promotion Authority to promote travel to the United States, and for other purposes.  

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2330, supra.
August 1, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S5315

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 and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 2355

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2355, a bill to eliminate racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 2364

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to enhance domestic marine debris response, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to enhance global engagement to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 2389

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2389, a bill to provide access to counsel for children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2390

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Ms. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2390, a bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2403, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to provide loans for the acquisition of electric buses and related infrastructure.

S. 2403

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a way to bring fiscal sanity to Washington, according to the Congressional Budget Office, in 2029, the net interest on our debt will near $1 trillion. The cost of our debt is a pending crisis but current rules for scoring the cost of legislative proposals do not tell the full story, like how much the bills will increase the debt and the subsequent cost of interest on that debt. This bill would require that information be included in high-level transparency for taxpayers, who will eventually foot the bill for this reckless spending. I urge my colleagues to join me in this commonsense proposal.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 303—CALLING UPON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO DISMANTLE ITS KWAN-LI-SO POLITICAL PRISON LAKE CAMPS SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

WHEREAS the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisoners Report of 2017, prepared by the War Crimes Investigation Unit of the Department of Justice’s Office of International Criminal Justice under the leadership of Mr. William Mahony, states that the “horrible atrocities committed in the kyo-hwa-so and kwan-li-so camps are among the worst crimes attributed to a single state;”

Whereas the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisoners Report of 2017, prepared by the War Crimes Investigation Unit of the Department of Justice’s Office of International Criminal Justice under the leadership of Mr. William Mahony, states that the “horrible atrocities committed in the kyo-hwa-so and kwan-li-so camps are among the worst crimes attributed to a single state;”

WHEREAS persons who are sent to these labor camps are forcibly disappeared and tended to die, and the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea found that “the inhumane population has been gradually eliminated through deliberate starvation, forced labor, executions, torture, rape and the denial of reproductive rights enforced through punishment, forced abortion and infanticide;”

WHEREAS, according to the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisoners Report of 2017, the Government of North Korea regularly and routinely commits crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, enslavement, forcible transfer, imprisonment, torture, sexual violence, persecution, enforced disappearances, and other inhumane acts;

WHEREAS, according to the best available evidence, some of the specific crimes identiﬁed by the Inquiry are: (1) Multiple witnesses watched prisoners tortured and killed on account of their religious affiliation.

WHEREAS, from 1981 to 2013, an estimated 16, and 25, which contain roughly 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners;
The Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisoners Report of 2017 found that North Korea’s labor camp system “has no parallel in the world today.”

Whereas the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea found that the government committed crimes against humanity and will not cease, “because the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their root remain in place”;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the international community to—

(A) demand that the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea dismantle its labor camp system;

(B) create a special tribunal with jurisdiction to investigate and remedy crimes against humanity committed by the Government of North Korea;

(C) consider targeted sanctions against those individuals who have committed such crimes against humanity; and

(D) ban import of goods made by prisoners in the North Korean labor camp system;

(2) calls on the leadership of the Government of North Korea to—

(A) immediately cease human rights abuses;

(B) release the roughly 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners;

(C) halt the ongoing arrest of North Koreans on political and religious grounds;

(D) allow the International Committee of the Red Cross entry into the camps to assist with the release and rehabilitation of prisoners;

(E) allow entry to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea to monitor the situation and assist with the rehabilitation;

(F) comply with international standards of food distribution and monitoring and allow full access to international humanitarian agencies; and

(G) end the exportation of North Korean forced labor consistent with obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2397 (2017);

(3) strongly condemns the use of forced labor by the Government of North Korea; and

(4) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) consider additional sanctions to the extent possible against those individuals responsible for the North Korean kwan-li-so labor camp system, including individuals administering such labor camps; and

(B) continue to raise awareness in the international community of the kwan-li-so labor camps and the continuing atrocious crimes being committed in the labor camps.

Whereas the Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea Political Prisoners Report of 2017 found that North Korea’s labor camp system “has no parallel in the world today.”

