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Senate

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, You are our defender and hope. On this 18th anniversary of September 11, we thank You that You never give us burdens too great to bear. Continue to remind us that eternal vigilance is the price for freedom. Comfort the families of those who died on 9/11, surrounding them with Your mercy and grace.

Lord, incline Your ears to our intercession. Teach us how to embrace the things that lead to peace, as You instruct us on how to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. Today, use our lawmakers as instruments of reconciliation.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 1 minute.

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

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the Chaplain opened our Senate in prayer reminding everybody of what happened 18 years ago today: a disastrous attack on the United States. So referring to that same 18 years, I say

our Nation changed forever following an act of cowardice from the enemies of freedom. The events of September 11 have left an indelible mark on American and world history and certainly on the lives of the victims' families. We pray now, as we did then, that God may heal the wounds of those injured and the wounds left by those lost that day, that they may find peace on this solemn day.

Let us recall the sacrifices made that day to preserve our way of life and honor each day the pledge "Never forget."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this week there was a significant development when it came to public health and our children in America. By way of preface to what I am about to say, I want to make clear that I have, during the course of my service in the House and the Senate, focused a great deal of my efforts on tobacco, the addiction that people have to tobacco cigarettes, and the deadly consequences of that addiction. My family has been touched by it, as most have in America. I lost my father when I was in high school. He smoked two packs a day and was a lung cancer victim. We buried him at the age of 53. I remember it to this day.

I am not alone. Literally, thousands of Americans—millions, perhaps—have a similar story to tell. So from the beginning of my service in the House of Representatives, I started looking for ways to deal with this scourge of to-

bacco cigarette addiction. Many years ago—over 25 years ago—I introduced a measure that banned smoking on airplanes, and to my great surprise it managed to pass the House of Representatives. Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey was on the Appropriations subcommittee with the responsibility. He took it on in the Senate, passed it, and we made it the law of the land, banning smoking in airplanes.

I didn't realize—and I am sure Senator Lautenberg didn't—that we had triggered a tipping point or reaction that led to banning smoking in so many other venues. Ultimately, we have now reached a point where no one would consider walking into my office and lighting up a cigarette or even asking for permission to light a cigarette. It is just unthinkable. But 25 years ago it was common. So things have changed.

But what has happened is that Big Tobacco, having lost its marketplace position and lost its profitability, has moved to a new product—e-cigarettes and vaping. This company, JUUL, which is the largest provider of e-cigarette devices in the United States, has a huge stock ownership in tobacco companies. This is their new venue, their new approach. But much as with tobacco cigarettes, the vaping industry is counting on addicting children so that they can build their ranks, addicting teenagers. Tobacco cigarettes did the same with Joe Camel and the Marlboro cowboy, and now we see the same thing occurring when it comes to e-cigarettes and vaping.

The previous Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Dr. Gottlieb, characterized it properly when he called it an epidemic. We now have 3 percent of American adults who are using vaping devices, 20 percent of America's teenagers and children using vaping devices. It is a new school year, and many of these students are heading off to middle schools and high schools

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



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with new backpacks and maybe new laptops and new lockers and new teachers and new classrooms and new friends and a new addiction—the addiction of vaping.

Vaping targets kids. They are introducing flavors that can be mixed with this vaping experience that appeal directly to children and teenagers in this country. How in the world can you imagine that someone who is a 50-year-old chain smoker trying to quit is going to choose a flavor pod called “Unicorn Milk” or “Bubble Gum” or “Gummy Bears”? They are all out there. They are designed to lure children, and, sadly, they are effective.

For months now I have been begging this administration and the Food and Drug Administration to do something about this epidemic, and until this week they did little or nothing. But this week was a breakthrough. The Food and Drug Administration announced early this week that they were going to stop JUUL from advertising that their vaping products were a safe alternative to tobacco cigarettes.

The reason is obvious. We have hundreds and hundreds of vaping victims now showing up in hospitals. As of last night, the sixth victim in America died from a vaping experience. Why? Because they are ingesting into their lungs, in these huge clouds of vapor and smoke, chemicals that are killing them, chemicals that are stopping their lungs from functioning. They don't realize it at the time; it is just another wild experience. They are told, by the way, by JUUL and others that it is safer than tobacco cigarettes. It is not safe. It is deadly, and it is an epidemic in this country.

This week the American Medical Association stepped up its role, and I want to commend them. Dr. Patrice Harris, the President of the American Medical Association, released the following this week:

In light of increasing reports of e-cigarette-associated lung illnesses across the country, the [American Medical Association] urges the public to avoid the use of e-cigarette products until health officials further investigate and understand the cause of these illnesses.

She goes on to say:

The e-cigarette-related lung illnesses currently sweeping across the country reaffirm our belief that the use of e-cigarettes and vaping is an urgent public health epidemic that must be addressed. We must not stand by while e-cigarettes continue to go unregulated. We urge the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to speed up the regulation of e-cigarettes and remove all unregulated products from the market. We also call on the FDA to immediately ban flavors, as well as marketing practices, that enhance the appeal of e-cigarette products to youth.

The Food and Drug Administration Commissioner has the authority today—before the sun sets on this 9/11 anniversary—to ban these flavor pods that are attracting children and adding to this epidemic in our high schools and middle schools across the United States. This Food and Drug Adminis-

tration Administrator, Dr. Ned Sharpless, has the authority to take off the market scores, if not hundreds, of vaping devices that have been introduced to the public after the official date of deeming last year. He can do it today. It would have a dramatic effect starting tomorrow. He could start enforcing it with the retailers across America if he cared and if he were serious.

Now we have an opportunity to test him and to test this administration. Will they go the next step in warning America's schools, teachers, families, and children about this epidemic and the deadly consequences of ignoring it? Will they take these products off the market this week?

That is my challenge to them and to every American parent who dearly loves their child and cares about their health. I hope they will join me in this effort to urge this administration to take decisive action for children across America.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, with only a few weeks to go until the end of September, we have no time to waste when it comes to appropriations. We had planned for the Senate to consider bipartisan bills from the Appropriations Committee as soon as next week and make significant headway before a partial interim continuing resolution becomes necessary at the end of the month.

To this end, Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate, plus President Trump, formalized an agreement 1 month ago. It set up funding levels to inform the appropriations process, and everyone on both sides agreed there would be no poison pills, no partisan wrenches thrown into the gears.

Unfortunately, yesterday brought some disturbing signals that Democrats may be rethinking that commitment. New poison pills are apparently being discussed. But everyone knows what we agreed to last month. In fact, back on August 1, I asked consent to print the entire terms sheet that everyone agreed to in the RECORD.

So I maintain hope that Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member LEAHY can oversee a smooth process and that we can move all 12 appropriations bills in a bipartisan fashion. Both sides have every reason to want a smooth appropriations process to proceed as we had planned. I hope that is exactly what happens in committee this week and on the floor soon thereafter.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BOLTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, as he departs the

position of National Security Advisor, I want to thank Ambassador John Bolton for his many years of valuable service to our country. Personally, I have always appreciated John's candor and clear advice. He possesses something crucial—the ability to understand the world the way it is. He knows that there are many threats to American interests and that those threats will not recede if we retreat. He understands that American leadership is essential to keeping these threats and enemies at bay and that our partners and allies rarely act without us.

John appreciates the need to stand up to adversaries like Putin's Russia, to approach them from a position of strength, and to hold them accountable for their lies and their misdeeds.

I wish him well wherever his career next takes him.

Of course, the President deserves to choose his own team, and he has assembled a strong one. He and our Nation are well served by leaders such as Secretary Pompeo, Secretary Esper, and Director Haspel.

I hope the President selects a National Security Advisor who will work well with these seasoned national security leaders who have been chosen by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another entirely different matter, for 18 years today's date has held a tragic meaning. September 11 is a day of mourning, a date stained by the terrorist murderers of so many innocent people in New York, Arlington, and Pennsylvania. With each passing day, the reality is still shocking, and the wounds are still painful.

Each year we remember the innocent men, women, and children who lost their lives: workers rushing to meetings, vacationers headed home, emergency personnel whose quick response immortalized them as heroes. Each year we honor the memories of the heroes who sacrificed their lives to bring the perpetrators of this evil to justice and to prevent similar attacks.

Our way of life was changed by 9/11. It changed our approach to security. It awakened us to determined new enemies.

The dangers of radical Islamic terrorists remain real. Al-Qaida, its enablers, and its allies still plot against America from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Mali, and beyond. ISIS persists in Iraq and Syria through an underground network of terrorists who have not yet given up the fight. We cannot walk away from these dangers. We must not leave our work undone.

Many nations have a stake in defeating the terrorists. NATO allies have been with the United States since the early hours of this fight. Eighteen years ago, this critical alliance invoked article V for the first time.

Since then, many NATO partners have fought side by side with us in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and in Syria.

We are not—and need not be—the world's policeman. Winning this long war, like the Cold War, will require sustained efforts and contributions not only from the United States but from our allies and especially from local partners. For example, in Afghanistan the vast majority of the fighting is done by local security forces, but we must always remember the global coalition to defeat the terrorists will not lead itself.

So, today, as we remember the tragedies of the past, we must renew our commitment to leading the fight for a better future. Today, may the memory of the nearly 3,000 victims who lost their lives on this day in 2001 serve as a lasting reminder of what is at stake in the fight against terrorism and steel our resolve to continue the hard, necessary work of defending our homeland. May we always keep foremost in our thoughts all the U.S. servicemembers, intelligence officers, diplomats, and first responders who have given their lives in pursuit of our Nation's security.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the Akard nomination, the majority leader and Democratic leader both have a minute to speak and the Senate then observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, our country, our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day.

I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on my way up,

a firefighter I did blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year, we pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those we lost, but we also recognize, in the aftermath of September 11, the resiliency of the American people. The resiliency of New Yorkers shone through one of the darkest hours in our country.

Looking back remains difficult even after 18 years. I ride my bike through the city of New York and every fifth or sixth street is named after a firefighter or a police officer who died, as are parts of Brooklyn, Bay Ridge, and places like that. I will never forget. I think of it all the time.

The day after, when President Bush sent Senator Clinton and me to go up to New York in planes, we were the only planes in the sky. We were in an airliner that had us surrounded by F-18s and F-16s. When we landed, we went down to the site. The smell of death and burnt flesh was in the air. This I will never forget, a thousand people lined up—no one knew who had lived and who had died—with little signs: Have you seen my mother, Mary? Have you seen my son, Bill?

That stays with me.

I remember the generosity of New Yorkers. A man who owned a shoe store just north of the Towers gave out free shoes to everybody who was fleeing. Many of them had lost their shoes in the long trek down the stairs.

I remember the valor of the first responders who rushed to the Towers. I remember a firefighter from Staten Island, based in Brooklyn, who went to his firehouse, put his full gear on, and ran through the tunnel with about 60, 70 pounds of gear on. It was his day off, but he knew he was called. He went up the stairs of the World Trade Center and was crushed when the Twin Towers collapsed. So there is a lot.

Another way I think of this every day, as I am sure you have noticed, is that I always wear this flag on my lapel. I called on Americans to wear the flag the day after my having witnessed the site, and I have worn this flag every day since. Every time I look at it, I think of those who were lost, and I think of the valor of New Yorkers and of the American people.

For the first responders, this 9/11 carries additional significance. A few months ago, some of the heroes that day were here in Washington to celebrate the permanent reauthorization of the Victim Compensation Fund. I thank the first responders who came to Washington and helped to secure this funding, especially those who are no longer with us—James Zadroga, Luis Alvarez, my friend Ray Pfeifer. Wherever they are, I hope they are looking down with the knowledge that their brothers and sisters are being taken care of.

God bless those good heroes. May God continue to bless this resilient Nation.

Later this morning, I will return to the floor with the Republican leader and my colleagues as we will respect a moment of silence in memory of September 11.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a different subject, I return this morning to the topic of appropriations.

We have until the end of this work period to figure out a way to continue government funding, and there is good talk of a short-term continuing resolution so the government doesn't run out of money on September 30. Yet the larger question is how this Chamber is going to proceed or not proceed with the 12 appropriations bills that fund our government.

Despite many disagreements between the majority and minority in this Chamber, the Senate has been able to produce several bipartisan budget deals even in the Trump era. The reason we have been able to do this is that both parties have been committed to working together throughout each stage of the appropriations process. Bipartisanship—appropriations can only work with it and will not work without it.

Earlier this summer, the Democrats and the Republicans negotiated the broad outlines of a budget deal in good faith. We allocated the 302(a)s and came up with a side agreement. After that, the very first step in the appropriations process is to agree, in a bipartisan way, with the allocations for the 12 subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee. That is what we did in 2018, and I believe it passed the committee unanimously—or maybe with one dissenting vote. It was passed unanimously on a bipartisan basis. The Appropriations Committee passed those 302(b) allocations 31 to 0. That is how we thought it was going to work now, but already we are running into trouble with those allocations this time around.

The Republican majority on the Appropriations Committee has unilaterally proposed putting in an additional \$12 billion for the President's border wall, taking away \$5 billion of funding for Health and Human Services—desperately needed programs like healthcare and fighting opioid addiction and cancer research—and putting it into the wall. This is without our OK, without our acknowledgment, and without our acceptance. The Republican majority also reprogrammed funding from other sources and backfilled money the President proposes to pilfer for military construction, which has affected, I believe, 30 States.

My Republican colleagues and my friend the Republican leader know very well this will not fly with Senate Democrats. We are not going to vote for a budget that is partisan and is attempting to be jammed down our throats. It puts an additional \$12 billion into the wall? Forget that. So here

we are already—at step No. 1 in the appropriations process—and the spirit of bipartisanship that is necessary for this work might be melting away.

I just warn my Republican colleagues that this is not a way to produce a budget. This is the same path they tried to go down last year. They shut down the government and then had to walk it back. We all know what a partisan process looks like. President Trump caused the longest government shutdown in American history by demanding funding for a border wall and then by shutting down the government when Congress didn't give it to him. Let's not go down that exact path again 9 months later.

There is still time to get the process back on track. The Republican majority should sit down with the Democrats on the committee and, in good faith, come up with the 302(b) allocations and come up with the order by which we bring bills to the floor. Then we can get this done. We don't have to go back to a CR. Certainly, our side wants to avoid a Republican shutdown, and we hope our Republican colleagues will have the good sense not to let President Trump lead them into that cul-de-sac once again. So let's sit down and make this work. That is what we want to do, not unilaterally declare something and say, "Take it or leave it," but work together so both sides have to give.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on gun safety, in response to the scenes of senseless violence in America throughout the month of August, Leader McConnell promised that the issue of gun safety would be "front and center" when Congress returned. The Democrats are eager to debate this issue, and we believe we have a great place to start—with the bipartisan, House-passed bill on universal background checks.

Leader McConnell has also suggested that President Trump will determine if and what the Senate will vote on, so we need to know what the President might support. Throughout the month of August, frankly, the President was all over the map, saying he wanted strong background check legislation one day and then saying, the next day, we don't need it at all. It makes no sense. The President doesn't seem to know what he wants.

My Republican colleagues met with the President yesterday and ostensibly discussed the issue of gun safety. I asked them: Where is the President on this issue? Will he support universal background checks?

We are eager to move forward with this debate. We want to vote on the H.R. 8 bill—a simple bill of universal background checks. It does not impede on the rights of any legitimate gun owner. It only gets in the way of felons and spousal abusers and those adjudicated mentally ill from getting guns,

and no one thinks they should get them.

The President needs to make his position clear and soon. If he continues to refuse to state his position or if he keeps flipping around, the Senate should proceed to debate this on its own. In any case, you can be sure the Democrats will not let the issue of gun safety fall by the wayside.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

TORNADO IN SIOUX FALLS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as I begin this morning, I need to mention the tornado that tore through my hometown of Sioux Falls last night. Thankfully, there appear to have been no fatalities, but there has been a lot of structural damage. I am grateful to all of the emergency responders, the electric crews, and all of those who worked through the night to keep the residents safe. My thoughts are with Sioux Falls today and with all of those who are dealing with the tornado's aftermath.

I had the opportunity this morning to speak with Mayor Paul TenHaken, of Sioux Falls, who, as you would expect, was up throughout the night with his team. I just expressed our support to him, to his team, and to our community as they begin the process of the cleanup and recovery from what was a very damaging storm.

I also talked with my wife and older daughter, who lives in Sioux Falls, both of whom were in their basements last night as, I think, most residents were. I am glad to hear that people took the necessary steps to keep themselves and their families safe.

As I have reported, so far—knock on wood—we are not aware of injuries that have been associated with this. Yet I will continue to monitor the situation, and my staff and I are available to help with whatever will be needed as a result of this storm.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. President, it is difficult to believe it has been 18 years since the September 11 attacks. That bright September morning is seared in our minds as if it were yesterday—the shock, the horror, the sense of unreality in the days that followed, the grief and loss but also the resolve and the unity of purpose.

As always, where there is great evil, good rises up in response—that of the courageous passengers on Flight 93 who laid down their lives to protect their fellow Americans; Vietnam veteran and Morgan Stanley security chief Rick Rescorla, who successfully evacuated more than 2,000 of his firm's employees from the World Trade Center and died returning to help evacuate others; Jason Thomas and Dave Karnes, two former marines who dropped everything and sped to the Towers and saved the lives of the two Port Authority officers they found who had been trapped in the rubble; National Guard pilots Heather Penney and Marc Sasseville, who scrambled their F-16s—weaponless—to meet the threat that was headed toward DC and who were prepared to sacrifice their lives by ramming their aircraft into Flight 93 before it could hit the Capitol or the White House; and the hundreds of first responders who ran toward the Towers, toward the inferno, and headed up the steps while civilians ran down.

Then there were the countless ordinary Americans who were far away from New York and Washington who flooded blood banks and overwhelmed organizations like the Red Cross with their donations; who stormed Heaven with prayers for the missing and the injured and the suffering; and who proudly flew their flags and reached out to their neighbors.

In the weeks and months and years to come, there was a 9/11 generation of soldiers—those who signed up in the wake of September 11 to fight back against the terrorists and those who were already serving. They deployed around the globe to fight terror and to defend freedom, and thousands of them laid down their lives. Eighteen years on, we remember the horror of that September day, but we are also lifted up by the memory of the heroes who came out of it.

For those of us who serve in Congress, the anniversary of September 11 is also a reminder of the obligation we have to provide for our Nation's defense and to ensure that we are prepared to meet and defeat any threat. In the Senate, I am proud that both parties have worked together over the past couple of years to rebuild our Nation's military after years of its being underfunded and the strains of the War on Terror.

September 11 is also a reminder of our obligation to care for those who stand between us and danger—our soldiers, our veterans, our first responders, and our law enforcement officers. They take on a heavy burden so the

rest of us can live in peace and safety. We owe them a debt we can never repay. This year, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to make the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent to ensure that first responders whose health has suffered in the wake of their work at Ground Zero, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania will have the resources they need.

While we are on the subject of veterans, like all of my colleagues, I am saddened that Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON is retiring at the end of this year.

