

Grows Act of 2019 with respect to that agricultural research funding recipient; and

“(V) for fiscal year 2024, the difference between—

“(aa) the amount of new budget authority made available in appropriation Acts for that agricultural research funding recipient for fiscal year 2019; and

“(bb) the amount determined by the Director under section 2(a)(5) of the America Grows Act of 2019 with respect to that agricultural research funding recipient.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph:

“(I) ADDITIONAL NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—The term ‘additional new budget authority’ means, with respect to an agricultural research funding recipient, the amount of new budget authority provided for a fiscal year in an appropriation Act for that agricultural research funding recipient that is in excess of the amount of new budget authority provided in fiscal year 2019 in an appropriation Act for that agricultural research funding recipient.

“(II) AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FUNDING RECIPIENT.—The term ‘agricultural research funding recipient’ means a funding recipient described in section 2(b) of the America Grows Act of 2019.

“(III) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.”.

(b) MINIMUM CONTINUED FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—The amount of new budget authority made available in appropriation Acts for a funding recipient described in section 2(b) for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and each subsequent fiscal year, shall not be less than the amount of new budget authority made available in appropriation Acts for that funding recipient for fiscal year 2019.

(c) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16-0327-0-1-600).” the following:

“Appropriations pursuant to section 2(a) of the America Grows Act of 2019.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 306—RE-AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY AND PLEDGING TO WORK WITH MEDIA ENTITIES AND DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP COMMON GROUND SOLUTIONS TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO MEDIA DIVERSITY

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 306

Whereas the principle that an informed and engaged electorate is critical to a vibrant democracy is deeply rooted in our laws of free speech and underpins the virtues on which we established our Constitution, “in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,

provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. . . .”;

Whereas having independent, diverse, and local media that provide exposure to a broad range of viewpoints and the ability to contribute to the political debate is central to sustaining that informed engagement;

Whereas it is in the public interest to encourage source, content, and audience diversity on our Nation’s shared telecommunications and media platforms;

Whereas the survival of small, independent, and diverse media outlets that serve diverse audiences and local media markets is essential to preserving local culture and building understanding on important community issues that impact the daily lives of residents;

Whereas research by the American Society of News Editors, the Radio Television Digital News Association, the Pew Research Center, and others has documented the continued challenges of increasing diversity among all types of media entities;

Whereas with increasing media experience and sophistication, it is even more important to have minority participation in local media to ensure a diverse range of information sources are available and different ideas and viewpoints are expressed to strengthen social cohesion among different communities; and

Whereas the constriction in small, independent, and diverse media outlets and limited participation of diverse populations in media ownership and decisionmaking are combining to negatively impact our goal of increasing local civic engagement and civic knowledge through increased voter participation, membership in civic groups, and knowledge of local political and civil information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to diversity as a core tenet of the public interest standard in media policy; and

(2) pledges to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 307—CONGRATULATING THE EASTBANK ALL-STARS FROM RIVER RIDGE, LOUISIANA, FOR WINNING THE 2019 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 307

Whereas Little League Baseball was founded in 1939, and the first Little League Baseball World Series tournament was played in 1947;

Whereas Little League Baseball is the largest youth sports program in the world with nearly 200,000 teams in more than 80 countries and all 50 States;

Whereas Little League Baseball affords children around the world a competitive arena that instills the principles of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and teamwork;

Whereas the Eastbank All-Stars team was founded in River Ridge, Louisiana, and includes a roster of young men from the Greater New Orleans area;

Whereas the Eastbank All-Stars displayed skill, competitiveness, and determination throughout their entire season and the Little League Baseball World Series tournament;

Whereas the Eastbank All-Stars advanced to the Little League Baseball World Series tournament by winning the State of Louisiana Championship and the Southwest Regional Championship;

Whereas the Eastbank All-Stars, representing the State of Louisiana and the Southwest Region, became the first team ever to lose the first game of the Little League World Series, and then go on to win the Little League World Series Championship;

Whereas, on August 25, 2019, in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the Eastbank All-Stars from River Ridge, Louisiana, the United States Champions representing the Southwest Region, defeated the International Bracket Champions in the 73rd Little League Baseball World Series Championship;

Whereas the Eastbank All-Stars’ 8-0 shut-out victory was the first Little League Baseball World Series Championship in the history of the team;

Whereas the Eastbank All-Stars became the first team from the State of Louisiana to ever win the United States Championship game and the World Series Championship game;