Whereas the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea found that the government committed crimes against humanity and will not cease, “because the policies, institutions, and patterns of impunity that lie at their root remain in place”;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the international community to—

(A) demand that the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea dismantle its labor camp system;

(B) create a special tribunal with jurisdiction to investigate and remedy crimes against humanity committed by the Government of North Korea;

(C) consider targeted sanctions against those individuals who have committed such crimes against humanity; and

(D) ban import of goods made by prisoners in the North Korean labor camp system;

(2) calls on the leadership of the Government of North Korea to—

(A) immediately cease human rights abuses;

(B) release the roughly 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners;

(C) halt the ongoing arrest of North Koreans on political and religious grounds;

(D) allow the International Committee of the Red Cross entry into the camps to assist with the release and rehabilitation of prisoners;

(E) allow entry to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea to monitor the situation and assist with the rehabilitation;

(F) comply with international standards of food distribution and monitoring and allow full access to international humanitarian agencies; and

(G) end the exportation of North Korean forced labor consistent with obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2397 (2017);

(3) strongly condemns the use of forced labor by the Government of North Korea; and

(4) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) consider additional sanctions to the extent possible against those individuals responsible for the North Korean kwan-li-so labor camp system, including individuals administering such labor camps; and

(B) continue to raise awareness in the international community of the kwan-li-so labor camps and the continuing atrocious crimes being committed in the labor camps.
Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining life in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that human activities can have significant positive and negative impacts on the quantity and productivity of estuary resources;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 935. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 936. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirement for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

SA 937. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 935. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, beginning on line 12, strike “Notwithstanding section 110” and all that follows through “EN force the ‘sunset’” and insert the following: “The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall provide assistance, including multi-sectoral, non-humanitarian, and non-trade related foreign assistance, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi, effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, following certification from the Secretary of State pursuant to section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101) that each such country receiving assistance meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with such standards’’.

On page 8, after line 13, add the following:

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing humanitarian assistance from being
provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

SA 936. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Rebuilding Small Businesses After Disasters Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SUNSET FOR COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS.
Section 2102(b) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “4 years” and inserting “7 years”.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON DEFAULT RATES.
Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the House of Representatives a report comparing—

(1) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) during the period—

(A) beginning on January 1, 2000; and

(B) ending on the date on which the Small Business Administration began making loans in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88; 129 Stat. 690); and

(2) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88; 129 Stat. 690).

SA 937. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMS SERVICES
The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, August 1, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing on the nomination of W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice.

REPORTING AUTHORITY
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate’s adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Friday, August 16, 2019, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

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

SIGNING AUTHORITY
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader and the senior Senator from Texas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on August 1 and August 2, 2019.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 304, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) designating September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month”.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Presidential Workforce Development Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ENHANCEMENTS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “upon request,” and all that follows through “including” and inserting “upon request, to each President-elect, each Vice-President-elect, and, for up to 60 days after the date of the inauguration of the
President-elect and Vice-President-elect, each President and Vice President, for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President and for the provision of services and facilities, including:”;

(1) shall be based on memorandums of understanding entered into under paragraph (1) shall in general be completed; or

(ii) a description of how the transition team, including any specific requirements that will apply to all members of the transition team leaders or their designees before seeking, on behalf of the transition, access to any nonpublic information;

(iii) a Code of Ethical Conduct, which each member of the transition team will sign and be subject to, that reflects the content of the ethics plans under this paragraph and at a minimum requires transition team members to—

(iii) address how the covered eligible candidate will address his or her own conflicts of interest during a Presidential term if the covered eligible candidate becomes the President-elect;

(i) a description of the ethics requirements that will apply to all members of the transition team, including any specific requirements for transition team members who will have access to nonpublic or classified information;

(ii) a description of how the transition team will address his or her own conflicts of interest during a Presidential term if the covered eligible candidate becomes the President-elect;
President-elect and Vice-President-elect, each President and Vice President, for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President necessary services and facilities, including; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting ‘‘, or an employee of a committee of Congress, a subcommittee of the committee of Congress, or an individual Member of Congress,’’ after ‘‘any branch of the Government’’; and