We were members of the same freshman class in 2004. During his time here, he has been a tireless advocate for veterans, and he will be deeply missed. Yet his hard work in the Senate as the head of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will continue to bear fruit, and we will continue to work to implement the VA reforms he shepherded to ensure our veterans receive the care they have earned.

I was here in Washington, DC, on September 11, and I evacuated the Capitol Complex. One of the things I remember very clearly from that day were the Capitol police officers who directed us out of the buildings. We were running from the danger, and they were not. They were not going anywhere until they were sure every last man and woman had made his way out.

Against that spirit of courage and self-sacrifice, evil will never ultimately triumph. May God bless all of those who stand between us and danger. May He bless the victims of September 11 and their families, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE BOWMAN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the nomination of Governor Michelle Bowman to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

First, I will speak about Governor Bowman. Michelle Bowman currently serves as a Governor on the Federal Reserve Board and was the first person to fill the Federal Reserve's community banking seat, after her confirmation last year by a bipartisan vote of 64 to 34. Her current term expires on January 30, 2020, and President Trump has renominated her to the same position for a full 14-year term.

Prior to serving as Governor, she was the State bank commissioner of Kansas from January 2017 to November 2018.

She also served as vice president of a Kansas-based community bank, Farmers & Drovers Bank, between 2010 and 2017 and served in a number of government roles.

Confirming Governor Bowman to a new 14-year term will provide the needed stability on the Board.

During her current term as Governor, she has played a crucial role at the Federal Reserve by providing the community banking perspective and highlighting their importance to people, households, and small businesses across this Nation, as well as the U.S. economy broadly. She has also contributed meaningfully toward appropriately tailoring regulations in accordance with S. 2155.

If confirmed, I am confident her experience and skill will continue to benefit the Board in promoting the effective operation of the U.S. economy and serving the public interest. I will be voting in support of Governor Bowman and urge my colleagues to vote in support of her nomination, as well, today.

Turning for a moment to another important issue regarding the Federal Reserve, I want to reinforce that maintaining the independence of the Federal Reserve is of the utmost importance in this country.

The recent remarks made by former New York Fed President Dudley urging the Federal Reserve to sway an election by using monetary policy are incredibly troubling. The job of the Federal Reserve is to provide this Nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system. I continue to encourage the Federal Reserve to conduct its monetary policy while remaining independent of politics.

NOMINATION OF THOMAS PETER FEDDO

Mr. President, now I would like to turn to the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo for Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or what we often call CFIUS.

CFIUS plays an important role in today's investment market by reviewing the national security implications of certain transactions involving foreign investment in the United States. Congress recognized and underscored the importance of this national security job when it repurposed the previous Assistant Secretary slot with passage of FIRRMA last July.

Up until that time, the Assistant Secretary split his time between CFIUS and work on international markets, and, today, the Assistant Secretary for Investment Security is dedicated 100 percent to CFIUS responsibilities.

Mr. Feddo's nomination comes at an important time in history, when China's ambitions forced Congress to reevaluate the reliance of U.S.-China commerce and the laws and regulations governing that connectivity.

FIRRMA expanded the jurisdictional reach of CFIUS to better protect U.S.

cutting-edge technology companies from hostile foreign takeover and influence based on a couple of concerns. First, CFIUS did not have visibility into many investments from China that might provide coercive influence over U.S. cutting-edge technology companies. Second, these investments were resulting in technology transfers that could convey capabilities, advancing Chinese economic and security interests while restricting the U.S. military and national security structure from leveraging that technology.

FIRRMA not only increased the bandwidth of CFIUS but also expanded the resources given to it to meet the new level of today's challenges.

The time is now to fill this sensitive vacancy.

Thomas Feddo is the ideal candidate to take up the mantle because he has the keen intellect and natural suspicions of a dedicated financial warrior. He currently leads the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Investment Security in executing Treasury's statutory role as the chair of CFIUS during one of the most trying times that investment markets have seen. For over a year now, he has led the CFIUS team at Treasury, but before that, he put in a 7-year tour at the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, where he oversaw implementation and enforcement of some 29 U.S. sanctions programs.

As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, with a degree in naval engineering, Mr. Feddo served as a lieutenant in the Navy's nuclear submarine force and as an officer at the Navy Antiterrorist Alert Center. Because of his unique experience and his technical education, once confirmed, Mr. Feddo will hit the ground running, moving CFIUS forward in pursuit of its continuing mission to guard U.S. technological leadership from foreign adversaries.

I look forward to continuing conversations with him on opportunities to improve America's foreign investment review system, which requires constant vigilance. I also look forward to working with him on how we can make CFIUS programs more effective and efficient and be a faithful steward of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Feddo enjoys nearly unanimous support from stakeholders, which speaks volumes to his strong track record of experience and expertise. Thomas Feddo's nomination was advanced by voice vote in the Senate Banking Committee on June 18, 2019, with overwhelming bipartisan support. I ask my colleagues once again to vote to confirm him to this critical post.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take just a moment to remember the thousands of innocent lives lost 18 years ago today and to thank the first responders who so bravely sacrificed their lives in the service of others.

September 11 is a day that will always weigh heavily upon our Nation, but it is also a day that shows the strength and resiliency of the American people. In response to tragedy, we saw beyond our differences and came together as a country. That is the lesson we must never forget.

Today, I come to the floor as a voice for families in my home State of Washington who have had enough of just “thoughts and prayers” and as a mother and a grandmother who has had enough of them too. My heart breaks with every report of another horrific mass shooting.

Like my colleagues here today and the rest of our country, I watched in horror last month as devastating gun violence claimed dozens of innocent lives and threw our communities into a state of panic yet again. This heartbreak has become all too familiar to so many of us—from El Paso and Odessa, to Dayton, to Maryville in my home State of Washington, and in schools and movie theaters and community spaces across our country. So what we are doing here today is refusing to accept this as normal and demanding the change that so many families are crying out for.

Democrats are committed to heeding the voices of countless people back in Washington State and across our country who are desperate for leaders in this Washington—including President Trump and Leader MCCONNELL—to address this crisis. That is why I am joining my colleagues on the Senate floor throughout today to call on Leader MCCONNELL to take up commonsense gun safety legislation, starting with universal background checks.

We know universal background checks save lives by closing dangerous loopholes to help keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. That is why more than 80 percent of Americans support universal background checks and are demanding immediate action from Congress to make universal background checks the law of the land.

There certainly are other steps we can take as well. We could strengthen the extreme risk protection orders, which have worked in my home State of Washington. We could revive the assault weapons ban, invest in gun violence prevention research, and regulate firearm magazine limits. All of those steps could save lives and prevent more families from enduring the horrific pain and trauma too many already have. But H.R. 8—the universal background check legislation that has already passed the House—is literally sitting here in the Senate, waiting to be called up for a vote.

As I close, I want to be clear. Passing universal background checks must be this body’s first order of business if we are serious about protecting people and helping to keep guns out of the wrong hands. I and all of my Democratic colleagues and so many others are going to keep up the pressure as long as we have to, to get this done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “yea.”

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Baldwin	Durbin	McConnell
Barrasso	Enzi	McSally
Blackburn	Ernst	Menendez
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Merkley
Blunt	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gardner	Murkowski
Braun	Graham	Murphy
Brown	Grassley	Murray
Burr	Hassan	Paul
Cantwell	Hawley	Perdue
Capito	Heinrich	Peters
Cardin	Hirono	Portman
Carper	Hoeven	Reed
Casey	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cassidy	Inhofe	Romney
Collins	Isakson	Rosen
Coons	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Jones	Rubio
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Sasse
Cotton	Kennedy	Schatz
Cramer	King	Schumer
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Leahy	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lee	Shaheen
Duckworth	Manchin	Shelby

Sinema	Thune	Warner
Smith	Tillis	Whitehouse
Stabenow	Toomey	Wicker
Sullivan	Udall	Wyden
Tester	Van Hollen	Young

NAYS—2

Gillibrand

Markey

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Harris	Sanders
Bennet	Klobuchar	Warren
Booker	Roberts	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think everyone knows today is the anniversary of 9/11. Many of us here remember evacuating this very building on September 11, 2001. We knew the world would never be the same.

For the people of New York, an ordinary beautiful morning was brought to a screeching halt as the clear blue sky filled with smoke. For those at the Pentagon, the workdays in service of our Nation turned into a literal nightmare. For hundreds of air travelers, routine flights gave way to tragedy, and, thanks to the bravery of passengers and crew, incredible acts of heroism.

The Senate stands with the entire Nation as we remember the terrible events of 18 years ago today and the nearly 3,000 innocent lives that terrorists stole away. We stand in solidarity with those who still grieve, and we honor the patriotic resolve that inspired first responders, U.S. service members, and countless Americans who dedicated themselves, that day and since, to selflessly keeping our Nation safe.

May our remembrances renew our commitment to building a world where terrorist evil has no home. May we never forget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I join the leader. Eighteen years ago, on a cloudless Tuesday morning, my city, our country, and our world changed forever. In the span of a few hours, the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was hit, and smoke rose from an empty field in Pennsylvania.

More than 3,000 souls were taken from us that day. I knew some of them: a guy I played basketball with in high school, a businessman who helped me on the way up, and a firefighter whom I went around the city doing blood drives with. It was one of the bloodiest days on American soil since the Civil War.

Each year we correctly and appropriately pause to remember that awful day. We mourn those whom we lost and think of them. The day after 9/11, I called for every American to wear the flag. I wear this flag every day. I have worn it every day since then in memory of them.

We also remember our resiliency and the resiliency of New Yorkers, the brave firefighters, police officers, and

ordinary citizens who rushed to the Towers.

The generosity—I will never forget a man who had a shoe store about two blocks north of the Towers who just gave shoes to all the people. Some men and women who had to run 90 flight of stairs left their shoes behind.

I remember the next day, when President Bush sent us back up to New York, and the empty skies, a bunch of F-16s around our plane going down there, smelling the smell of burnt flesh and death in the air, and seeing over 1,000 people lined up with little signs, because we didn't know who was gone and who might be found: Have you seen my sister Mary? Have you seen my son Bob?

It was an awful day and a day we live with, but we know our resilience. Many predicted that Lower Manhattan would be a ghost town forevermore. It has more people, more jobs, and more business than before 9/11. Many thought that America would succumb to the evil brutality of the terrorists. We have fought back very successfully.

We think, finally, of those who are dying now as a result of their rushing to the Towers into the hours and days after, and we are also grateful that this body has now fully funded both the health fund and the fund to see that the families are taken care of.

It is an amazing moment. I live with it all the time. I ride my bike around the city, and every seventh or eighth block has the name of a street commemorating someone who died—firefighter this and police officer that.

But America, New York, and all of us have not been beaten by the terrorists and have not been beaten by adversity. On this issue, we have come together, and we will prevail.

I ask unanimous consent that there be a minute of silence in memory of those who were lost both that day and who are still being lost because of their heroism a few days after.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIVES LOST IN THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001.

(Moment of silence.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeben	Romney
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sinema
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	McSally	Tillis
Enzi	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Young

NAYS—38

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

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Harris	Sanders
Bennet	Klobuchar	Warren
Booker	Roberts	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Peters
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rosen
Braun	Heinrich	Rounds
Burr	Hoeben	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cardin	Inhofe	Schatz
Carper	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Casey	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Jones	Shaheen
Collins	Kaine	Shelby
Coons	Kennedy	Sinema
Cornyn	King	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Leahy	Tester
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	McSally	Udall
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Moran	Warner
Enzi	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Paul	Young

NAYS—11

Brown	Markey	Schumer
Cantwell	Merkley	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Hirono	Reed	

NOT VOTING—8

Alexander	Harris	Sanders
Bennet	Klobuchar	Warren
Booker	Roberts	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Bowman nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read 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 14 years from February 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, today we commemorate the solemn anniversary of the attacks on 9/11/2001.

If you ask anybody who is old enough to remember where they were that day, I bet they can tell you. It is one of those rare moments that defines an entire generation.

I have always said that it is etched in my memory like the only other event in my lifetime that might rise to that level of shock and horror, and that is the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Eighteen years ago today, I was in Austin, talking on the phone to then-Governor Rick Perry. When I hung up the phone, my wife said, "You need to see this," pointing to the TV set. That was just as the second plane hit the World Trade Center, and we all know what came after.

It was the same image that millions of Americans struggled to understand on that morning and still struggle to comprehend today—how someone could be so evil and so determined to take innocent lives.

September 11 serves as a dividing line in American history. For people like me, there is before and there is after, but for an entire generation of younger people, there is really only after. I believe this 18th anniversary carries special weight because those young people who have only lived in a post-9/11 world will now be able to vote in our elections, serve in our military, and help shape the future of our country.

It is a reminder of our commitment as a nation to carry out the promise we made in the wake of the attack to "never forget"—never forget.

As Americans, we must remain vigilant, and we must remain with a strong sense of purpose and a strong moral clarity regarding confronting evil in all its forms. We vow to carry the memory of the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day in our hearts, the sense of patriotism that welled up inside of each of us, and the determination never to be intimidated, and never to back down.

Today, we remember the families who lost loved ones that day, the first responders who ran not away from but toward the danger, and the commitment of our Armed Forces, who fight to eradicate terrorism around the globe each and every day.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. President, on another matter, for a quarter of a century, the North American Free Trade Agreement has guided our trade relationship with Mexico and Canada. When NAFTA was created, it sought to remove the barriers that impeded free and fair trade to provide benefits to all three countries. While this agreement has certainly had its share of critics and champions, I think there is no doubt—certainly, in my mind—that NAFTA has been a benefit to the United States.

Last year, U.S. goods and services trade with Mexico and Canada totaled

nearly \$1.4 trillion. Across every industry, from major companies to small businesses, an estimated 12 million American jobs rely on trade with our NAFTA partners—12 million.

The importance of maintaining strong trade ties is certainly understood in my home State of Texas, and that is in large part because—and this will not surprise you—last year, Texas exported nearly \$110 billion in goods to Mexico, our next-door neighbor, 35 percent of our State's total exports.

We also imported more than \$107 billion in goods from Mexico, including everything from motor vehicle parts to computer equipment, to tractors and avocados. It is not uncommon to see certain products, like automobile parts, crossing the border multiple times during the manufacturing process before eventually making their way to the customer.

NAFTA has fueled the economies of every State across the country, but a lot has changed since NAFTA was ratified in 1993. At that time, the internet was in its infancy, smartphones didn't exist, and shopping at brick-and-mortar stores was the norm. Countless economic advancements and our digitalized marketplace have fundamentally changed the global trade landscape. So it is clearly time to modernize NAFTA and bring it up to current needs.

I was glad when the heads of all three countries signed the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement last November and took major steps just to get that far, but the new NAFTA—or, as we call it, the USMCA—takes into account businesses and practices that didn't even exist when NAFTA existed, things like 2-day shipping, online micro-retailers, and digital products like e-books and music.

The USMCA will require Mexico and Canada to raise their de minimis shipment value levels, which will allow certain classes of shipments to enter all three countries with expedited entry procedures. That is a big win for small and medium-sized businesses, which often lack the resources to pay customs duties and taxes.

Overall, the USMCA takes steps to advance the digital economy, which accounted for nearly 7 percent of our total economy in 2017.

A few months ago, the International Trade Commission publicly released its analysis of the economic impact of the USMCA, which shows some positive indicators. The ITC concluded that, within 6 years, the USMCA will raise real GDP in the United States by \$68.2 billion and lead to the creation of 176,000 new jobs.

We can also expect a more than \$33 billion increase in exports and more than \$31 billion in imports. That is great news for North American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses that will reap the benefits of this agreement.

When I was traveling around the State during August, one of the most

frequent questions I encountered from my constituents was this: When is Congress going to pass the USMCA? I assured them that I am just as eager as they are to see Congress ratify this agreement, but we are still waiting on the House and the administration to iron out their differences.

I know that the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Lighthizer, and Secretary Mnuchin are having constructive conversations with the Speaker of the House, and she has set up a process by which the House can provide its necessary input into the final product, but we are all waiting to see the Speaker turn on the green light to allow them to start the process—sooner, hopefully, rather than later. We know that, historically speaking, the closer we get to an election, the more challenging it is to get things passed, particularly in a divided Congress, like we have now. So I hope we can get this process moving soon.

Businesses, jobs, and communities in Texas rely on a strong trade relationship between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. While NAFTA has benefited all three countries, it is not able to propel our economies into the future. That is why the USMCA is so important.

The USMCA increases goods' market access. It supports small businesses. As I said, it supports digital trade, safeguards intellectual property, supports our agriculture sector, and keeps jobs right here at home.

Free and fair trade isn't just good news for our economy. It is good news for the people behind it. This is a trade agreement built for the 21st century, and it is time for Congress to pass the USMCA and provide greater stability and more opportunities for North American workers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATION OF DALE CABANISS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, just a little bit earlier today, the Senate voted to confirm President Trump's nomination of Dale Cabaniss to lead the Office of Personnel Management.

I voted against this nominee, but now that she is confirmed, it is more important than ever for the Senate and the House to fulfill our oversight duties to protect our civil servants from political interference. I know the Presiding Officer has a keen interest in this subject as well, in his capacity as chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, overseeing Federal civil service, and I appreciate his work on that front.

In order to do their jobs for the American people, our Federal employees must be able to perform their duties free of politics. They must be judged on the merits of their work, not political favoritism or cronyism. They must be able to present factual information and analysis without fear of retribution. Yet time and again, we

have seen that this President, President Trump, views civil servants as his adversaries.

The President has sought to silence those whose work or words contradict him, even when the facts are clear. We saw that most recently when the National Weather Service tried to calm residents in the State of Alabama after President Trump falsely stated that Hurricane Dorian would put them at severe risk. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross reportedly threatened to fire the agency's leadership after they corrected the President's false statements about Hurricane Dorian and Alabama. Just within the last hour, the New York Times is reporting that the order to change the statements at NOAA came directly from the White House in the form of a directive from the Acting Chief of Staff to the President, Mick Mulvaney.

We have also seen this pattern at other times. We saw President Trump standing side by side with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, while President Trump sided with Putin's claims about noninterference in the 2016 Presidential elections, and where President Trump threw our own U.S. intelligence agency experts under the bus.

These assaults on the Federal civil service and the efforts to undermine the integrity of the Federal civil service have also included an assault on Federal employees. This administration knows that workers are stronger when they are organized and have representatives who can speak on their behalf. Many—not all, but many—of the Trump agency heads have repeatedly refused to comply with the law and to bargain in good faith with their workers. Instead of trying to negotiate, they have tried to impose contracts and terms unilaterally. This has already happened at the Social Security Administration, where agency management has shown particular hostility to the unions representing their workforce. Some of these issues are now tied up in the courts, but I would hope we could work on a bipartisan basis to address these challenges.

Now, President Trump is trying to abolish the Office of Personnel Management. That brings me to the nomination of Ms. Cabaniss, because she will be directed to preside over the dismantlement of the agency—that is, if the President has his way. I know those of us in Congress with a different view will be weighing in as well.