Whereas manager Scott Frazier and coaches Donald Abadie and Kevin Johnson did a masterful job in leading #2 Alton Shorts, #3 Ryder Planchard, #4 Stan Wiltz, #5 William Andrade, #6 Peyton Spadoni, #7 Derek DeLatte, #9 Connor Perrot, #10 Ryan Darrah, #12 Jeffrey Curtis, #15 Gavin Berry, #22 Reece Roussel, #23 Marshall Louque, and #24 Egan Prather to victory in the Little League Baseball World Series Championship;

Whereas Eastbank right fielder, Reece Roussel, set the Little League World Series record with an amazing 17 hits throughout the tournament, including a .739 batting average, as well as two key hits in the championship game;

Whereas Eastbank third baseman, Marshall Louque, secured three hits and three runs batted in (RBIs) in the championship game;

Whereas Marshall Louque and Reece Roussel set the Little League World Series record, hitting seven doubles each;

Whereas Eastbank pitcher, Egan Prather, pitched an impressive shutout in the championship game, striking out six Curaçao batters along the way;

Whereas the parents, families, friends, and fans of the Eastbank All-Stars deserve recognition for proudly supporting the team throughout their historic season; and

Whereas the Eastbank All-Stars were strong ambassadors of the great State of Louisiana and the United States of America on the world stage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates—

(1) the Eastbank All-Stars for their hard work and determination in winning the 73rd Little League Baseball World Series Championship;

(2) Scott Frazier and the Eastbank coaching staff for the founding of the organization and leading the team to its first Little League World Series victory;

(3) the Eastbank All-Star players for showing poise and exemplifying the strength and resilience of the people of Louisiana by never giving up and fighting through adversity to make all of us proud of their historic accomplishment;

(4) the parents, families, friends, and fans of the Eastbank All-Stars;

(5) the community of River Ridge, the Greater New Orleans area, and the State of Louisiana; and

(6) the Pabao Little League team from Willemstad, Curaçao for a hard-fought championship game and an outstanding season.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BLUNT. 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my new press assistant, Cole Avery, be granted privileges of the floor.

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

VETERANS EXPEDITED TSA SCREENING SAFE TRAVEL ACT

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1881 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1881) to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 1881) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1881

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act" or the "VETS Safe Travel Act".

SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF PRECHECK PROGRAM TO CERTAIN SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44927 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) AVAILABILITY OF PRECHECK PROGRAM TO CERTAIN SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A veteran described in paragraph (2) is eligible for security screening under the PreCheck Program under section 44919 at no cost to the veteran if the veteran is able to meet the background check and other security requirements for participation in the program.

“(2) VETERANS DESCRIBED.—A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

“(A)(i) to have had a loss, or loss of use, of a limb;

“(ii) to have become paralyzed or partially paralyzed; or

“(iii) to have incurred permanent blindness; and

“(B) as a result of that loss, paralyzation or partial paralyzation, or blindness, to require the use of a wheelchair, prosthetic limb, or other assistive device to aid with mobility.”.

(b) COORDINATION ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly—

(1) develop and implement a process for providing the Transportation Security Administration with access to the data needed to validate the eligibility of a veteran for the PreCheck Program under section 44927(g) of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the status of implementing the process required by paragraph (1).

TSA CREDENTIAL AND ENDORSEMENT HARMONIZATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2035 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2035) to require the Transportation Security Administration to develop a strategic plan to expand eligibility for the PreCheck Program to individuals with Transportation Worker Identification Credentials or Hazardous Materials Endorsements.

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2035) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2035

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "TSA Credential and Endorsement Harmonization Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. STRATEGIC PLAN TO EXPAND PRECHECK PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop a strategic plan to expand eligibility for the PreCheck Program under section 44919 of title 49, United States Code, to individuals who have—

(1) a Transportation Worker Identification Credential issued under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code; or

(2) a Hazardous Materials Endorsement under the Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment Program on the State-issued commercial driver's license of the individual.

(b) ELEMENTS.—In developing the strategic plan required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall ensure that the plan—

(1) allows individuals described in subsection (a) to opt in to the PreCheck Program; and

(2) provides the Transportation Security Administration with the discretion—

(A) to determine whether an individual described in subsection (a) meets the eligibility requirements for the Program; and

(B) to establish alternative fee structures for the Program.

(c) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after developing the strategic plan required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives on the strategic plan.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Akard nomination under the previous order.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW**

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:45 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.