(ii) by inserting ‘‘, or in the case of an employee in a position in the legislative branch, with the consent of the supervising Member of Congress’’ after ‘‘with the consent of the agency’’;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

‘‘(b) The Administrator shall expend funds for the provision of services and facilities under this section—

‘‘(1) in connection with any obligation incurred by the President-elect or Vice-President-elect, or after the inauguration of the President-elect as President and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President incurred by the President or Vice President during the period—

‘‘(A) beginning on the day after the date of the general elections held to determine the electors of the President and Vice President under section 1 or 2 of title 3, United States Code; and

‘‘(B) ending on the date that is 60 days after the date of such inauguration; and

(ii) without regard to whether the President-elect, Vice-President-elect, President, or Vice President submits to the Administrator a request for payment regarding services or facilities before the end of such period.’’;

(3) in subsection (h)(2)(B)(i), by striking ‘‘computers’’ and inserting ‘‘information technology’’;

(4) By adding at the end the following:

‘‘(i) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.—

‘‘(A) Designation of Representative for Inquiries.—Each memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall designate a representative of the eligible candidate to whom the Administrator shall provide written notice, except to the public; and

‘‘(B) Change in Transition Representative.—The designation of a new individual as the transition representative of an eligible candidate shall not require the execution of a new memorandum of understanding under this subsection.

‘‘(C) Termination of Designation.—The designation of a transition representative under a memorandum of understanding shall terminate—

‘‘(i) before the date described in clause (i), upon request of the President-elect or the Vice-President-elect or, after such inauguration, upon request of the President or the Vice President;

‘‘(ii) by inserting ‘‘, or the Vice-President-elect, President, and the inauguration of the Vice-President-elect as Vice President occurs; or

‘‘(iii) before the date described in clause (i), upon request of the President-elect or the Vice-President-elect or, after such inauguration, upon request of the President or the Vice President;

‘‘(4) AMENDMENTS.—Any amendment to a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall be agreed to in writing.

‘‘(5) PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF DEVIATION.—Each party to a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall notify, to the maximum extent practicable, a memorandum of understanding entered into under this subsection shall be agreed to in writing.

‘‘(6) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible candidate’ has the meaning given that term in subsection (b)(4).

‘‘(b) AGENCY TRANSITIONS.—Section 4 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3), by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

‘‘(4) the term ‘nonpublic information’—

‘‘(A) means information from the Federal Government that a member of a transition team obtains in the course of the employment of the member that such member knows or reasonably should know has not been made available to the general public; and

‘‘(B) includes information that a member of the transition team knows or reasonably should know—

‘‘(i) is exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or otherwise protected from disclosure by law; and

‘‘(ii) is not authorized by the appropriate government agency or officials to be released to the public; and

‘‘(ii) October 1.’’;

(2) By adding to the end the following:

‘‘(3) ETHICS PLAN.—

‘‘(A) IN GENERAL.—Each memorandum of understanding is completed; or

‘‘(ii) October 1.’’;

‘‘(B) CONTENTS.—The ethics plan shall in—

‘‘(ii) a description of how the transition team will enforce the Code of Ethical Conduct, including the names of the members of the transition team responsible for enforcement, oversight, and compliance.

‘‘(C) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The transition team shall make the ethics plan described in this paragraph publicly available on the internet website of the General Services Administration the earlier of—

‘‘(i) the day on which the memorandum of understanding is completed; or

‘‘(ii) October 1.’’;

REBUILDING SMALL BUSINESSES AFTER DISASTERS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 54, S. 862.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 862) to repeal the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Kennedy amendment be in order at the desk be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 936), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute) Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Rebuilding Small Businesses After Disasters Act’’.
SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SUNSET FOR COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS.

Section 2302(b) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (15 U.S.C. 636 note) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "4 years" and inserting "7 years".

SEC. 3. GAUGE REPORT ON DEFAULT RATES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report comparing—

(1) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) during the period—

(A) beginning on January 1, 2000; and

(B) ending on the date on which the Small Business Administration began making loans in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–88; 129 Stat. 690); and

(2) the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)) in accordance with the amendment made by section 2102(a) of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–88; 129 Stat. 690).