The Office of Personnel Management is an independent Federal agency with an absolutely vital mission—to strengthen and protect the Federal civil service system. Their role is to protect the integrity of our Federal civil service and prevent it from being hijacked by political forces.

I know there has been a lot of talk that this is all about civil service reform. As I look at the proposals, I don't see it that way. I see these proposals as an attack on the institution that defends our civil service system.

The Office of Personnel Management needs a strong, independent leader who will protect the Federal workforce from partisan interference and defend agencies from the administration's attacks. After looking at Ms. Cabaniss's record, she is not the right person to lead OPM. When she chaired the Federal Labor Relations Authority, morale was dead last among small Federal agencies. That is the agency that is supposed to resolve disputes between Federal workers and management, but 55 percent of their decisions were overturned under Ms. Cabaniss's jurisdiction.

OPM's mission is vital to the success of our Federal civil service and their ability to deliver services to the American people. We need a leader who is going to stand up for the integrity of that system, not one who is going to preside over the dismantlement of that agency. So I hope we can work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that this country preserves one of its vital assets, which is a nonpartisan civil service.

Presidents come and Presidents go, and Presidents, of course, give direction to the different agencies, but we will be doing a great disservice to the people of this country if we allow political cronyism to seep into this system and create an environment where people fear speaking out, telling the truth, and providing the facts.

I want to take this opportunity today, as we discuss the nomination of the Office of Personnel Management, to raise that larger issue, and I hope we will be united in that effort because lots of countries around the world suffer from political cronyism. The United States has helped shield itself from that by establishing decades and decades ago a system that tries to immunize ourselves against that kind of political infection in terms of the day-to-day work that we ask people to do and carry on, on behalf of the American people. Let's work together to accomplish what I believe is a bipartisan goal.

I yield the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, before I get into the substance of what I want to talk about, I am going to take my own personal opportunity to remember those whom we lost 18 years ago today. Like everyone else, I remember the events. I was at home with my family and young children, not knowing what was going to happen and seeing things happen. I can remember taking one of my kids to daycare when the second tower collapsed and the radio announcer simply saying, "They are both gone," and the emptiness we felt.

We remember today, we honor today, and we honor not only those whom we lost but honor those responders who were there and who still suffer the pain from having to deal with all of that.

FUTURE ACT

Mr. President, I rise today almost a year ago since I first came to the Senate floor to discuss the state of our Nation's historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

As I did then, and many times since, I am again making an urgent call to colleagues to act. At the end of this month, at the end of the fiscal year, nearly half of all Federal funds these schools receive each year, and have for a long time, is going to end. That is \$255 million annually that they have had available to count on for well over a decade. That is going to come to a screeching halt if we don't act, and we need to act now.

These historic institutions serve nearly 4 million students of color. Many of our Nation's brightest minds have matriculated at these institutions. HBCUs are the leading educators for African-American PhDs in science and engineering. They are foundational to building generational wealth in communities that have long faced headwinds in doing so. They are doing amazing work. They are doing incredible work with very limited resources and with their own individual financial headwinds to contend with.

In Alabama, we are home to 14 HBCUs—more than any State in the country—so they are an integral part of my home State's higher education system. Just as important, they are integral to the economy of Alabama.

Minority-serving institutions play a central role in America's higher education system. For example, Hispanic-Serving Institutions account for 13 percent of all nonprofit colleges. Yet they enroll 62 percent of all Hispanic students.

More than 75 percent of students at HBCUs and nearly 80 percent of students at Tribal colleges and universities receive Pell grants, compared to only 32 percent of all students. These schools have a very serious purpose for these kids who otherwise might get shut out, likely would get shut out of our higher education system. They are so important, and they face such strong headwinds financially to achieve.

Last year, we held our first HBCU summit where we brought all of our HBCUs in Alabama together to talk about the challenges, to talk about what they were facing but also to talk about opportunities to work together, to work with the State, to work with the Congress, to try to meet the challenges of our workforce of the 21st century, to try to meet the challenges of our educational system in general. What I saw was an amazing group of people—amazing group of people who were doing the work for their students and for their communities, people who

are committed from deep down in their heart. They love these kids. They love the purpose they are serving, and they are thinking ahead. They are thinking outside the box. These are not institutions that are so cookie cutter that they are not willing to explore new opportunities for their students. They are seizing every one of those opportunities.

I have seen firsthand, though, increasing concern from our HBCU community. Given their significance, it is frustrating that some of these schools continue to struggle. Public and private HBCUs face extensive capital project needs but have few funding sources to rely on.

On top of that, the Government Accountability Office found that HBCUs' average endowment is half the size of a similar sized non-HBCU. We have to change that. We have to make sure we provide to these schools because the bottom line is, they have no safety net. They struggle. They work. They do the things. The bottom line is, they have no safety net. If they have no safety net, neither do the students they serve.

This time last year, I was talking about legislation I had introduced called the Strengthening Minority-Serving Institutions Act, which would have permanently extended and increased mandatory funding to all minority-serving institutions. That bill was supported by one-quarter of the Senate. Unfortunately, it was simply all Democrats. We could not get the bipartisan support that I hope we will get in the future. However, now we are here and only have 19 days left in the fiscal year, and these schools still have no certainty about whether these critical funds will continue to be available.

We hear a lot in this body about the need to make sure we continue to fund government, that we continue to fund our military, and about how devastating even a continuing resolution might be to the Defense Department because it doesn't allow the military to plan. I agree with that. I see it. This is \$255 million that all of a sudden is going to be cut off completely from schools that have relied on it, that have planned, that have done their budgets around it. We owe it to them. We owe it to them to make sure that we get this funding because they give so much back to us.

Ensuring equal access to quality education should not be a partisan issue, and I worked over the last year to find a solution that I think should receive and could receive broad bipartisan support. I believe we have that in the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act. It is called the FUTURE Act, which I have introduced with my colleague Senator TIM SCOTT and Representatives ALMA ADAMS and MARK WALKER in the House.

The FUTURE Act reauthorizes funding for the next 2 fiscal years, maintaining just level funding of \$255 million a year. It is the least we could do.

Our bill checks all the boxes. It helps institutions in 43 States. It is bipartisan, it is bicameral, and it is paid for.

Let's not delay any longer. With this important bill, let's get this to the floor. Let's come up with something so we can show the American people how important these institutions are and just as important, we show the American people that, doggone it, we can get something done. That is the most frustrating part I heard about when I went back to Alabama over the recess: When are you going to get something done, Jones?

Well, it is difficult. You all know it. It is difficult, but this is a piece of legislation that ought to receive support in this body and across the aisle, across the Capitol in the House.

This week we have a lot of the HBCU presidents and administrators who are on Capitol Hill. They are coming up for their own benefit but also for the Congressional Black Caucus events that are later this week. They are here on the Hill. It would be the perfect time to get this to the floor. I don't see it on the schedule anywhere, but it would be the perfect time.

As people are looking here, as they are watching us and listening to us, they know we support their institutions. Let's show them we support their institutions.

I urge my colleagues to support the FUTURE Act. Get onboard with us. Sponsor this legislation and, in turn, support our Nation's minority-serving institutions of higher education. Their graduates deserve the same quality education as any other student, and they deserve a fair shot at a successful future. Let's get this done. Let's do our job and get this done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am going to be joined on the floor over the course of about an hour or so by Members of the Senate who are desperate for our colleagues to wake up and recognize that the time for action to quell the epidemic of gun violence in this country is now. It was also last week. It was also a month ago and a year ago and 6 years ago. It was also nearly 7 years ago, after the shooting in my State of Connecticut that felled 20 little 6- and 7-year-olds attending first grade at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

We tend to pay attention to the mass shootings—the ones in Odessa, El Paso, Dayton, and Newtown—but every single day in this country, 93 people die from gunshot wounds. Most of those are suicides, but many of them are homicides, and others are accidental shootings. When you total it up, we are losing about 33,000 people every year from gun violence and gunshot wounds.

Those numbers may not be that meaningful to you because it is a big country, but how does that compare to the rest of the world or at least the

rest of the high-income world? Well, that is about 10 times higher than other countries of similar income and of similar situation as the United States. Something different is happening here. It is not that we have more mental illness. It is not that we have less mental health treatment. It is not that we have less resources going into law enforcement. The difference is that we have guns spread out all over this Nation, many of them illegal and many of them of a caliber and capacity that were designed for the military in which this slaughter becomes predictable. We have a chance to do something about it right now in the U.S. Congress. We have a chance to try to find some way to come together over some commonsense measures.

I just got off the phone—a 40-minute conversation with the President of the United States. I was glad that he was willing to take that amount of time with me, Senator MANCHIN, and Senator TOOMEY to talk about whether we can figure out a way to get Republicans and Democrats on board with a proposal to expand background checks to more gun sales in this Nation. In particular, we were talking about expanding background checks to commercial gun sales. That is certainly not as far as I would like to go, but I understand that part of my job here is to argue for my beliefs and my convictions but then try to find a compromise.

There is no single legislative initiative that will solve all of these issues, but what we know is, if you want to take the biggest bite out of gun crime as quickly as possible, increasing the number of background checks done in this country is the way to go. All we are trying to do here is make sure that when you buy a gun, you prove that you aren't someone with a serious criminal history or that you aren't someone who has a serious history of mental illness.

In 2017, about 170,000 people in this country went into a store, tried to buy a gun, and were denied that sale because they had an offense on their record or a period of time in an inpatient psychiatric unit, which prohibited them from buying a gun. Of those 170,000 sales that were denied, 39 percent of them were convicted felons who had tried to come in and buy a gun, many of them knowing they were likely prohibited from buying those guns.

The problem is, that isn't a barrier to buying a weapon—being denied a sale at a gun store. Why do we know that? It is because just a few weeks ago in Texas, a gunman who went in and shot up 7 people who died and 23 who were injured failed a background check because he had been diagnosed by a clinician as mentally ill and had triggered one of those prohibiting clauses, but then he went and bought the gun from a private seller, knowing that he wouldn't have to go through a background check if he bought the weapon from a place in Texas that didn't have

a background check attached to it. He then took that weapon and turned it on civilians.

This happens over and over again every single day. Estimates are that at least 20 percent of all gun sales in this country happen without a background check. These aren't gifts of guns to a relative or a loaner to somebody who is going to go and use it for hunting on a Saturday or Sunday; this is about legitimate commercial transactions, 20 percent of which, when they involve guns, happen without a background check.

We also have plenty of data from States that have decided to expand background checks to make them universal. States requiring universal background checks for all gun sales have homicide rates that are 15 percent lower than States that don't have those laws.

In Connecticut, we have research showing that when we extended background checks to all gun sales through a local permitting process, we had a 40-percent reduction in gun homicide rates. Compare that with the State of Missouri, which repealed its permitting law, which was their way of making sure that everybody who buys a gun has to get a background check. They saw a 23-percent increase in firearm homicides immediately after they started allowing people to buy guns without a background check.

There is your data. It is pretty incontrovertible. You can get pretty immediate and serious returns—safety returns—if you expand background checks to all gun purchases. But the benefit to a U.S. Senator who has to go back for reelection every 6 years is that not only are background checks as a legislative initiative impactful, they are also very politically popular. In fact, very few things are more popular than expanding background checks to more gun sales.

Ninety percent of Americans want universal background checks. Apple pie is not that popular. Baseball is not that popular. Background checks are. You are not going to get in trouble with your constituents if you vote to expand background checks to all commercial sales or all private sales in this country. You are going to get rewarded politically if you do that. I don't argue that that is the reason you vote for background checks, but I think you should accept the plaudits that will come to you from your constituents if you support this measure.

I don't think the President has made up his mind yet. After spending about 40 minutes on the phone with him this afternoon, I don't know that the President is convinced yet that he should support universal background checks.

I was with the President right after the Parkland shooting, and he said he would support universal background checks, and then he didn't support them after speaking to representatives of the gun lobby. I am sure the gun lobby will come in and talk to the

President this afternoon or tomorrow and try to explain to him why he should once again endorse the status quo.

The status quo is not acceptable to Americans in this country. People are sick and tired of feeling unsafe when they walk into a Walmart. Parents are heartbroken when their children come home and tell them about the latest active-shooter drill they participated in. I know that from direct experience, having listened to my then-kindergarten tell me about being stuffed into a tiny bathroom with 25 of his other colleagues and told by his teacher to remain as quiet as possible because they were practicing what would happen if a stranger came into their school. Some of the kids knew what it was really about and some of them didn't, but my 7-year-old—6 years old at the time—knew enough to say to me: "Daddy, I didn't like it." No child should have to fear for their safety when they walk to school.

I am not saying that universal background checks can solve all of our gun violence issues in this country. I will say that beyond the lives that it will save, it will also send a message to our children and to families in this country that we are not encased in concrete, that we are trying our best to reach out across the aisle and come to some conclusion to at least save some lives.

I will tell you that peace of mind, that moral signal of compassion and concern that we will send, will have a value, as well, next to and beside the actual lives we will save.

Leilah Hernandez was 15 years old. She was a high school student when she was shot by the gunman in Odessa, TX. Her grandmother Nora explained how Leilah would spend a lot of her time with family and would drop by after school to visit her grandmother. She described Leilah as a happy girl who adored her parents. She was described at her funeral as "a naturally shy girl who became a quiet leader on the basketball court."

Lois Oglesby was 27 when she was killed in the Dayton shooting. Her friend Derasha Merrett said: "She was a wonderful mother, a wonderful person." According to the children's father, Oglesby face-timed him after she was shot, saying "Babe, I just got shot in my head. I need to get to my kids." She died that day in Dayton.

Jordan and Andre Anchondo were 25 and 23 years old when they were amongst the 22 who were killed in El Paso. The couple had dropped their 5-year-old daughter at cheer practice, and then they went to Walmart to pick up some back-to-school supplies. Their 2-month-old son Paul was with them. He survived the shooting, probably because it looks like Jordan died shielding her baby, while Andre jumped in front of the two of them. The baby was found under Jordan's body and miraculously suffered only two broken fingers.

On August 31 in Buffalo, NY, Norzell Aldridge saw an altercation happening

from a distance. He went over to the altercation to try to defuse the situation. He was a youth league football coach. As he tried to deal with this altercation, he was shot and killed. One of his friends said: "The guy died a hero trying to save somebody else's life." One of the folks who work in football with him said: "His legacy will always be never give up, give it your all, and now his legacy is through his son."

You haven't heard of Norzell because he didn't die in a mass shooting. He is just one of the routine gun murders that happen every single day in this country. It matters just as much as those that occurred in El Paso and Dayton and Odessa, and we can do something about those right now.

I am begging the President to come to the table and agree to a common-sense background checks expansion bill that will save lives. I am begging my colleagues here to do the same—figure out a way to get to yes. There is no political liability in it for you. There are thousands and thousands of lives to be saved.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

MR. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow my colleague from Connecticut after his powerful and eloquent description of the lives that have been lost, the stakes of this decision, and the clear path we have—an opportunity and an obligation to save lives.

Let me begin where he ended. The President of the United States has an obligation here to lead. If he does, we will have legislation that will literally save thousands of lives. He has an obligation, as we do, to find a way to save these lives.

All of us have seen all too often the needless, senseless, and unspeakable tragedy done by gun violence. We focus on the mass killings, but those 90 deaths a day consist of the drive-by, one-by-one shootings in Hartford and New Haven and Bridgeport and cities and towns and communities around the country. No one is immune. No family is untouched, through friends and relatives and workplaces and through suicides, which are a major part of those 90 deaths every day in this country. Domestic violence is made five times more deadly when there is a gun in the home.

The President must not only come to the table but lead. And if he will not lead, get out of the way because we have an obligation to move forward now and take advantage of this historic opportunity and obligation.

Just weeks ago, in one 24-hour period, massacres in El Paso and Dayton left 31 people dead. Eleven days ago, a shooter in Odessa, TX, killed another seven. Communities are forever changed by these events, and so is our Nation. The trauma and the stress done in schools to our children by the drills they conduct, by the anticipation that

is raised, by the fear that is engendered—the sights and sounds of gun violence echo and reverberate across our land.

I remember the sights and sounds of the parents at the firehouse in Sandy Hook on that horrible day in 2012 when 20 beautiful children and sixth grade educators died. The firehouse is where parents went to find out whether their children were OK. The way they found out was either their children appeared or they did not.

For them, in the cries and sobbing they experienced, the expressions of anguish, the look on those faces, it was only the beginning of their nightmare. It transformed Connecticut. What we did in Connecticut was adopt commonsense measures and comprehensive steps to stop gun violence.

The lesson of Connecticut is not only that those steps have reduced gun violence, including homicide, but also that States with the strongest laws are still at the mercy of the ones with the weakest because guns have no respect for State boundaries. They cross State lines, and they do damage and death in States like Connecticut with strong gun laws. Through the Iron Pipeline, it comes from other States to our south.

Since that day at Sandy Hook, there have been 2,218 mass shootings in the United States, and over 2,000 times, parents have sat, as did those parents at Sandy Hook, and waited to know whether their children were OK—children who left in the morning with no inkling about the violence that was to unfold.

There is no reason people have to live this way in the United States of America. America has no greater proportion of mental health issues than any other country. We have a higher rate of gun violence. We can prevent it through commonsense steps and comprehensive steps that will save as many lives as possible as quickly as possible by keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people. That is the principle of the two main proposals likely to come before this body.

To keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people, do it through background checks, which have to apply universally to all States for them to be effective. Experts estimate that 80 percent of firearms acquired for criminal purposes are obtained from unlicensed sellers, and a recent study found that States that have universal background check laws experienced 52 percent fewer mass shootings. Background checks prevent people who are dangerous to themselves or others from buying firearms, and, likewise, emergency risk protection orders take guns away from people who are dangerous to themselves or others. These two concepts have a common goal, the same end. They achieve it by complementary means.

The vast majority of perpetrators of mass violence exhibit clear signs that they are about to carry out an attack. The shooter in Parkland, as my col-

league Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM has said, all but took out an ad in the newspaper saying that he was going to kill people at that school in Parkland. The police were repeatedly alerted to his violent behavior, including a call from a family member who begged the police to recover his weapon.

Today, in Florida, she could ask for an extreme risk protection order under a Florida law signed by my colleague Senator SCOTT when he was Governor. In the 17 jurisdictions that have passed emergency risk protection order laws, enforcers can petition courts to temporarily restrict access to firearms with due process.

At a hearing this morning in the Judiciary Committee, we learned from one of the judges in Broward County who enforce these laws that they have worked to prevent shootings, including many suicides, and they enable mental health help to be available as well. These laws prevent suicide. The majority of those gun deaths in the United States, in fact, are suicide, which is accounting for 60 percent of those 90 people killed every day.

Emergency risk protection orders are effective, but they are resource intensive, and that is why Senator GRAHAM and I have worked hard and we are close to finalizing a measure that will provide grants and incentives to other States that are considering or may consider these kinds of laws. Together with Senator GRAHAM, I have been working hard on this legislation, and we are close—after extensive discussion, not only between us but with the White House and with our colleagues—to a bill that can muster bipartisan support and pass this body.

The Charleston loophole must be closed. I have been leading that fight in the Senate to fix this problem for years. The House passed bipartisan legislation on background checks, H.R. 8, and on the Charleston loophole that would fix the problem of would-be murderers having access to guns simply because information is unavailable within the time limit that is set.

Guns should not be sold simply because a deadline for a background check is not met. Most are done literally within seconds or a minute, but some require more extensive work. There is no reason to wait to pass these measures.

Neither should we wait to pass a safe storage bill that we believe would have prevented deaths like Ethan Song's perishing in Guilford. This past January, Ethan Song would have celebrated his 16th birthday, but a year earlier, he was accidentally killed by a gun stored in his friend's closet, accessible to him and a friend. Like Kristen and Mike Song, thousands of other families across America lose children in gun violence every year. It is a parent's worst nightmare, and, in many cases, safe storage, including possibly Sandy Hook, would have prevented a mountain of heartache and a river of tears.

The Songs have been so strong and courageous, as have been the survivors

of the victims' families in Sandy Hook. They have been the powerful faces and voices of this effort and the most effective advocates.

The groups that have been formed in these past years, raising awareness and mobilizing every town—Guilford, Brady, Newtown Action Alliance, Sandy Hook Promise, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action are only some of them. They are mounting a political movement, and we need to hear them.

History will judge us harshly if we fail to heed that call for commonsense reform. The voters will judge harshly, as well, the colleagues who fail to heed that call.

We need to keep in mind that gun violence is not one problem. There is no one solution. There is no panacea. We need to aim at all of these measures, including a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The House, just this week, approved a ban on high-capacity magazines, as well as an emergency risk protection order statute.

Gun violence is many problems—not one. It is the loopholes in the background check system; it is the failure to safely store firearms; it is an arbitrary deadline for completing a background check; and it is the lack of emergency risk protection orders that take guns away from people who are dangerous to themselves or others with due process.

I have worked on this issue for more than two decades—almost three decades since I was attorney general first elected in the State of Connecticut. There has been progress. The progress has achieved results. Now it is this body's obligation to take that next step, and I implore the President of the United States to state his support, which my colleagues across the aisle have said is necessary for them to do what they think is responsible. I say to them: If the President fails to lead, you must do so.

We must continue to fight and never give up and never go away for the sake of the survivors and families who said from this Gallery when we failed to act in the wake of Sandy Hook: Shame.

Shame on us, in fact, if we fail to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I join with many of my colleagues to make a pretty simple request, and that is, the issue of gun violence in this country requires us to take action.

The Senate needs to do what it has historically been in place to do. The Presiding Officer is in his first term, and I am in my third term. The U.S. Senate is the place in which we debate and vote on issues, the greatest deliberative body in the world—at least that is what I thought I was running for.

It is time for Leader MCCONNELL to bring up gun safety legislation—well

past time to bring up gun safety legislation—and for us to act and do something about gun violence in this country.

Yes, we hope the President will lead, will provide that leadership that we hear about after every one of these mass shootings—that the President is engaged. We need his leadership to bring us together on sensible gun safety legislation, but if not, we still have the responsibility here in this body to act. We call upon Leader MCCONNELL to bring forward sensible gun safety legislation.

The United States is an outlier on gun violence. When you compare the amount of gun violence in the United States to that in the other developed countries of the world, in every category, multiply it times 10, 20, or 30—more likely for gun violence episodes here in the United States than other developed countries of the world.

We have far more private ownership of guns in this country than other industrial nations of the world. We have far more mass killings. We have far more gun-related suicides, and the list goes on and on and on.

So we need to take action. This is one area where we don't want to be the outlier. We want safe communities, and inaction is not an answer.

Yes, there are many things we could do. Look, the people of Maryland and the people throughout this country have been victims of this gun violence. In my own State of Maryland, we had a mass shooting in June of last year at the Capital Gazette—outrageous. People trying to do their jobs were killed. We have had, of course, school shootings. It is time for this Congress to take steps to reduce this risk. Inaction is not an option.

What should we do? As my previous colleague said, there are a lot of things we should be doing. We should take a look at whether it is reasonable for there to be private ownership of military-style weapons. I think there shouldn't be. That is certainly a bill we can bring up.

We have seen these assault weapons used in a lot of mass attacks, where you have multiple casualties in a matter of seconds, where there is no possibility for law enforcement to respond to keep people safe during that short period of time.

We should get rid of the high-capacity magazines. I know the House is working on that. That is something that, again, is not necessary for the purposes of recreation.

We should identify extreme-risk individuals and be able to put a flag on their ability to purchase a weapon. We need to invest in mental health. All of that is important.

The bill we can pass today is a universal background check. The House has passed it. It has been here since February of this year. For 7 months, that bill has been here—universal background checks. It was passed with a strong bipartisan vote in the House

of Representatives and is consistent with the Second Amendment. The Supreme Court has said the right is not absolute, that certain individuals are not entitled to have firearms because of what they have done.

Since 1968, we have provided forms to determine whether individuals are entitled to own a firearm or not. Of course, in 1993, we passed the presale process for licensed dealers because that is where guns were being purchased back in 1993. So if you buy a gun from a licensed firearms dealer, you have to go through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. As my colleague has said, it takes a matter of seconds. You can get cleared or not cleared, and it works. Three million guns have been denied a transfer as a result of this check, but there are loopholes in it because of the way commerce is handled today. It doesn't cover private sales. Internet sales weren't even available back when we passed these laws. We have to close those loopholes, and it will save lives. States that have closed these loopholes have a lower amount of gun violence than those States that have not.

We need a national answer to this. A person from Maryland can go into Virginia or West Virginia where the laws are different. We need one Federal law to deal with closing this loophole.

Today and every day in this country 100 people are killed through gun violence—every single day. We can't wait. We have to act. That is what this body is best at.

So I encourage President Trump to lead on this issue. I know he had some meetings this week. I encourage our leader to allow this body to take up the universal background check bill that passed the House of Representatives by a strong bipartisan vote. Let us get that done. Let us tell the people of this country that we will not be silent and we will not be inactive in regard to the amount of gun violence in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in discussing our country's horrific gun violence epidemic. I have risen to speak of this problem many times over the years, and to be honest it is exasperating to have to do it over and over again.

El Paso, Dayton, Gilroy, Odessa, Midland, Brownsville in New York—the list goes on and on—city after city, community after community, devastated by gun violence. We witness these tragedies. We watch heart-breaking and nightmarish footage on our televisions. We offer our thoughts and prayers. We have heavy hearts, deep disappointment and horror, and still nothing. The Senate has still not passed any meaningful legislation to address the problem.

So here we are once again in this Chamber. Democrats are speaking out on behalf of the American people, on

behalf of the citizens who are protesting and demanding action, and on behalf of our constituents who call and write and tweet to us every single day for commonsense legislation to help end this gun violence that plagues our communities.

We aren't just speaking out on behalf of Democrats because gun violence doesn't ask what political party you support. It touches the lives of everyone in this country. The majority of the American people—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans—all want action. They want their schools to be safe. They want a place to go and worship and be safe. They want to go and buy their back-to-school supplies and be safe.

Let's be really clear about the root of this inaction. It is greed. It is corruption. It is the rot at the heart of Washington. The NRA is no different. The NRA cares more about gun sales than they do about the people of this country. They care more about the gun manufacturers than they do our communities. Too many of my colleagues just don't have the guts to stand up to the NRA.

There are three effective solutions sitting right in front of us, all of which are bipartisan, all of which have been voted on before, getting lots of bipartisan support. I reject the false argument that because these commonsense proposals may not stop every single instance of gun violence that it is not worth doing them. We should do these. It makes no sense to stop doing the commonsense things just because it doesn't stop every gun crime because the truth is, it is time to do something.

We can and should ban assault weapons and large magazines. No civilian needs access to weapons of war. Those weapons are designed solely to kill large numbers of people very quickly, in minutes and seconds, and our military train heavily to be able to use those weapons well.

We can and should pass my legislation to criminalize gun trafficking. It will help slow the tide of illegal guns into cities like New York and Chicago and across the country where guns that are illegal are sold directly out of the back of a truck to a gang member or a criminal. It is one of the things that law enforcement keeps asking us to do and have been asking for a decade.

We can and should pass the red flag laws that are designed to make sure people with violent tendencies cannot have access to guns, but the first and most obvious solution should be a cakewalk for this Chamber, and that is universal background checks. This solution is supported by the vast majority of Americans. A great bipartisan bill has already passed our House, but it is not even being considered right now for a vote in the Senate.

So it is really on Senator MCCONNELL right now. It is on him. It is his decision whether to protect our communities or not—to just protect our kids.

As a mom, when there was a shooting less than a mile from Theo and Henry's

school, all I could think about was getting there as fast as I possibly could just to make sure my child was safe. That is the fear every parent in America has today. We shouldn't accept living in an America where we have to worry that our kids aren't safe in school, where they are actually doing shelter-in-place drills instead of mathematical drills. We shouldn't accept that world. We shouldn't accept a world where you can't be at Bible study with your friends. We shouldn't accept a world where you can't go to a concert or go to a movie and know that you are safe, but that is the world we are living in.

The truth about all of this is, right now at this moment, we have Americans who are fueled by hate hunting down other people with weapons of war. That has to change.

We do have the will to do this. Congress can show courage. Congress can do the right thing, so why not do it now, when the American people are begging us to just have an ounce of strength in our spines, just an ounce of courage to stand up to special interests, to greed and corruption and lies that distort this debate.

We are bigger than this. We are stronger than this. We are better than this. Let's protect our kids.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the same issue my colleague from New York just spoke to, and I know others have preceded her on the floor. I am grateful to be a part of this discussion today.

What I could do—but I know I don't have to because it is so well known now—is go through the three or four most recent mass shootings which are the ones that get most attention, but I don't have to do that because we know so well now what happened just in the last number of weeks.

One way to remember them, of course, is by the names of the communities: El Paso, Dayton, Midland, Odessa—names like that where everyone in the country knows exactly what we are talking about because of what happened there. What we don't talk about enough, of course, are the places where there is daily gun violence and horror and tragedy and death and grievous injury because it doesn't get the same attention.

Tragically, another way to go through a list of tragedies that are connected to this awful epidemic of gun violence—this uniquely American problem of gun violence—is to use numbers. These numbers are now emblazoned on the communities that were so tragically destroyed, in large measure, by these events. In El Paso it was 22, in Dayton it was 9, and in Midland and Odessa it was 7. So doing the math, that is 38. That is the number of people killed in just three places. Of course, there are a lot of other deaths between those tragic events which aren't get-

ting the same attention. That is another way to measure—38 killed between August 3 and August 31. Another number is the number of injured. I think the number now is just about 76, just in those three tragedies. So there were 38 killed and 76 injured in three American communities.

One of the most disturbing realities after the fact is what happened in Dayton in just such a short timeframe. I know that timeframe. We could probably cite the other tragedies as well, but we know that in about 32 seconds in Dayton, 9 people were killed and 27 were injured. Law enforcement, the folks we often call the good guys—good guys not just with guns but good guys with a lot of training and a heroic willingness and heroic commitment to get to a place of danger to try to apprehend a criminal and to try to save people. In Dayton, law enforcement officials got there faster than Superman could get there, and it wasn't fast enough because in 32 seconds 9 were gone and 27 were injured.

We know that in Midland and Odessa, TX, the authorities reported that the gunman was prohibited from purchasing a firearm at one point, but he was able to avoid a background check because he purchased his assault-style weapon through a private sale. This is further evidence of why we need a background check bill that is rigorous—not just a background check bill that makes a nice headline but is rigorous enough to stop the guy in Texas who brought such horror to that community, including, as one of the wounded, a 17-month-old child.

We also know that through the month of August, in that same time period I mentioned, the 3rd to the 31st—but if you include every day of that month, the United States has experienced 38 mass shootings. So there were 38 times when four or more people were involved, which is the definition of a mass shooting.

When I think about it in terms of the scale of it—and I don't think there is anyone who would disagree with this—this is a public health epidemic, and it is plaguing our cities and our communities every single day. What we are talking about, in terms of the perpetrators of this violence, they are not just criminals, they are domestic terrorists, and we should call them that. That is what they are. We shouldn't try to remember their names or, frankly, even speak their names, but we should remember what they are: domestic terrorists who are, frankly, in terms of the whole scale of the problem, causing more problems in America than any other terrorists are causing. These domestic terrorists are using high-powered, military-style assault weapons to kill our children and to kill our families.

We know that last October, the most deadly active violence against the Jewish community in American history occurred at the Tree of Life synagogue in the city of Pittsburgh. Eleven were

killed there and six were injured, including four of the six being law enforcement officers who, again, got there very quickly—maybe not in seconds but in minutes. Of course, getting there that fast, with all of their training, all of their courage, and all of their commitment, was not fast enough because even though they got there in just minutes, that wasn't fast enough because of the nature of the weapon and because of the assailant.

How about Philadelphia? The two biggest cities in my home State are Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Philadelphia being the largest. Days before the horrible weekend of El Paso and Dayton, a mass shooting occurred in Southwest Philadelphia that left a 21-year-old dead and five others injured. Because only one person was killed, it is not ranked as a mass shooting. That happened in that same timeframe.

On August 14, an individual in North Philadelphia barricaded himself in a house and shot six police officers with an assault-style weapon. The shootout lasted nearly 8 hours and prompted a local childcare center to shelter in place for hours. I was at that childcare center just a few days later. Watching it on the news, I had envisioned a geographic distance of a lot more than it was. When I walked just to the side of the building where the childcare center was and looked across the street, it was closer than the width of this room we are in today. When you go out the back door of the childcare center, it was within feet across a very narrow street from where the shooter was barricaded. In this instance, you have one shooter in a house with a high-powered weapon who is able to hold off a number of law enforcement officials for hours at a time. That is just one example of the power of the weapon.

The issue of gun violence is a uniquely American problem. No country has the same problem on this scale. America has never had a problem like this in its history. It is uniquely American and unique in American history itself.

Some in Congress want to surrender to this problem. The argument is that there is nothing we can do except better enforcement of existing law. I don't think most Americans believe that—nor should they—because there is certainly more we can do. To have a position that I would say is a surrender to the problem, you would have to argue that the most powerful Nation in the history of the world can do absolutely nothing—except maybe tighten up a law by way of enforcement—that we can do absolutely nothing to confront this problem.

No one is arguing that if we passed a background check bill here or an extreme risk protection order bill that somehow the problem would magically begin to decline. No one is arguing that. But there is certainly something we can do to reduce the likelihood and we would hope substantially reduce the likelihood of more mass shootings. If we passed two bills in the Senate that

became law and 25 years from now, one mass shooting was prevented, it would be worth every minute of that effort and every degree of energy expended in furtherance of passing that legislation.

We have been talking about this for a long time just in the recent past. We now know that it is more than 195 days since the House passed H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019.

As I referred to earlier, in the Odesa-Midland shooting, we know that our Nation now needs a national background checks bill in order to make all Americans safer from the horrors of gun violence.

Reports indicate that in 2018 alone, 1.2 million firearm classified ads were posted on armslist.com that did not require a background check before purchase. This is a big loophole that helps feed an illegal underground gun market in cities and communities across our country. If implemented, the universal background checks bill known as H.R. 8 would close this loophole, requiring background checks for all firearm sales between private parties. We also know that since 1994, background checks have prevented 3.5 million gun sales to dangerous criminals and others prohibited from owning a gun.

I have to ask again, are we to surrender to this problem? I don't think so. I think most Americans don't want to surrender to it. What they want is for us to take action. They are a little bit tired of just speeches and debate. They may want a little more debate, but they want votes. They want us to be debating and voting several times at least, if not more so.

This is a grave, difficult challenge to confront, but the commitment to confronting it is a mission that I think is worthy of a great country. I ask Majority Leader MCCONNELL to give the Senate the opportunity to debate and vote on first the universal background checks bill, H.R. 8. And I am sure there will be other versions of that in the debate, and that is fine. We should debate all of them and vote on all of them and debate and vote on an extreme risk protection bill.

I would argue we should do more than that. We should have a series of commonsense gun measures to be debated and voted on, even if we are likely to know the outcome, because the American people expect that this uniquely American problem and the scale of it are worthy of that debate and worthy of those votes.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I also rise to talk about gun violence. I express my appreciation for our Republican colleagues. Those of us on this side of the aisle feel very strongly about this issue. I understand we have gone a little bit past the time. I will try to be quick. I feel very strongly about it too.

Let me just talk about two Virginia tragedies, and let me tell the story of a

hero whose name we should all know. It has been interesting. I sat on the Senate floor and listened to a number of my colleagues' speeches. As they talked about gun violence and mass shooting in the United States, very few have mentioned that 12 people were killed in Virginia Beach in a mass shooting on May 31. They mentioned Odessa, they mentioned El Paso, and they mentioned Dayton. Why not Virginia Beach? Because there have been so many tragedies since May 31.

The Virginia Beach shooting of 11 governmental employees and a contractor who was just there to get some permits for a building permit he was seeking happened barely 3 months ago, but it has already receded into the memory of virtually anybody outside of Virginia because the gun tragedies since have been the ones that have crowded into our minds.

The fact that that has been allowed to happen—that we are so used to it now that the killing of 12 people in a mass shooting barely 3 months ago escaped people's memories—tells us we have become used to a situation we should never have been able to tolerate.

In the Virginia Beach shooting, one of the reasons 12 people were killed quickly was the shooter used high-capacity magazines that would contain dozens and dozens of munition, which made the rescue operation conducted by brave first responders extremely difficult.

We say we care about our first responders. When I talk to our first responders, they say: If you care about us, do something to restrict high-capacity magazines. Don't you want us to be able to stop a shooting in progress? Don't you want us to stop a murder and keep the homicides and carnage down? It is hard to do it when we are up against somebody with such a massive amount of firepower. If you care about first responders, if you want us to stop crimes in process, then enable us to put meaningful restrictions on high-capacity magazines.

I think that was a powerful lesson from the Virginia Beach shooting, that had the magazines been smaller, they could have stopped the carnage earlier. There may have been those injured or killed, but it would have been less of a toll.

I want to point this out before moving to the next issue. As a society, we tolerate high-capacity magazines. Many in this Chamber are hunters. Many in this Chamber are familiar with hunting laws. In Virginia, as in most States, there are rules that have been on the books for years. If you hunt a deer in Virginia, we limit the amount of rounds you can have in a rifle or shotgun. We put a limit, and that limit has been accepted for decades. Why do we limit the size of magazines in hunting animals? Because it wouldn't be fair. It wouldn't be sportsmanlike. It wouldn't be humane to allow an animal to be hunted with a

magazine of near-unlimited capacity. If it is not humane to hunt an animal with a massive magazine, then why allow near-unlimited magazines to be used to hunt human beings? This is a rule we accept, and we should accept it for weapons designed to hurt humans as well.

The second tragedy in Virginia occurred when I was Governor a number of years ago—the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech. I won't go into it because I will segue when I talk about a hero, but the shooting at Virginia Tech happened because of a weakness in the background check system. The individual, the young man, Seung-Hui Cho, who killed 32 people was prohibited from having a weapon because he had been adjudicated mentally ill and dangerous, but weaknesses in the background checks system enabled him to get a weapon anyway. We learned a powerful and painful lesson that day, which is that if your background check system has loopholes and gaps, disasters will result.