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 862), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Kennedy title amendment be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1340

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, no later than Thursday, September 26, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 102, S. 1340; I further ask that the Lee amendment No. 935 be the only amendment in order; that there be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees followed by a vote on adoption of the Lee amendment with a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption; finally, following disposition of the Lee amendment, the committee amendments, as amended, be agreed to; Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019, THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, August 2, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, August 6, at 9 a.m.; Friday, August 9, at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, August 13, at 12:30 p.m.; Friday, August 16, at 3 p.m.; Tuesday, August 20, at 9 a.m.; Friday, August 23, at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesday, August 27, at 10 a.m.; Friday, August 30, at 5 p.m.; Tuesday, September 3, at 1 p.m.; and Friday, September 6, at 8:30 a.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, September 6, it next convene on Monday, September 9; and that following that time, with a pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, 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 executive session and recess consideration of the Craft nomination; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, September 9.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW AT 1 P.M.

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 3:15 p.m., adjourned until Friday, August 2, 2019, at 1 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DAVID CARY WOLL, JR. OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE NAIL. J. RACKLEFF.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NATALIE E. BROWN, OF NEBRASKA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CONSUL, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.

ROBERT E. GILCHRIST, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

STEVEN CHRISTOPHER KOUTSIS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

ALINA L. ROMANOWSKI OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KUWAIT.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

JOVITA CARANZA, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE LINDA R. MCMAHON.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate August 1, 2019:
To be a member of the United States international trade commission for a term
expirec...in 2018.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY


UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

JOHN MCLEOD BARGER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A GOVERNER OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 3, 2021.

INTER–AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ELIOT FERDOSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER–AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WILLIAM O. COASTO, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE A UNITED STATES ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF PUERTO RICO FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MARK LEE GREENBLATT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INpector General, Department of the Interior.

THE JUDICIARY


THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE


NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES


THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024.

BIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DISTRICTS OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

PHILIP S. GOLDBERG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

RON A. BLOOM, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPiring DECEMBER 8, 2020.

SAM MICHEL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2023.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DAVID A. SHIREY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE WHITE HOUSE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION


THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE


AMY KAPREL, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

THE JUDICIARY


NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J.K. KRATSIOS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

THE JUDICIARY


THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE


THE JUDICIARY


VICTORIA R. JINSET, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

THE JUDICIARY


NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPiring JANUARY 26, 2020.


EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J.K. KRATSIOS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


ROBERT L. SUNWALt III, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on August 1, 2019 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF IDIBIS M. DIAL, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MARCH 15, 2017.
Thursday, August 1, 2019

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 3877, Bipartisan Budget Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5279–S5322

Measures Introduced: Thirty-one bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2412–2442, and S. Res. 303–305. Pages S5311–12

Measures Reported:

S. 2302, to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Page S5310

Measures Passed:

Bipartisan Budget Act: By 67 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 262), Senate passed 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, after taking action on the following motion and amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S5281–89

Rejected:

By 23 yeas to 70 nays (Vote No. 260), Paul Amendment No. 932, in the nature of a substitute. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, July 30, 2019, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) Pages S5287–88

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

By 67 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 261), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. Pages S5281–88

National Workforce Development Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 304, designating September 2019 as “National Workforce Development Month”.

Page S5318

National Estuaries Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 305, designating the week of September 14 through September 21, 2019, as “National Estuaries Week”.

Page S5318

Presidential Transition Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 394, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions, after agreeing to the committee amendments. Pages S5318–20

Rebuilding Small Businesses After Disasters Act: Senate passed S. 862, to extend the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto:

McConnell (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 936, in the nature of a substitute. Pages S5320–21

McConnell (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 937, to amend the title. Page S5321

Family Farmer Relief Act: Senate passed H.R. 2336, to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to the definition of “family farmer”.