So I join with my colleagues who say H.R. 8—that has come from the House and is a comprehensive background check system bill that keeps weapons out of the hands of people who are dangers to themselves and others—is something we should absolutely pass.

Last, let me tell the story about an American hero. I have told this story on the floor before but not for a number of years. I want to tell this story because I think everybody should know this individual's name. The name of the hero I want to describe is a man named Liviu Librescu.

Liviu Librescu was one of the 32 people who were killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007. Let me tell you about him. He was born in Romania—and he was Jewish—during the Holocaust. When Germany occupied Romania and began to take over the country, Jews were persecuted. Liviu Librescu was then a young child. His family was sent to concentration camps, and many of them perished just because they were Jewish. Liviu, as a young child, was hidden by relatives and friends and miraculously managed to survive the Nazi campaign of anti-Semitism against Jews. Many Jews left Romania because they felt their neighbors and friends didn't protect them. Liviu Librescu decided to stay. "I am a Romanian and am going to stay in Romania and make my country a peaceful place where Jews can live in peace with their fellow men and women."

He ran into a second problem. He went to the university. He was a talented scientist and engineer. But then the Soviet Union moved in and essentially occupied Romania. They punished him because he was Jewish and because he wouldn't join the Communist Party. He was a world-renowned engineer published in journals around the world. First, they prohibited his ability to travel to academic conferences and then prohibited his right to publish. Over the years, the

Soviet-dominated Government of Romania took away virtually every right he had.

He started to try to figure out a way to immigrate to Israel. In the early 1970s, at a time when some Eastern European Jews were allowed to immigrate to Israel, Liviu Librescu finally escaped Soviet-dominated communism after having survived the Holocaust and moved to Israel. It was his dream.

Liviu Librescu was teaching at the Technion in Israel, one of the premier scientific engineering institutions in the world. He got an offer after a few years to come be a visiting professor in Blacksburg, VA, at Virginia Tech for 1 year. He came in 1958. This Romanian Jew, professor at an Israeli technical university, came to Blacksburg, VA, in the mountains of Appalachia, for 1 year, and he fell in love with Blacksburg. He stayed in Blacksburg, at Virginia Tech, for the rest of his career.

On April 16, 2007, Liviu Librescu—now 22 years in Blacksburg—was teaching an engineering class in one of the two buildings that were the subject of the attack by the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho. On the morning of April 16, 2007, he had undergraduates and graduates in the class. When he heard shooting start in the classroom, he instinctively knew he should protect his students. Liviu Librescu was now over 70 years old, this Holocaust survivor.

He stood in front of the classroom door on the second floor of this building and told the students: You have to jump out the window. I am going to do everything I can to protect your life. Jump out the window.

He stood there in front of the classroom door and absorbed bullet after bullet. Every student of Liviu Librescu's was able to escape from that building, save one. There was one student who couldn't get out in time and who had let others go first. Liviu Librescu was killed, and one student in his class was killed, but he saved the lives of all of these other young people.

April 16, 2007, was a day that was a very special day in Liviu Librescu's life. Most in the classroom wouldn't have known it. That day was Yom HaShoah, which is a day that occurs every year on the Hebrew calendar and is a day that is celebrated and commemorated in Israel. It is a day to commemorate, remember, and never forget the Holocaust. That is what Yom HaShoah was. Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, knew what that day was. He knew what it meant. He made a choice.

The commemoration of the Holocaust is not just about remembering the violent perpetrators and is not just about remembering the victims; it is also about remembering that there wouldn't have been millions of victims had there not been so many bystanders. That is what Yom HaShoah is about. It is about victims, perpetrators, and also about bystanders in that the Holocaust would never have hap-

pened had there not been so many bystanders. What Liviu Librescu decided to do that day was not to be a bystander. As violence was occurring around him, he decided: I will not be a bystander. I will try to take an action to save someone's life.

Think about it. He survived the Holocaust. Think about it. He survived the Soviet takeover of his country. Then he came to this Nation and loved it, but he could not survive the carnage of American gun violence. He did, at least, decide he wouldn't be a bystander.

That is what we are called to do in the Senate of the United States—not to be bystanders. We do not have to demonstrate the courage of a Liviu Librescu and place our bodies in front of a classroom door and absorb bullet after bullet to save somebody else's life. I don't think I would have the courage to do that. I don't know how many of us would have. We are not called to make a sacrifice of that magnitude, but I do think we are called to make some sacrifices, and I do think we are called not to be bystanders. If we are going to be true to that calling, we have to be willing to take up and debate and to vote on commonsense measures to keep Americans safe from gun violence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise to honor those who lost their lives tragically 18 years ago and to make sure that we never forget what happened then.

I vividly remember that morning. I was in my own office in Jasper, IN. I didn't have a TV. Somebody there brought it up on the internet. The second plane flew into the building. I will never forget that image because we didn't know what had happened with the first one. We knew what had happened with the second.

Over the summer break, Senator RICK SCOTT and I took a trip to Israel and saw all of that which goes into its preparedness against the evil that lurks around the world. I saw it again up close, and it always makes me wonder: How can they live like that? How can they be prepared when they know there are always individuals and countries out there just like in 1941 and just like in 2001? Imagine living in a country in which your entire border is surrounded by a fence or a wall in order to keep people out—where, in the tough places, there is another barrier and where, in the really tough places, there is a dirt berm.

That drove home again how important it is to be prepared and to always be strong when it comes to defending this country and the liberty and freedoms we all enjoy every day. I never thought it could happen in 1941, and I didn't think it could happen in 2001. It can happen again because that is the world we live in.

When I came here as a U.S. Senator, I always knew the most important thing this body should do was foster the defense and the security of this country. When you see it has slipped so precariously over the last few years—and thank goodness that we have built it back up to a level that makes sense—it is because we always need to be prepared. If we are going to truly honor all of the lives that were lost in 1941 and 2001 and will be inevitably lost down the road, we need to be strong; we need to be prepared. We always need to be aware of the fact that we are blessed just as the State of Israel is blessed—despite all of that—with a thriving economy. They live with that danger every day, and they find a way to get through it. Let us never let our guard down or drop our defenses here. Our freedom and our liberty depend upon it. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as my friend from Indiana and others have pointed out today, this is a day that Americans remember as a day of unique tragedy. Earlier today, on the Senate floor, we had a moment of silence in the middle of a series of votes. The Senate floor was full of Members who paused to think about what had happened on that day.

I think almost every American alive knows where he was that morning. Just like this morning, it was beautiful and clear. If you were too young to remember where you were that morning—and there is a real likelihood that your parents told you where you were—it was a seminal moment. It changed how we look at so many things in our country. We reflect today where we were and the changes that occurred after that.

I was working on the other side of the building as a Member of the House 18 years ago, and I shared with the Capitol Police today my appreciation for what they do every day. On this day every year, I remember being one of the last people to leave this building. The Capitol Police were working hard to get people out as there was a sense that a plane was coming here and was going to either hit the White House or the Capitol. I remember walking out the door—I really was among the last to leave the building that day—and I remember looking into the eyes of a Capitol Police Officer who was still at the door and thinking and realizing that I was going to be out. If the building were a target, I was quickly going to be somewhere else, and she was still going to be here until those who work to protect us every day were sure that everybody who could possibly be found and gotten out of the building was already gone.

We clearly understand the world is a dangerous place. We just had a foreign policy discussion this week about the country that had served as really the haven for al-Qaida and what would happen if we were to totally leave that

country and it were to go back to the Taliban. Would it become a haven again? Almost certainly, I think it would.

We really need to think about a number of things. One is that so many people do so much to protect us all the time. We have thousands of Americans who are in uniform and in the intelligence community who spend their time every day being sure that we are as safe as we can be and that our freedoms are secure. They are deployed overseas. They are fighting terrorist groups like ISIS or the remnants of al-Qaida. They are working here to spot homegrown terrorists. They are doing what they can to find what somebody may be talking about or what somebody may be bringing across the border that would be of danger.

Senator CAPITO and I were just at the border last week. Some of the things we talked about were not only the drugs coming over the border but the other things coming over the border that are designed to harm us—who we are and how we live.

In St. Louis, MO, and Arnold, MO, we have the second biggest installation of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency constantly looking at the information that is out there. It looks all over the world to see if there is activity in places in which there wouldn't be activity. Yet, if there were activity, it would likely be activity that would be designed to harm us or others in the world. We need to understand that.

We also need to understand that in the society in which we live, there is never perfect security and perfect freedom at the same time. We have worked really hard not to allow ourselves to lose the freedoms we cherish in return for the security we would like to have.

We also need to remember those people who responded. As for the first responders who ran toward the tragedy on 9/11 as others were able to run away from the tragedy—passing each other—many of those first responders were numbered among the 3,000 Americans who died on that day.

Just last month, the President signed into law the National Urban Search and Rescue Parity Act, which allows Federal employees to be active participants on urban search and rescue teams whether the disaster is natural or man-made.

The third thing we need to keep in mind is how important it is to honor and care for the victims and heroes among us—those who ran toward the tragedy, those they left behind, and the people who still suffer today because of what happened to them on that day. As likely as not, those people to benefit from the Victim Compensation Fund are the people who stayed behind to help others or who rushed forward to help others.

We don't want to become afraid to be the great, diverse society we have become; we don't want to become a society in which we allow the terrorists to win by taking our freedoms away. Yet

this is an important time for us to think of those freedoms, of those who defend those freedoms, of those who rush to the scenes of danger when we have danger, and of those who try to do everything they can to minimize that.

We grieve, we pray, we remember, and we resolve today that we will continue to be vigilant against attack and unafraid of defending who we are.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote series begin following the remarks of Senators DAINES, COLLINS, LANKFORD, and COTTON.

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

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, 18 years ago, on a bright, clear-skied, September morning, without warning, our Nation was attacked. Many of us probably remember where we were on that horrible day.

I had that morning off. I was at home with my nearly 2-year-old daughter. We didn't have the TV on. We had a couple of gentlemen at the house. I was getting a brandnew furnace on that day. What would normally be a couple-of-hours-long installation turned into an all-day event as those men would take time off from installing our new furnace to run into the other room so we could see what was going on on the television.

I had two phone calls that morning. The first was early. It was from a neighbor.

She said: JONI, do you have the TV on?

I said: Well, no, Wanda. I don't. What's going on?

She said: JONI, you just need to turn the TV on.

So I did, and I saw the horrible events unfolding right in front of us.

The second phone call I got was from my Iowa Army National Guard unit: Captain ERNST, we are doing a 100-percent accountability check. We need you to stay by the phone all day so we know how we can get ahold of you—100 percent accountability.

It was an experience many of us had never felt before—the terrifying shock of knowing that the country we love and our fellow Americans were under attack.

Our adversaries sought to tear us apart by their cowardly acts, but, instead, they brought us together as Americans, for in those terrible moments, we also saw the very, very best of our country—the firefighters, the police officers, the first responders, and the ordinary citizens who courageously put their lives on the line to save countless others.

On that day, as individuals and as a Nation, we came together in a unique way, and we also made a pledge to never forget—to never forget the nearly 3,000 victims and the families they

left behind, to never forget the heroism of both our first responders and those everyday men and women who selflessly acted to save lives, and to never forget the importance of defending our homeland and the great democratic principles that we stand for.

It is a pledge I personally take very seriously, and it is why I have organized this event for my colleagues to come to the floor today and to share their memories and thoughts on today, this eighteenth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

It is why I work so hard to make sure our Armed Forces have the technology, support, and resources they need to defend our Nation from threats both here at home and abroad.

It is why I cosponsored and helped to finally get signed into law a permanent reauthorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, keeping our Nation's promise to support the first responders who continue to sacrifice their health and even their lives from their work in the post-9/11 recovery efforts.

And it is why we should never ever take our Nation and our freedoms for granted.

I am one—just one—of the millions of Americans keeping that promise to never forget. In fact, today, back home in Iowa, there are countless folks who are honoring that vow in their own thoughtful way.

Many use today's anniversary as a day of service, performing acts of kindness throughout Iowa. Others come together with their communities to honor and remember those who were lost.

It is really wonderful to see all of the ways that folks are doing that, from walking in the 9/11 March to the Capitol in Des Moines to visiting the 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit, currently at the Clay County Fair, to participating in the annual 9/11 Moment of Silence Motorcycle Ride in Mason City.

For some of our fellow Iowans, today will be spent remembering loved ones lost in the attack—folks like Newton's Jean Cleere's husband, Jim, a loving, good-natured, good-humored, and God-fearing giant of a man, who never came home from a fateful business trip to the World Trade Center 18 years ago.

For nearly two decades now, Jean has been on a crusade to keep Jim's memory alive and well. She helped to raise funds for Newton's very own 9/11 memorial. She speaks to local students, educating them about the events of that day 18 years ago, and she has given her testimony all over Iowa. For folks in Iowa, they have probably seen her driving across the State. She has a pretty special license plate, which reads "NVR4GT"—never forget.

Today and every day, Iowans are keeping that sacred promise. We will always remember Jim Cleere and the nearly 3,000 others who lost their lives that tragic day. We will always honor the heroes who selflessly sacrificed and saved countless lives. We will always

rise up to defend our Nation and its citizens. We will never forget. That is our sacred promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, Americans witnessed what evil looks like. Eighteen years ago today, Americans witnessed the loss of innocent life. Eighteen years ago today, Americans witnessed acts of cowardice.

Today, Montanans and Americans across our country are taking time to reflect upon the horrific acts of 9/11. Today, we take time to remember the thousands of lives lost on that horrible day. We remember the daughters who lost mothers, the sons who lost fathers, and the loved ones and friends and the communities that were broken by these tragedies.

I know I speak for most of us when I say that we remember that day like it was yesterday. That fateful morning, I was in Bozeman, MT. I typically like to get an earlier start at work. We are 2 hours behind eastern time. So it was early in the morning.

My wife Cindy called me. I was at my desk. I was working for a cloud-computing software company, just starting the day, and Cindy called me. She said: There is really strange news. There has been a plane that hit one of the World Trade Center towers.

I think many of us at that time thought it was maybe a small, private plane—sort of, kind of a strange bit of news coming out that morning. Then, as the minutes went by, we started finding out what was really going on, that it wasn't a small plane. It wasn't an accident. It was a 767 loaded with fuel because it was attempting to make a journey across our country from Boston out to the west coast.

The images of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers is one I will never forget, and it is one that will never stop hurting. I remember that after it was confirmed that it was a commercial aircraft, very quickly the speculation began that this was a premeditated terror attack. In moments like that you want to be with your loved ones. I quietly closed the door to my office, and I drove home to be with my wife and to be with family as we watched the rest of the horrible day unfold: 2,977 innocent Americans lost their lives, and 2,977 innocent Americans didn't return home that day.

I think it is important to think about every single human life that was lost and the pain of the families who remember that day today when they lost their loved ones. That pain is very real yet again today.

This was a slaughter of our fellow Americans that shook our Nation to its very core. Yet, in the face of extreme adversity, we are a nation that did come together and we carried on. I think about those moments when our churches and cathedrals were filled with Americans in prayer, reflecting upon what had happened.

Today, we honor and remember the almost 3,000 people who died that September morning. We remember the survivors, those first responders, the firefighters, and the friends and families of those we lost. While we take the time to remember today, we also reflect on who we are as a nation. As Americans, we are strong and resilient. After the 9/11 attacks, we responded with strength and we strengthened the homeland.

We are most grateful to those who served and to those who are serving today in our Armed Forces. Just recently, last December, I flew to Afghanistan. In fact, we carried 50 pounds of Montana beef jerky to deliver to the 495th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of the Montana Army National Guard, who are deployed over in Afghanistan protecting us. As I received the briefs that day, I was reminded yet again that this war that we have against terrorism exists this very moment, and I can tell you this because of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, in intelligence, and in law enforcement across our Nation. It is because of them that we are able to stand here today without another terror attack like we saw on 9/11.

When I received the brief in Afghanistan in December, I was reminded again of the porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan and that there are plots being created and attempts to hit the homeland again. There are many brave men and women there, many Special Forces.

I spent time with the four-star there, Scott Miller, who has had a career in Special Forces. He is overseeing the operations there. I am grateful that they continue to remain vigilant in this fight against global terrorism.

America's enemies want us to be afraid, but the thing is, here in America, we don't give up. When America is strong, so are our allies and so is the free world. We must remain vigilant to ensure that we maintain that Reagan doctrine of peace through strength.

The world will never forget what happened on this day 18 years ago, and despite the political differences and divisions that we have across our country and this city, we must always remember that we are all in this together, and Americans are strong when we are united.

There is no force of evil or terror that will ever overcome the will and the determination of a free and united people.

We ask that God continue to bless our fighting men and women, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, September 11 is a solemn anniversary. Eighteen years later, we still remember the toll from that terrible day. Nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives in the attacks on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93, but

every American experienced the pain of loss that day.

Just as we mourn the innocent lives lost, we also remember the heroism of our first responders who ran toward danger and death to help their fellow Americans.

Out of the ashes of that terrible tragedy arose a strength and unity that the whole world came to admire. September 11 altered the course of our Nation's history in a blaze of fire and smoke, and for so many Americans, it altered the course of our lives.

Our fighting men and women deployed overseas just weeks later and remain in the fight today. So many Americans joined them, enlisting to defend our Nation. Young kids who witnessed firefighters rushing into the burning towers grew up and themselves joined units with old-fashioned names like "engine" and "ladder." A generation of intelligence officers dedicated themselves to preventing another 9/11, and they have and still do.

Our lives continue to be altered because the consequences of September 11 are still with us. The attacks of 18 years ago continue to claim new victims, as first responders and others succumb to injuries and illnesses that trace back to that morning.

The al-Qaida terrorists who attacked us are bloodied, yet undefeated, while the Taliban terrorists who gave safe haven threaten to regain control in Afghanistan.

Most tragic of all, our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines continue to fall in the line of duty and defense of our country.

Just last week, Army SFC Elis A. Barreto Ortiz was killed on the battlefield in Afghanistan. September 11 is his story, too—the story of valor and sacrifice.

So the story of September 11 continues to unfold many years after the fact. May its memory strengthen our resolve to continue fighting the enemies of freedom, and may we never ever forget.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 18 years ago today, in my office in Oklahoma City, a fellow staff member poked her head into the office and said to me: There is a freak accident that has happened in New York. A plane flew into the World Trade Center.

She went down the hallway and pulled in a rolling cart—the younger generation will have no idea what that is—but a rolling cart with a TV on top of it, and we plugged it in and watched it. As the second plane flew in, both of us stood there silently, thinking: That is no accident. That is murder on a massive scale and terror like I have never witnessed with my own eyes.

What I didn't know at that moment is how many thousands of lives would be affected and how much our Nation would be changed. That morning, 18 years ago, seven Oklahomans died, but

our Nation was forever changed. Common terms we think about today like “TSA,” or “terror watch list,” or “Department of Homeland Security,” or “Global Entry,” or “body scanners,” or “PATRIOT Act”—those didn’t exist on September 10, 2001. They have all come since then as our Nation learns how to do more security, learns how to engage, and has learned a painful lesson that what people think in an isolated village in a remote country—what they think matters to us because what they may carry out, if left alone and ignored, could kill our family members and our fellow Americans.

Almost 3,000 Americans died that day, but since that time period, we have pushed back not against the people of Afghanistan or the people of Iraq, not against Muslims or a faith but against a specific ideology that intensely hates the freedom of America and who intentionally plans to kill Americans they have never met.

We learned a new ideology as a nation that day; that we have to not only take it seriously but that we must not wait until they carry out a fight. If they are planning it, if they are preparing it, if they have the capability, we should assume they are actually going to do it.

Since that time period, American men and women have taken the fight to people who want to come and kill more Americans, but it has also been at a great cost of American blood and treasure: 4,432 Americans have died in Iraq; 2,353 Americans have died in Afghanistan. Fifty-one of those are my fellow Oklahomans in Afghanistan; 72 of those are my fellow Oklahomans in Iraq.

Today, I pulled out of my closet a specific tie that I rarely wear. It was a tie given to me by a Gold Star Wife who never ever wanted to be a Gold Star Wife. She just wanted to be the wife of Chris Horton, whom she intensely loved, who went to Afghanistan to serve his country in the Oklahoma National Guard and died for our freedom. Two years later, she handed me this tie and said: He hated wearing ties, but you have to wear them all the time. Just remember him.

We, as Americans, will not forget, and we have not forgotten. There are flags out all over America today just to remember. There are moms and dads who really hugged their kids tight this morning before they left for school, and the kids didn’t even know why. They just did. There are places where people are gathering to pray for peace because as a nation we are a nation of peace, and we have no desire for war. In fact, we detest the pain and penalty and blood and loss of war, and we have no desire to be at war across the world, but it came to us, and we look forward to the day when guns are silent again and this finally concludes and a time of peace can be restored again.

Today, though, we are just a nation remembering and praying for that time of peace that will come, and we are

telling Gold Star families and families who have sent their loved ones around the world to places they had never seen before: We have not forgotten, and we are grateful that we serve together as a nation.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me say at the outset, I join with the sentiments expressed by the Senator from Oklahoma and our colleagues on the floor, starting with a moment of silence until this last speech, in remembering the historic American significance of September 11.

The fact that both political parties came together shows there is hope that when it comes to this Nation and its values, what brings us together is a powerful force. Today it is the force of memory, the force of promise, and the force of the future of this country. I want to salute my colleagues, particularly my friend from Oklahoma for his moving statement about families in his State touched by this tragedy.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. President, I would like to change topics for just a moment to another important issue that has risen today and I believe is worthy of comment.

Just a few hours ago, the White House, the President, the First Lady, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration made a historic announcement when it comes to vaping and e-cigarettes.

They just finished the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey. What they have found is that in a 1-year period of time, the number of our kids who are using these vaping products and e-cigarette products has gone up from 20 percent to 27.5 percent. In the previous year, it had gone up by 80 percent, and it is continuing to skyrocket because it is an addiction which is so popular with children.

Our kids don’t know any better. They are being told by JUUL and other companies that somehow this vaping is really a healthy alternative to tobacco cigarettes. That has yet to be proven, and the Food and Drug Administration challenged JUUL and the other companies to come up with clinical proof of that statement before they repeat it again and again and again.

In the course of the last several years, the sale of these e-cigarettes and vaping products has mushroomed dramatically in the United States. Just ask any school principal, teacher, and many parents, and they will tell you what is happening. Kids don’t understand that these flavors they are buying—flavor pods like Unicorn Milk, Gummy Bears, Bubble Gum—sound like some sweet candy treat, but when you inhale it into your lungs, you run the risk of real damage.

So far, over 450 American kids have been admitted to hospitals because of lung problems from vaping. Six have died. These young people do not understand how risky this is.

Have you walked down the street and seen somebody with a big cloud of white smoke over their head as they exhale from one of these vaping devices? They don’t realize that what they are ingesting in their lungs could be deadly.

The Food and Drug Administration and the Secretary of Health and Human Services made an announcement today that is significant. They announced that the e-cigarette device and flavors that are now being sold are going to be taken off the market, out of retail stores, off of online sales. Then, come May of next year, those who want to bring these flavors back have to justify them as being consistent with being good for public health.

I ask that the RECORD note that Senator MURKOWSKI and I have joined in a bill we introduced last year, a bill which went after these flavor pods. I want to thank her. There weren’t a lot of Senators who were willing to step up, and she did. On a bipartisan basis, we set out to ban any of these flavor pods that were dangerous to children and couldn’t be proven to be harmless. I thank her for that leadership. I believe our legislation and our constant pressure on this administration came to this moment today where we are stepping forward.

We are making it clear in the United States of America that we know vaping targets kids. We know these targeted kids are risking their health and their life by continuing to use e-cigarettes and vaping. With this administration today, on a bipartisan basis, we are banning these flavor pods once and for all. We are going to try to move forward.

The last thing I will say is this: I hope the Surgeon General or one of the other leaders in public health in our government will step up now and notify every school principal in America to call an assembly, to gather the parents, and let them know about this danger. There are 5 million kids in this country vaping today. Let’s hope they can stop, and stop soon, before they harm themselves.

I salute the administration for its leadership on this matter. I worked on it for quite a few years. It is a good moment in our history that we are moving together on a bipartisan basis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Maine.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, earlier today we paused and commemorated those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Eighteen years have passed, but the memory of that day remains as vivid as if it were yesterday. We each have our own recollections of where we were and what we were doing as the horrifying terrorist attacks on our country began to unfold.

I remember having the television on and watching a report that a plane—

originally reported as a small plane—had struck one of the Twin Towers. I then shortly thereafter saw the second aircraft strike the World Trade Center. It was then that I knew our country was under attack. I told my staff to stay away from the Capitol Building because I feared it, too, could be a target.

Today, we all still share the powerful emotions of shock, anger, and grief. I was worried about not only my staff, those in the buildings, but also staff members who were on their way back from Portland, ME, which turns out to be where some of the terrorists began their journey of death and destruction that day.

On the evening of that terrible day, Members of Congress gathered together on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. With tears in our eyes and sorrow in our hearts, together we sang “God Bless America.” The emotions of shock, anger, and grief were joined by unity, resolve, and patriotism. That sense that swept over us as we sang was a source of strength in the challenges that we faced in the fight against terrorism.

So many were killed that horrific day. In my State of Maine, we remember Robert and Jackie Norton of Lubec, a devoted retired couple who boarded Flight 11 to celebrate a son’s wedding on the west coast. We remember James Roux of Portland, an Army veteran and a devoted father, who was on his way to a business meeting in California. We remember Robert Schlegel of Gray, who was celebrating his recent promotion to the rank of commander in the U.S. Navy and was still settling into his new office at the Pentagon when the plane struck. We remember Stephen Ward of Gorham, who was working on the 101st floor of the North Tower that terrible morning.

On this solemn anniversary, we join all Americans in remembering the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives that day—lives of accomplishment, contribution, and promise. Each loss leaves a wound in the hearts of families and friends that can never be fully healed.

We honor the heroes of that day. We are still moved by the selfless courage of the men and women on Flight 93 who wrestled that plane to the ground in Pennsylvania, sacrificing their lives so that others might live. We are inspired by the firefighters, EMS personnel, and police officers at the World Trade Center who continued to climb upward to rescue those who were in peril even as the Twin Towers were tumbling down. The New York City Fire Department alone lost 343 firefighters who responded to the attacks.

We pay tribute today and every day to the first responders, the military personnel, and the civilians who rushed into the smoke and flames at the Pentagon to lead others to safety.

We express our gratitude to those who have given so much to defend our Nation against terrorism, the men and women of our Armed Forces.

While millions of Americans watched in horror as the tragedy unfolded on that terrible day, the thousands of courageous first responders who rushed to the World Trade Center, who rushed to that field in Pennsylvania, who rushed to the Pentagon to help search for victims and to help bring anyone they could to safety, still inspire us. They put themselves in imminent danger to save the lives of others.

Later on, years later, we learned that the toxic dust and debris that many were exposed to have caused chronic illnesses. The overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in the Senate in July to permanently reauthorize the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund ensures that those first responders who risked their lives to save their fellow Americans will always be supported and their illnesses treated.

September 11 was a day of personal tragedy for so many families. It was also an attack on the United States of America and an assault on civilization. We must never forget what was lost and what remains at stake. We must continue our pledge—the pledge we made that horrific day—to do all we can to prevent future attacks.

The fundamental obligation of government is to protect its people. Since September 11, 2001, we have done much to meet that obligation, but more work remains. In the aftermath of those attacks, former Senator from Connecticut Joe Lieberman and I, as the leaders of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, worked in a bipartisan way with the leaders of the 9/11 Commission and the families of those who were lost to terrorist attacks on that day to pass the most sweeping reforms of our intelligence community since World War II. It is significant that the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 2 and that, of the hundreds of amendments that were considered, not a single one was decided by a party-line vote.

In what seemed like a moment, September 11, 2001, was transformed from a day like any other into one that forever will stand alone. The loss we re-live reminds us of the value of all that we must protect. The heroism reminds us of the unconquerable spirit of the American people. Our accomplishments remind us that we can meet any challenge. As long as we keep this day of remembrance in our hearts, we shall meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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 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 (Reappointment).

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Jerry Moran, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that 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 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “yea.”

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Peters
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Carper	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shaheen
Collins	Jones	Shelby
Coons	Kaine	Sinema
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Tester
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	McSally	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	

NAYS—31

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Smith
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Paul	
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—7

Booker Roberts Warren
Harris Sanders
Klobuchar Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 62, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security. (New Position)

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security (New Position), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Burr	Cortez Masto
Baldwin	Cantwell	Cotton
Barrasso	Capito	Cramer
Bennet	Cardin	Crapo
Blackburn	Carper	Cruz
Blumenthal	Casey	Daines
Blunt	Cassidy	Duckworth
Boozman	Collins	Durbin
Braun	Coons	Enzi
Brown	Cornyn	Ernst

Feinstein	Manchin	Schumer
Fischer	Markey	Scott (FL)
Gardner	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Gillibrand	McSally	Shaheen
Graham	Menendez	Shelby
Grassley	Merkley	Sinema
Hassan	Moran	Smith
Hawley	Murkowski	Stabenow
Heinrich	Murphy	Sullivan
Hirono	Murray	Tester
Hoeven	Perdue	Thune
Hyde-Smith	Peters	Tillis
Inhofe	Portman	Toomey
Johnson	Reed	Udall
Jones	Risch	Van Hollen
Kaine	Romney	Warner
Kennedy	Rosen	Whitehouse
King	Rounds	Wicker
Lankford	Rubio	Wyden
Leahy	Sasse	Young
Lee	Schatz	

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Roberts	
Isakson	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

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 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 Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, Kevin Cramer, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, John Thune.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years, shall be brought to a close?

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Inhofe	Schumer
Cantwell	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Jones	Shaheen
Carper	Kaine	Shelby
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	King	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	McSally	Udall
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Murphy	Wyden
Ernst	Murray	Young
Feinstein	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Harris	Roberts	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Inhofe	Schumer
Cantwell	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Jones	Shaheen
Carper	Kaine	Shelby
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	King	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	McSally	Udall
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Murphy	Wyden
Ernst	Murray	Young
Feinstein	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Harris	Roberts	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ada E. Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Alexander	Graham	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Jones	Scott (SC)
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Collins	King	Sinema
Cornyn	Lankford	Smith
Cotton	Leahy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Duckworth	Menendez	Udall
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Enzi	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Gardner	Perdue	

NAYS—13

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Stabenow
Brown	Markey	Wyden
Cantwell	Murray	
Cortez Masto	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Coons	Roberts	
Harris	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Blackburn	Braun
Barrasso	Blunt	Burr
Bennet	Boozman	Capito

Cardin	Hoeven	Reed
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Casey	Inhofe	Romney
Cassidy	Isakson	Rosen
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Jones	Rubio
Cotton	Kaine	Sasse
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	King	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Shaheen
Daines	Leahy	Shelby
Duckworth	Lee	Sinema
Durbin	Manchin	Sullivan
Enzi	McConnell	Tester
Ernst	McSally	Thune
Feinstein	Moran	Tillis
Fischer	Murkowski	Toomey
Gardner	Murphy	Van Hollen
Graham	Paul	Warner
Grassley	Perdue	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wicker
Hawley	Portman	Young

NAYS—18

Baldwin	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Markey	Smith
Cantwell	Menendez	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Udall
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Coons	Roberts	
Harris	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven C. Seeger, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Brown	Cornyn
Baldwin	Burr	Cortez Masto
Barrasso	Cantwell	Cotton
Bennet	Capito	Cramer
Blackburn	Cardin	Crapo
Blumenthal	Carper	Cruz
Blunt	Casey	Daines
Boozman	Cassidy	Duckworth
Braun	Collins	Durbin

Enzi	Lee	Schatz
Ernst	Markey	Schumer
Feinstein	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Fischer	McSally	Scott (SC)
Gardner	Menendez	Shaheen
Grassley	Merkley	Shelby
Hassan	Moran	Sinema
Hawley	Murkowski	Smith
Heinrich	Murphy	Stabenow
Hirono	Murray	Sullivan
Hoeven	Paul	Tester
Hyde-Smith	Perdue	Thune
Inhofe	Peters	Tillis
Isakson	Portman	Toomey
Johnson	Reed	Udall
Jones	Risch	Van Hollen
Kaine	Romney	Warner
Kennedy	Rosen	Whitehouse
King	Rounds	Wicker
Lankford	Rubio	Wyden
Leahy	Sasse	Young

NAYS—1

Gillibrand

NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Harris	Roberts
Coons	Klobuchar	Sanders
Graham	Manchin	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary S. McElroy, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephanie A. Gallagher, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge the Senate to confirm the nomination of Stephanie Gallagher of Maryland to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland. This is a noncontroversial nomination which the Senate should be able to confirm in short order.

Judge Stephanie Gallagher brings tremendous experience to the courtroom as a sitting U.S. magistrate judge in Baltimore, as well as being a former prosecutor, private law firm attorney, and judicial law clerk. Her strong roots in the Maryland legal community, tremendous understanding and respect for the rule of law, and willingness to volunteer her time in service outside the courtroom make her an exceptional nominee. I was pleased to recommend Judge Gallagher's nomination to President Trump, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN.

I must note for my colleagues that I originally recommended Judge Gallag-

her's nomination to President Obama along with Senator Mikulski, back in 2015, given the impending retirement of Judge William Quarles in 2016. Judge Gallagher's nomination has actually been favorably recommended by the Judiciary Committee on three separate occasions, in 2016, 2018, and now in 2019. Most recently, on June 20, 2019, the Judiciary Committee favorably recommended Judge Gallagher to the full Senate for confirmation by a vote of 21–1.

I want to thank Senator VAN HOLLEN for working with me to ensure we seek out the best attorneys in our State for Federal judicial vacancies, which are lifetime appointments and one of the most important obligations we have as U.S. Senators. We have recommended judicial nominations to the President that have made Marylanders proud of our Federal courts.

Stephanie Gallagher, of Baltimore, MD, has been a U.S. magistrate judge in Baltimore since April 2011. As a magistrate judge, Judge Gallagher works closely on a daily basis with district court judges, the very position she has been nominated for today. In her current position as a magistrate judge, Judge Gallagher convenes settlement conferences, resolves discovery disputes, and prepares reports and recommendations on dispositive motions. With the consent of the parties, Judge Gallagher can take jurisdiction over civil cases. In consent cases, she becomes the presiding judge, making all rulings in the case and overseeing the trial. In this capacity, she has presided over civil bench and jury trials. She has served as the criminal duty judge on a rotating basis with her colleagues, where she presides over preliminary proceedings in felony cases and handles misdemeanor cases, including those occurring at Federal military installations in Maryland.

Previously, Judge Gallagher was a partner and cofounder at Levin & Gallagher LLC, now Levin & Curlett, for 3 years, served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Baltimore for 6 years, and was a litigation associate at Akin Gump in Washington, DC, for 2 years. She practiced in a wide variety of legal issues, including complex civil litigation, employment disputes, constitutional issues, criminal defense, and criminal prosecution.

Judge Gallagher began her legal career as a law clerk for then-Chief Judge J. Frederick Motz of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland from 1997 to 1999. She received her J.D. in 1997 from Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude, and received her B.S. in government from Georgetown University in 1994, graduating magna cum laude.

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has declared this Maryland seat as a judicial emergency, based on the length of the vacancy and the caseload of the court.

Judge Gallagher was given the rating of unanimously well qualified by the

American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, which is their highest possible rating.

Judge Gallagher brings tremendous experience and credentials to the courtroom as a sitting U.S. Magistrate Judge in Baltimore, as well as being a former prosecutor, private law firm attorney, and judicial law clerk. Her strong roots in the Maryland legal community and fantastic understanding and respect for the rule of law make her an exceptional nominee. I was pleased to recommend Judge Gallagher's nomination to both President Obama and President Trump. I am confident that she will serve the people of Maryland extremely well once she is finally confirmed for this lifetime appointment as a U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this nomination and confirm Judge Gallagher.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the confirmation of Judge Stephanie Gallagher to serve as a Federal judge for the U.S. District Court of Maryland. Judge Gallagher has an impressive legal background and has provided years of service to the State of Maryland.

She is currently a U.S. magistrate in Maryland having served in this capacity since 2011. Moreover, she has occupied the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney office for the State of Maryland. Finally, she clerked for the Honorable J. Frederick Motz, a Judge in Maryland's Federal district court.

Judge Gallagher has been lauded repeatedly as a rising star, as one of Maryland's Super Lawyers, and has received a number of awards and commendations from a number of Federal agencies.

Moreover, she has strong academic credentials having graduated from Harvard Law School, J.D. cum laude. I cannot think of anyone more qualified to occupy this critical position at this important time and am grateful for her nomination and the Senate's overwhelming support for her confirmation to serve as a Judge in Maryland's Federal District Court.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today we mark the 18th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. We remember the nearly-3,000 people who lost their lives. We pray for all of the 9/11 victims and their families. We honor our 9/11 heroes. They were the brightest lights that day in the dark sky—our brave firefighters, police, service men and women. So many Americans gave their lives to save lives that day, and we pay tribute to them today.

Congress has passed new laws to care for 9/11 first responders. We recently

made the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent. This ensures that all those who responded to the terror attacks and their families have peace of mind and first-rate healthcare.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, I want to turn to the topic of the overall healthcare debate that we are having in this country. For the past several weeks, I have been home in Wyoming, as you have been home in North Dakota, and I listened to the people I am so privileged to represent, many of whom I have been privileged to treat as their doctor. Of course we discussed their healthcare. As a doctor, I want to make care better and more affordable.