Page S5321

HAVEN Act: Senate passed H.R. 2938, to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

Page S5321

National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 3304, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days. Page S5321

Small Business Reorganization Act: Senate passed H.R. 3311, to amend chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, to address reorganization of small businesses.

Page S5321

Authority for Committees—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, Committees be authorized to report legislative and
executive matters on Friday, August 16, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Majority Leader, and Senator Cornyn, be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Thursday, August 1, 2019 and Friday, August 2, 2019.

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Ebola Eradication Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no later than Thursday, September 26, 2019, Senate begin consideration of S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; that Lee Amendment No. 935, be the only amendment in order, that there be two hours of debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, followed by a vote on adoption of Lee Amendment No. 935 with a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption; and that following disposition of Lee Amendment No. 935, the committee substitute, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, August 2, 2019, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at 9 a.m.; Friday, August 9, 2019, at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at 12:30 p.m.; Friday, August 16, 2019, at 3 p.m.; Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 9 a.m.; Friday, August 23, 2019, at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at 10 a.m.; Friday, August 30, 2019, at 5 p.m.; Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 1 p.m.; Friday, September 6, 2019, at 8:30 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, September 6, 2019, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the previous order of Wednesday, July 31, 2019, with respect to district judges be modified to allow for confirmation votes notwithstanding Rule XXII.

Craft Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Department of State.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, August 1, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2019.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

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

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, September 9, 2019; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, August 1, 2019 ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Darling Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Department of State.

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.
Akard Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador, Department of State.

Page S5299

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

Page S5299

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S5299

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

Page S5299

Cabaniss Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Page S5299

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador, Department of State.

Page S5299

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S5299

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

Page S5299

Byrne Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Page S5299

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Page S5299

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S5299

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

Page S5299

Bowman Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Pages S5299–S5300

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Pages S5299–S5300

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S5299

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

Page S5299

Feddo Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

Page S5300

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Page S5300

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S5300

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

Page S5300

Nordquist Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Page S5300

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

Page S5300

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S5300

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

Page S5300

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:
Richard K. Bell, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire.

Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years.

Russell A. Berman, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

William English, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024.

John Fonte, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Marjorie Fisher Furman, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022.

Claire Griffin, of Washington, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022.

Joyce Malcolm, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Adair Margo, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022.

Matthew Rose, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024.

William Schneider, Jr., of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Noel Valis, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Thomas McCaffery, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Randolph J. Stayin, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2026.

Kenneth S. George, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

W. Patrick Murphy, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Kathe Hicks Albrecht, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024.

Keegan F. Callanan, of Vermont, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024.

Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.

Ron A. Bloom, of New York, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2020.

Roman Martinez IV, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2024.

Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

Lisa M. Schenck, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Military Commission Review.

M. Miller Baker, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.
Timothy M. Reif, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

James A. Crowell IV, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Jason Park, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Mark Schultz, of Nebraska, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Michael Eric Wooten, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

William B. Kilbride, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2023.

Julie Reiskin, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2019.

John McLeod Barger, of California, to be Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

Rainey R. Brandt, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Shana Frost Matini, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States.

Michael J.K. Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Libya.

Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Ann C. Fisher, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2024.

Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.

Jessica E. Lapenn, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

Wilmer Ocasio, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Marshal for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of four years.

Amy Karpel, of Washington, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2023.

Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2024.

Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Matthew Keenan, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020.

Robert L. Sumwalt III, of South Carolina, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of three years.

Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

David Carey Woll, Jr., of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Natalie E. Brown, of Nebraska, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda.

Robert S. Gilchrist, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania.

Steven Christopher Koutsis, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chad.

Alina L. Romanowski, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

A routine list in the Foreign Service.

Messages from the House:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—262)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 3:15 p.m., until 1 p.m. on Friday, August 2, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks.
of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5321.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: On Wednesday, July 31, 2019, Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of General John E. Hyten, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN, to be Admiral and Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported 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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D935)

S. 504, to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion. Signed on July 30, 2019. (Public Law 116–35)

H.R. 2196, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Signed on July 31, 2019. (Public Law 116–36)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the Senate
1 p.m., Friday, August 2

—

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

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.