Folks in Wyoming actually know me first as a doctor, so many of them call me Dr. BARRASSO or JOHN as opposed to Senator BARRASSO. People back home think of their doctors as members of the family, as friends, neighbors who live down the street, who go to the same church, whose kids go to the same schools. The local hospital in Casper is right in the center of town. People don't want that to change. They want the same people giving them care, but they want it at lower costs.

This holds true for the rest of the country. People are rightly concerned. Americans worry that they won't be able to pay for healthcare. Republicans are listening to these concerns, and we are focused on lowering the out-of-pocket costs for people's healthcare. That is why we ended the unfair Obamacare tax penalty. We ended that. We recently banned the costly drug price gag clauses so people could know what things actually cost and what the best deal was for them.

Now we are focused on ending something called surprise medical billing. It happens. You get huge medical bills that you don't expect and you can't easily pay. We are also moving more measures to lower drug prices that people actually have to pay.

Here is the problem: Democrats are rejecting all of our efforts. They are proposing costly healthcare—to me, schemes. The Washington Post reports that five of the seven Democratic Senators who are Members of this body and who are running for President have backed a one-size-fits-all approach. It is a government-run plan they call Medicare for All. The Washington Post reports that a majority of House Democrats also back it. They have actually cosponsored it. They want it to become the law.

The Democrats' proposal would take away on-the-job health insurance from 180 million working Americans. Let me repeat that. What the Democrats are proposing with their so-called Medicare for All—a one-size-fits-all proposal for healthcare in this country—would take away the healthcare that people get on the job that they earned on the job. There are 180 million people who get their insurance that way in America. The cost of their proposal is \$32 trillion—that is “trillion” with a “t.” It is

an astronomical amount of money. Of course, they have to pay for that, as Senator SANDERS has said, by raising taxes on the middle class.

These Democrats clearly aren't focused on helping to lower the costs of care. They are too busy, in my opinion, with plans to destroy health insurance, to destroy union workers' hard-fought insurance benefits, to destroy the current Medicare Program for 60 million seniors, and to destroy the health coverage that people have earned at work. For what? It is all so that government can have complete control over America's healthcare system. We can't afford for that to happen. The Democrats have admitted that their ObamaCare healthcare law has failed. The polling shows that the majority of Americans do not want a one-size-fits-all healthcare plan for them.

Now, remember, when it came to the vote on ObamaCare, congressional Democrats in the House and the Senate promised that the Obama healthcare law would control costs. They actually named it—I think completely misnamed it—the Affordable Care Act. It was the Unaffordable Care Act. What we have seen is that out-of-pocket costs soared and that insurance premiums soared all after the Obama healthcare law was signed. For many Americans, health insurance premiums have doubled since the signing of the Obama healthcare law. Monthly premiums are often more than mortgage payments. This can't stand. This simply can't continue. We cannot trust the Democrats to roll the dice again with the healthcare of the American people.

The Republicans are focused on real reforms—reforms that actually lower costs and reforms that protect patients with preexisting conditions. In July, the Senate's Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions approved a measure to end surprise medical billing. It also includes language to bring down the cost of drugs. As a doctor, I know patients shouldn't stress over forms. When you are sick, you should focus on getting well. Care from an out-of-network provider can result in a big bill—called a surprise medical bill—and it can easily blow an entire family's budget. Patients should really not be pawns in this high-stakes financial chess game, so we are working with President Trump to end this unfair practice of surprise medical billing. It is the right thing to do for patients and for their families.

The Republicans are also making progress on lowering drug costs. We passed a bill I cosponsored to end the drug price gag rule. As a result, patients can always find the lowest priced drug. We are continuing to work with the President on this and other issues.

Still, to make more progress, we need Democratic support and cooperation. The choice is clear—to work together to lower costs without lowering standards or to follow the Democratic Senators who are running for President

and follow the House Democrats who are pushing for a one-size-fits-all, government-run healthcare for America with the loss of choice and the loss of control—all of the concerns that come with a one-size-fits-all, government approach.

It doesn't seem like they are for lowering costs. It seems they are for raising your taxes and taking away your control and your choice. They are not for improving care. They are for increasing and growing the role of government. Remember, the Democrats want to take away health insurance from 180 million Americans—working Americans—people who go to work every day and have earned their health insurance at work.

At the same time, the Democrats who are running for President are promising free healthcare. I was astonished when I heard this from the Democrats. They are promising free healthcare for illegal immigrants. They want to take insurance away from hard-working Americans and give insurance—free—to illegal immigrants.

What kind of proposal is that? Who is being represented with this proposal by these Democratic Senators and other Democrats who are running for President? Who do you think is going to pay for all of this? Why should we pay more to wait longer for worse care?

It is not something Americans want or will tolerate. Instead, let's give patients the care they need from the doctors they choose and at lower costs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I start my remarks tonight by thanking my colleague from Wyoming for his remarks concerning the anniversary of the horror that was September 11, 2001. I join him and all of my colleagues here in recognizing that in the midst of that horror, the American people came together, and we demonstrated the strength, kindness, bravery, and resilience that we have throughout our history.

I, too, remember the victims, their loved ones, as well as all of the brave first responders. I thank all of the men and women of our military who continue to fight against terrorism and who keep us safe, and I remember the lives lost on the battlefield.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, I also want to take a minute tonight to talk about the importance of there being the continued funding to address our Nation's opioid crisis. As the Senate Appropriations Committee prepares its markup of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies' fiscal year 2020 budget, I rise to discuss the urgent need for additional funding to combat the fentanyl, heroin, and opioid crisis.

The substance misuse crisis continues to ravage communities in my home State of New Hampshire and all

across our country. People in New Hampshire are doing vital work to address this crisis and get those who are struggling the support they need to get and stay healthy.

Just last month, I visited Moms in Recovery in Lebanon, which is an addiction services program through Dartmouth-Hitchcock that is providing comprehensive care to get pregnant and parenting women the services they need to address substance misuse. In Lebanon, NH, Moms in Recovery offers everything from medication-assisted treatment to group therapy, counseling, outpatient therapy, parenting classes, and more. Providers said that what started as a program for 5 women is now serving 60. It has transformed from a program that just served pregnant women to one that is now serving women after they give birth. It works to help them stabilize their lives and to reengage in our workforce and in our communities.

People in my State are implementing innovative approaches to help their friends and neighbors, and Congress needs to give them the support they need to help save lives.

I have been proud to work with Senator SHAHEEN and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strengthen support for treatment, recovery, prevention, and law enforcement efforts. This includes having worked to secure more than \$6 billion in the 2018 budget agreement for governmentwide efforts to combat this crisis and to ensure that as the appropriations process progressed, hardest hit States, including the Granite State, were prioritized.

Last year, we also passed the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which the President signed into law. It included, among many critical priorities, the following: establishing comprehensive opioid recovery centers, expanding access to medication-assisted treatment, and supporting law enforcement in its efforts to curb the shipment of fentanyl through the Postal Service.

Yet nobody in this body should think that our work is anywhere near complete. As the Appropriations Committee considers funding bills for the next fiscal year, I urge my colleagues on the committee to ensure that State opioid response grants, which have been a vital tool in increasing access to treatment, recovery, and prevention, are fully funded. While these grants should be increased, they must, at the very least, be fully funded at the fiscal year 2019 levels.

It is also imperative to continue prioritizing hardest hit States and to give communities additional flexibility to use this funding to address other substances that are being used in conjunction with or instead of opioids. While the vast majority of overdose deaths in New Hampshire still involve opioids, specifically fentanyl, we are seeing substances like crystal methamphetamine emerge as a growing issue. Additional flexibility in funding

can help communities respond to this challenge in realtime.

This crisis didn't begin overnight, and it will not be solved overnight. What we need at the Federal level is a long-term solution and additional certainty so States and communities know they will have stable and consistent Federal funding as they implement strategies and treatment programs that will help save lives.

One important next step would be to pass Senator SHAHEEN's Turn the Tide Act, which is legislation I have cosponsored that would invest \$63 billion in flexible funding over 10 years, support treatment and prevention efforts, and address workforce challenges in the treatment field. This is the kind of long-term, comprehensive approach we should be taking, and I will continue to join with Senator SHAHEEN to push for this bill.

The fentanyl, heroin, and opioid crisis remains the most pressing public health and public safety challenge facing New Hampshire and many other communities across our country, and the biggest mistake anyone could make is in thinking our efforts to address this crisis are close to being done.

I am going to continue to push to ensure that those on the frontlines of this crisis have the support they need. I urge my colleagues to join me so we can make our families, communities, and country healthier and safer so we can help save lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I so enjoy listening to my colleagues as they talk about the issues that are important to them and to the States they represent. It is, indeed, one of those privileges that we in this body enjoy, and many times we take it for granted. Yet today is a day of remembrance. It is a day that we look back and say we ought not take it for granted because there are many in this world who would threaten our freedoms and our liberties.

Earlier this week, I was talking with some of the members of our team, and we were trading stories about where we were on the morning of September 11 and how it affected the way we viewed their place in the world, and their memories, and what their recollections were. Those of us who vividly remember that day still recall an unsettling cascade of emotions. There was shock, confusion, and, finally, dread as we realized we were not, as initially thought, seeing a senseless accident, but that, indeed, we were under attack. As the morning wore on, dread really gave way to fear and panic and, finally, to absolute terror that our loved ones who were in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania and who were in the air, maybe flying home, were among those who were experiencing firsthand what was happening. It was the perfect storm of conflicting media reports and

jammed cell service that made it almost impossible to reach out to people and to ask that question, "Are you OK?" and to hear their voices.

Through the smoke and the blood came a moment of awful clarity. Life would never be the same because we would never again experience life without feeling as if we were a target. The events of September 11 introduced a new generation of Americans to the reality that our country is not and will never be immune to the threat of terror.

Those who were teetering on the edge of adulthood may not have immediately made the connection between global politics and the disaster that was playing out on TV in real time. Yet, by the time terrorists struck that second tower, I think a lot of people really had begun to understand what was happening. Later, they learned that a half a world away, a group of men who referred to themselves as al-Qaida had made it their life's mission to murder Americans. They were doing it to prove a point. Yes, it did leave a mark on this Nation and on our citizens. Younger Americans' memories of that day really are fuzzier, but almost without exception, my staff members remember what they now describe as a sense of national unity rising up in the days following the attacks.

They remember that every house on the street flew an American flag and that every adult they knew stood in a line to give blood. They saw small town first responders load up those firetrucks and emergency vehicles and head to New York.

At the time, they really didn't understand geopolitics, but they did understand fear and suffering because they saw that fear in the eyes of their teachers and in the eyes of the adults who surrounded them; but they also saw the shift that the attacks and the aftermath caused in our country. For a time, partisanship and bitterness was washed away. What you saw was unity, and waving flags.

Now, almost 20 years later, memories are growing fuzzy. Sometimes they are nonexistent. Calls for unity have been replaced by heated debate. Too often, the loudest voices look back at 9/11 as an event in the collective memory, and they don't look at it as an occurrence that changed lives and lifestyles forever.

They consider in passing the remnants of the attacks in debates over foreign policy and defense spending, but ignore why we remain so focused on national security. This is why every year, without exception, we remind ourselves that the kind of hatred it takes to bring an entire country to its knees gives no quarter.

We acknowledge the actions of 19 terrorists whose twisted beliefs led to the violent murder of nearly 3,000 innocent people because even though the panic of that awful morning has faded, our enemies' desire to make an example of us has not. But America, with all her

imperfections, still thrives in utter defiance of hatred, divisiveness, and destruction.

Today, we remember those who died, and we keep their memory as a beacon against the void that allowed violence and terror.

We remember the heroes who defied fear and reason and ran toward the flames, putting love of country and countrymen above all else.

And we remember and remind ourselves that by simply standing back up, America made herself the world's best example of what it looks like when love, hope, and valor triumph over the forces of darkness.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action for the nominations confirmed during today's session of the Senate.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, the Senate vote on the Bowman and Nordquist nominations and that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that following disposition of the Nordquist nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Feddo nomination; finally, that at 1:45 p.m. the Senate vote on the Feddo nomination and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms

sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-49 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$6.5 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREG M. KAUSNER,
(For Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-49

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$4.1 billion.
Other \$2.4 billion.
Total \$6.5 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Thirty-two (32) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft.

Thirty-three (33) Pratt & Whitney F-135 Engines (32 installed, 1 spare).

Non-MDE: Also included are Electronic Warfare Systems; Command, Control, Communications, Computer, and Intelligence/Communications, Navigational, and Identification (C4I/CNI); Autonomic Logistics Global Support System (ALGS); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); Full Mission Trainer; Weapons Employment Capability, and other Subsystems, Features, and Capabilities; F-35 unique infrared flares; reprogramming center; F-35 Performance Based Logistics; software development/integration; aircraft ferry and tanker support; support equipment; tools and test equipment; communications equipment; spares and repair parts; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documents; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PL-D-SAI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 10, 2019.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Poland has requested to buy thirty-two (32) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft and thirty-three (33) Pratt & Whitney F-135 Engines. Also included are Electronic Warfare Systems; Command, Control, Communications, Computer, and Intelligence/Communications, Navigational, and Identification (C4I/CNI); Autonomic Logistics Global Support System (ALGS); Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS); Full Mission Trainer; Weapons Employment Capability, and other Subsystems, Features, and Capabilities; F-35 unique infrared flares; reprogramming center; F-35 Performance Based Logistics; software development/integration; aircraft ferry and tanker support; support equipment; tools and test equipment; communications equipment; spares and repair parts; personnel training and training equipment; publications and technical documents; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is \$6.5 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key allies in the region with modern systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

This proposed sale of F-35s will provide Poland with a credible defense capability to deter aggression in the region and ensure interoperability with U.S. forces. The proposed sale will augment Poland's operational aircraft inventory and enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground self-defense capability. The Polish Air Force's legacy MiG-29 and Su-22 fleet will be replaced with F-35s. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this aircraft, systems and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas; and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines in East Hartford, Connecticut. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale. However, the purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips to Poland involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews/support, program management and training over the life of the program. U.S. contractor representatives will be required in Poland to conduct Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS) and Autonomic Logistics and Global Support (ALGS) for after aircraft delivery.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-49

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F-35 Conventional Take-Off and Landing (CTOL) Block 4 aircraft is classified SECRET, except as noted below. It contains current technology representing the F-35 low observable airframe/outer mold line, Pratt & Whitney engine, radar, integrated core processor central computer, mission systems/electronic warfare suite, a multiple sensor suite, operational flight and maintenance trainers, technical data/documentation, and associated software. As the aircraft and its subsystems are under development, many specific identifying equipment/system nomenclatures have not been assigned to date. Sensitive and classified elements of the F-35 CTOL Block 4 aircraft include hardware, accessories, components, and associated software for the following major subsystems:

a. The Propulsion system is classified SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. The single 40,000-lb thrust class engine is designed for low observability and has been integrated into the aircraft system. Pratt & Whitney, with the F-135, is developing and producing engine turbo machinery compatible with the F-35 and assures highly reliable, affordable performance. The engine is designed to be utilized in all F-35 variants, providing unmatched commonality and supportability throughout the worldwide base of F-35 users. The CTOL propulsion configuration consists of a main engine, diverterless supersonic inlet, and a Low Observable Axisymmetric Nozzle (LOAN).

b. The AN/APG-81 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) provides mission systems with air-to-air and air-to-ground tracks, which the mission system uses as a component to sensor fusion. The AESA allows the radar to direct RF energy in a way that does not expose the F-35, allowing it to maintain low observability in high-threat environments. The radar subsystem supports integrated system performance for air-to-air missions by providing search, track, identification, and AIM-120 missile data link functionality. The radar also provides synthetic aperture radar mapping for locating surface targets and weather mapping for weather avoidance. The radar functions are tightly integrated, interleaved, and managed by an interface to sensor management functions within mission software. The hardware and software are classified SECRET.

c. The Electro Optical Targeting System (EOTS) contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. The EOTS subsystem to the sensor suite provides long-range detection and tracking, Infrared Search and Track (IRST) capability, a Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor for precision tracking, and Bomb Damage Indication (BDI) capability. EOTS replaces multiple separate internal or podded systems typically found on legacy aircraft. The functionality of the EOTS employs the following modes: Targeting FLIR; Laser Range-Finding and Target Designation; EO DAS and EOTS Performance.

d. The Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (EODAS) is a subsystem to the sensor suite and provides full spherical coverage for air-to-air and air-to-ground detection and Navigation Forward Looking Infra-

red (NFLIR) imaging. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. The NFLIR capability provides infrared (IR) imagery directly to the pilot's Helmet-Mounted Display (HMD) for navigation in total darkness, including takeoff and landing, and provides a passive IR input to the F-35's sensor fusion algorithms. The all-aspect missile warning function provides time-critical warnings of incoming missiles and cues other subsystems to provide effective countermeasure employment. EODAS also provides an IRST function that can create and maintain Situational Awareness-quality tracks (SAIRST). EODAS is a mid-wave Infrared (IR) system consisting of six identical sensors distributed around the F-35 aircraft. Each sensor has a corresponding airframe window panel integrated with the aircraft structure to meet aerodynamic and stealth requirements.

e. The Electronic Warfare (EW) system contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. Sensitive elements include: apertures; radio frequency (RF) and infrared (IR) countermeasures; and Electronic Countermeasures I (ECM) techniques and features. The reprogrammable, integrated system provides radar warning and electronic support measures (ESM) along with a fully integrated countermeasures (CM) system. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through the search, intercept, location and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter IR and RF threats. The IR and RF countermeasures are classified SECRET. This system uses low signature-embedded apertures, located in the aircraft control surface edges, to provide direction finding and identification of surface and airborne emitters and the geo-location of surface emitters. The system is classified SECRET.

f. The Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence/communications, Navigation, and Identification (C4I/CNI) system provides the pilot with unmatched connectivity to flight members, coalition forces, and the battlefield. It is an integrated subsystem designed to provide a broad spectrum of secure, anti-jam, covert voice and data communications, precision radio navigation and landing capability, self-identification, beyond visual range target identification, and connectivity with off-board sources of information. The functionality is tightly integrated within the mission system for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in the areas of communications, navigation, identification, and sensor fusion. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. The CNI function includes both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements. Sensitive elements of the CNI subsystems include:

1. The VHF/UHF Voice and Data (Plain and Secure) Communication functionality includes air-to-air UHF/VHF voice and data, both clear and secure, to provide communications with other friendly and coalition aircraft, air-to-ground UHF voice to provide communications with ground sites, and intercommunication voice and tone alerts to provide communications between the avionics system and the pilot. UHF/VHF downlink of air vehicle status and maintenance information is provided to notify the

ground crews of the amounts and types of stores, fuel, and other supplies or equipment needed to quickly turn the aircraft for the next mission. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

2. The Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) functionality provides operational modes to identify ground station and to provide bearing-to-station, slant range-to-ground station, bearing-to-airborne station and slant range to the nearest airborne station or aircraft. TACAN is not unique to the F-35 aircraft but is standard on most U.S. Air Force aircraft. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

3. The Identification Friend or Foe Interrogator and Transponder Identification functionality consists of integrated Mark XII Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder capability to provide identification of other friendly forces. The CNI system supports sensor fusion by supplying data from IFF interrogations and off-board sources through the intra-flight data link. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

4. The Global Positioning System Navigation functionality includes the Global Positioning System (GPS) aided inertial navigation to provide high-quality positional navigation, and the Instrument Landing System (ILS)/Tactical Air Control and Navigation (TACAN) to provide navigation and landing cues within controlled airspace. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

5. The Multi-Function Advanced Data Link (MADL) is used specifically for communications between F-35 aircraft and has a very low probability of intercept, contributing to covert operations. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

6. The Inertial Navigation System is an all-attitude, Ring Laser Gyro-based navigation system providing outputs of linear and angular acceleration, velocity, body angular rates, position, altitude (roll, pitch, and platform azimuth), magnetic and true heading, altitude, and time tags. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

7. The Radar Altimeter functionality is a module provided in the CNI system rack 3A and uses separate transmit and receive antennae. It measures and reports altitude, and altitude rate of change. Control data is transferred over to a configurable avionics interface card, which translates the information to the F-35 aircraft computers. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

8. The Instrument Landing System (ILS) measures, and reports azimuth course and alignment, elevation course alignment, and distance to the runway. Data from the ILS is used to drive visual flight instrumentation. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

9. The Tactical Data Link is a secure broadcast Tactical Digital Information Link (TADIL) used for real-time voice/data exchange for command and control, relative navigation, and Precise Position Location Identification (PPLI), providing Link-16 type capabilities. The system contains both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET.

g. The F-35 Autonomic Logistics Global Sustainment (ALGS) includes both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements. It provides a fully integrated logistics management solution. ALGS integrates a number of functional areas, including supply chain management, repair, support equipment, engine support, and training. The ALGS infrastructure employs a state-of-the-art information system that provides real-time, decision-worthy information for sustainment decisions by flight line personnel. Prognostic health monitoring technology is integrated with the air system and is crucial to the predictive maintenance of vital components.

h. The F-35 Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS) includes both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements. The ALIS provides an intelligent information infrastructure that binds all of the key concepts of ALGS into an effective support system. ALIS establishes the appropriate interfaces among the F-35 Air Vehicle, the warfighter, the training system, government information technology (IT) systems, JSF operations, and supporting commercial enterprise systems. Additionally, ALIS provides a comprehensive tool for data collection and analysis, decision support, and action tracking.

i. The F-35 Training System includes both SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED elements. The Training System includes several types of training devices, to provide for integrated training of both pilots and maintainers. The pilot training device includes a Full Mission Simulator (FMS). The maintainer training devices include an Aircraft Systems Maintenance Trainer (ASMT), Ejection System Maintenance Trainer (ESMT), and Weapons Loading Trainer (WLT). The F-35 Training System can be integrated, where both pilots and maintainers learn in the same Integrated Training Center (ITC). Alternatively, the pilots and maintainers can train in separate facilities (Pilot Training Center and Maintenance Training Center).

j. Weapons employment capability is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. Sensitive elements include co-operative targeting.

k. Other Subsystems, Features, and Capabilities:

1. The Low Observable Air Frame is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: the Radar Cross Section and its corresponding plots, construction materials and fabrication.

2. The Integrated Core Processor (ICP) Central Computer is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is classified SECRET. Sensitive elements include: F-35 Integrated Core Processor utilizing Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) Hardware and Module Design to maximize growth and allow for

efficient management of DMS and Technology Insertion, if additional processing is needed, a second ICP will be installed in the space reserved for that purpose, more than doubling the current throughput and memory capacity.

3. The F-35 Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS) is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: HMDS consists of the Display Management Computer-Helmet, a helmet shell/display module, a quick disconnect integrated as part of the ejection seat, helmet trackers and tracker processing, day- and night-vision camera functions, and dedicated system/graphics processing. The HMDS provides a fully sunlight readable, bi-ocular display presentation of aircraft information projected onto the pilot's helmet visor. The use of a night vision camera integrated into the helmet eliminates the need for separate Night Vision Goggles (NVG). The camera video is integrated with EO and IR imaging inputs and displayed on the pilot's visor to provide a comprehensive night operational capability.

4. The Pilot Life Support System is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: a measure of Pilot Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Protection through use of an On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS); and an escape system that provide additional protection to the pilot. OBOGS takes the Power and Thermal Management System (PTMS) air and enriches it by removing gases (mainly nitrogen) by adsorption, thereby increasing the concentration of oxygen in the product gas and supplying breathable air to the pilot.

5. The Off-Board Mission Support System is SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is SECRET. Software (object code) is SECRET. Sensitive elements include: mission planning, mission briefing, maintenance/intelligence/ tactical debriefing, sensor/algorithm planning, EW system reprogramming, data debrief, etc.

1. Publications: Manuals are considered SECRET as they contain information on aircraft/system performance and inherent vulnerabilities.

2. The JSF Reprogramming Center is classified SECRET and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in several areas. This hardware/software facility is located in the United States and provides F-35 customers a means to update JSF electronic warfare databases. Sensitive elements include: EW software databases and tools to modify these databases.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Poland.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, would have voted yes on rollcall vote 263, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 403, Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States to the UN General Assembly.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted yes on rollcall vote 264, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 403, Kelly Craft, of Kentucky, to be Representative of the United States to the UN General Assembly.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted yes on rollcall vote 265, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 5, Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted yes on rollcall vote 266, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 5, Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted yes on rollcall vote 267, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 174, Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted yes on rollcall vote 268, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 246, Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted yes on rollcall vote 269, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 294, James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

OREGON WILDLANDS ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Oregonians love and cherish their wild rivers, and I am pleased we were able to protect many of these Oregon treasures in the Oregon Wildlands Act, which Congress included as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. The act adds 255 miles of new Wild and Scenic Rivers in Oregon.

Some, but not all, of these new or expanded wild and scenic rivers designated under the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act were evaluated by the Bureau of Land Management for their potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These evaluations in many cases identified the rivers' "outstandingly remarkable values," ORVs, consistent with agency regulations and guidance. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifies that wild

and scenic rivers are managed to “protect and enhance the values,” 16 USC 1281(a), for which the wild and scenic river was established.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act generally defines “outstandingly remarkable values” as “scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.” The Federal land management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, which is administering most of the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers in the Oregon Wildlands Act, has defined “other” values as, but not limited to, “ecological, biological or botanical, paleontological, hydrological, traditional cultural uses, water quality, and scientific values.”

Some of the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers in Oregon Wildlands Act were never evaluated by the agency. Therefore, as part of the fact-gathering by my staff based on State and Federal agency data and research and public input during the development of the legislation, ORVs were determined for the new and expanded wild and scenic rivers. The table I am including with my statement lists both the general and specific ORVs identified during consideration of the legislation. It is to protect and enhance these values for which I, as the chief sponsor of the Oregon Wilderness Act, included the various wild and scenic rivers in the legislation that Congress ultimately included in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recre-

ation Act. This table includes both the outstandingly remarkable values that BLM found for the stream segments, as well as additional values.

The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act reflects the Nation’s commitment to protect America’s rivers, streams, and special places. I am pleased the legislation permanently protects from damming, diversion, and mining over 255 miles of Oregon’s pristine rivers and streams as part of the nation’s Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

I ask unanimous consent that the table be printed in the RECORD.

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

Wild & Scenic River	General Outstandingly Remarkable Value	Specific Outstandingly Remarkable Value
Elk River Additions:		
Rock Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Intact mature and old-growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened marbled murrelets; habitat for Southern-Oregon Northern California (SONCC) wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery values; mature forest scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.
Bald Mountain Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat for threatened marbled murrelets; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.
South Fork Bald Mountain Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for threatened SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
Platinum Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery	Clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values, waterfall, Port Orford-cedar.
Panther Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Wildlife, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
East Fork Panther Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Wildlife, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
West Fork Panther Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Wildlife, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
Lost Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Wildlife, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; clean cold water that supports mainstem wild fishery and scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.
Millbury Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; clean cold water that supports mainstem wild fishery and scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.
Blackberry Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Wildlife, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets, Del Norte salamander; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
East Fork Blackberry Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Wildlife, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets, Del Norte salamander; habitat for SONCC coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
McCurdy Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.
Bear Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
Butler Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; older forest scenery; Port Orford-cedar.
East Fork Butler Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.
Purple Mountain Creek	Fisheries, Water Quality, Scenery, Botany and Ecology	Mature and old growth forest habitat; habitat for marbled murrelets; habitat for SONCC wild coho, wild fall Chinook, wild winter steelhead, native cutthroat trout; clean cold water that supports mainstem native fishery and scenic values; Port Orford-cedar.
Molalla	Cultural, Scenic, Fish, Recreation, Geology	Five identified cultural sites; highly rated scenery includes gorgeous river and views of cliffs, moss-covered boulders and diverse stream-side vegetation; critical habitat for wild spring Chinook salmon and wild winter steelhead, native resident cutthroat trout; unique columnar basalt rosette formation; hiking, horseback riding, white water boating, and mountain biking.
Rogue River Additions:		
Alder Creek	Scenery, Recreation	View of and from the Rogue River canyon, and the Rogue River National Recreational Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Anna Creek	Scenery, Fish, Ecology	Mature forests and winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Bailey Creek	Scenery, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests and views of and from Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Big Windy Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Ecology	Del Norte salamander, mature and old growth forest, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
East Fork Big Windy Creek	Fish, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, wild winter steelhead, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Little Windy Creek	Fish, Scenery, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Booze Creek	Scenery, Recreation	Views of and from the Rogue River canyon and Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Bronco Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature forests, views and from the Rogue River canyon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Bunker Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology, Wildlife	Mature and old growth forest, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Copsey Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature and old growth forest, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, views of and from the Rogue River Canyon.
Corral Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature forest, views from and of the Rogue River canyon, and Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Cowley Creek	Scenery, Recreation	Views of and from the Rogue River canyon and Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Ditch Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, and Rogue River National Recreation Trail, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Dulog Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Francis Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, and views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and steelhead.
Hewitt Creek	Fish, Scenery, Botanical, Ecology	Rogue River stonecrop, mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Howard Creek	Fish, Scenery, Ecology, Wildlife	Mature and old growth forests, scenic views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Jenny Creek	Fish, Scenery, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Kelsey Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Botanical, Ecological/Biological Diversity, Wildlife	White-flowered ginger, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, mature and old growth forests, wild winter steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.

Wild & Scenic River	General Outstandingly Remarkable Value	Specific Outstandingly Remarkable Value
East Fork Kelsey Creek	Water quality, Botanical, Ecology, Fish	Rogue River stonecrop, mature and old growth forests, winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Long Gulch	Fish, Scenery, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Meadow Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, wild winter steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Missouri Creek	Fish, Scenery, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter steelhead, wild coho salmon.
Montgomery Creek	Scenery, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Mule Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology, Wildlife	Mature and old growth forests, winter steelhead, coho salmon, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, camping, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Quail Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Botanical, Ecology	White-flowered ginger, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, mature and old growth forest, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Rum Creek	Fish, Scenery, Botanical, Ecology	Rogue River stonecrop, mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, clean cold water that supports salmon and wild steelhead.
East Fork Rum Creek	Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Russian Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, Rogue River Recreation Trail, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Shady Creek	Scenery, Recreation, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Slide Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Ecology	Del Norte salamander, mature and old growth forest, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Whiskey Creek	Fish, Scenery, Recreation, Historic, Wildlife	Del Norte salamander, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, coho salmon, Rogue River National Recreation Trail, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
East Fork Whiskey Creek	Fish, Wildlife, Ecological/Biological Diversity	Del Norte salamander, mature and old growth forests, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
West Fork Whiskey Creek	Fish, Wildlife, Ecology	Del Norte salamander, mature and old growth forests, wild winter and wild summer steelhead, wild coho salmon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Wildcat Creek	Scenery, Ecology	Mature and old growth forests, views of and from the Rogue River canyon, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Nestucca River	Fish, Recreation, Scenic, Wildlife, Ecology	Very high producing wild steelhead stream; wild chum salmon, wild Chinook salmon, wild coho salmon, native cutthroat trout, lamprey, dace, sculpins; High quality-habitat for bald eagle, northern spotted owl, red tree vole, marbled murrelet and coastal giant salamander; the only known breeding site in Oregon Coast Range for Harlequin ducks; Mature and old growth forests; camping and fishing.
Walker Creek	Botanical, Ecology, Fish	The largest and one of the few natural populations of Nelson's checkermallow in the Oregon Coast Range, mature and old growth forests, winter and summer steelhead, clean cold water that supports wild salmon and wild steelhead.
Franklin Creek	Scenery, Ecological/Biological Diversity, Wildlife, Fish	Part of the largest Oregon Coast Range low elevation mature and old-growth rainforest. Excellent, crayfish, beaver and native cutthroat trout habitat. Views from the Umpqua River looking up the watershed. Wild winter steelhead, wild coho salmon, and wild fall Chinook salmon.
Wasson Creek	Scenery, Ecological/Biological Diversity, Wildlife	Part of the largest coast range low elevation mature and old-growth coast rainforest. Excellent crayfish, beaver, native cutthroat trout and rough-skinned newt habitat. High concentration of rough-skinned newts in Wasson Lake. Scenic views of the lakeshore and beyond.
Lobster Creek	Fisheries	Wild coho salmon, wild winter steelhead, wild fall Chinook salmon, and lamprey.
North Fork Silver Creek	Ecological/Biological Diversity, Water Quality, Fisheries, Wildlife	Mature and old growth forests such as Port Orford-cedar, Brewer's spruce, Sadler's oak, Sierra laurel; native resident rainbow and native cutthroat trout, wild winter steelhead.
Jenny Creek	Fish, Wildlife, Historic, Recreational, Scenic, Ecological/Biological Diversity	Jenny Creek sucker, native redband trout, endemic snail species, northern Pacific pond turtle; Applegate National Historic Trail crossing; kayaking, fishing, hiking; diverse views due to diverse vegetation and geology; intact willow riparian habitat, three EPA Level IV ecoregions converge.
Spring Creek	Scenery, Wildlife, Fish	Endemic snail species, northern Pacific pond turtle, possible dwarf western pearl shell mussel; diverse views due to diverse vegetation and geology; intact willow riparian habitat; native redband trout.
Elk Creek	Fish, Wildlife	Wild coho salmon, wild fall Chinook salmon, wild spring Chinook salmon, wild winter steelhead, wild summer steelhead, Roosevelt elk winter range.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. BARDETT FAUSETT

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Dr. Bardett Fausett, of Missoula County, for his service in providing care and treatment to Montana mothers and babies.

Early in his career, Dr. Fausett made the decision to serve his country in the U.S. Air Force. After serving his country, he was able to afford to go to medical school and provide for his young family after college. After serving 25 years in the Air Force, Dr. Fausett retired from his military service earned a position at the Missoula Community Medical Center.

Dr. Fausett went to Missoula with the hope of serving the community and providing care and treatment for mothers and their babies. Fausett took up the challenge of handling mothers with very complicated pregnancies and medical issues.

As a maternal fetal medicine specialist, he focused on treating babies and mothers while the baby is still in the womb. Pregnant mothers from all over the region with complicated medical issues traveled to see Dr. Fausett with the hope that he could help their families.

In his 5 years in Missoula, Dr. Fausett has delivered about 1,200 babies.

His service to our Nation in the U.S. Air Force as well as his dedication to continue his service by providing care to Montana mothers and babies is exemplary of the Montana spirit. He has changed the lives of many families across Montana by giving them personal care through challenging times.●

RECOGNIZING EXPERTISE COSMETOLOGY INSTITUTE

● Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, each week the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship recognizes one small business that exemplifies the hard work and perseverance of the American Dream and the American entrepreneur. The great State of Nevada is home to more than 250,000 small businesses of all types, from mom-and-pop shop bakeries to world renowned cyber security firms. Nevada's small businesses are the driving force behind our State's rapidly growing economy and the engine that powers our communities. It is therefore my honor to recognize Nevada's Expertise Cosmetology Institute, a small business with a strong and deep-rooted commitment to improving lives and a desire to give back to the community, for recently having been named the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week.

Small businesses, especially minority-owned small businesses, are breaking down barriers in every corner of Nevada. Expertise Cosmetology Institute is the first African-American-

owned school of cosmetology in Nevada and helps many of their students receive degrees in cosmetology, hair design, nail technology, aesthetics, and barbering. Expertise Cosmetology Institute equips its students with the knowledge to thrive in the barbering and salon industry and ensures graduates have the skills necessary to succeed post-graduation. Students gain a comprehensive knowledge of State regulations, training on the latest trends, and most importantly, how to manage a small business of their own. Expertise Cosmetology offers financial aid to those students who qualify so no student with the desire to succeed in this industry is left behind.

I would also like to recognize Mrs. Gwen Braimoh who, in addition to managing Expertise Cosmetology, also runs the Expertise New Path program in Nevada. The Expertise New Path program helps women earn their cosmetology license while incarcerated at Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center in North Las Vegas, NV. Mrs. Braimoh's passion for helping the less fortunate and those who wish to build a better life for themselves is changing lives and improving our communities across the State of Nevada.

Small businesses truly are the driving force for development and growth not just in Nevada but across our entire Nation. Small businesses like Gwen's not only help our economy succeed, they also give back by uplifting our communities, inspiring others to

open businesses of their own and changing lives for the better.

Again, I would like to recognize Mrs. Gwen Braimoh and all the employees at Expertise Cosmetology Institute for their contribution to Nevada and our Nation and congratulate them for being named the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee's Small Business of the Week.●

RECOGNIZING RETHREADED

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our economy. It is my privilege to honor a Florida small business that not only produces outstanding products but also assists survivors of human trafficking by providing dignified work and a second chance at life. This week, it is my pleasure to recognize Rethreaded of Jacksonville, FL as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Rethreaded was established in 2011 following founder Kristin Keen's return from India where she worked with victims of human trafficking. Realizing that there was a need in her own community to provide opportunities to survivors, Kristin sought to create a safe haven where women could learn skills while also earning a living. Many Rethreaded employees are survivors of human trafficking, and since its launch, Rethreaded has employed 40 women. The company has raised awareness about the horrific realities of human trafficking in the immediate community and beyond as well.

Rethreaded sells conscious gifts and handcrafted accessories such as purses, scarves, and jewelry at its storefront in Jacksonville, as well as online. Their website not only provides nationwide customers access to their products, but it also serves as a platform from which they promote human rights issues that are foundational to Rethreaded's purpose.

Over the years, Rethreaded has partnered with more than 300 companies, including Southwest Airlines, which provides airline seat leather for various "upcycled" products such as keychains and earrings. Since the beginning of this partnership, Southwest has provided more than 5,400 pounds of leather to Rethreaded, saving 2.8 tons of waste from entering our Nation's landfills. This partnership provided national exposure, but it was not the first time Rethreaded has received acclaim. The company appeared on "Project Runway All Stars," an opportunity which gave their brand yet another chance to promote their mission. Additionally, Rethreaded has established relationships with numerous strategic partners, named Freedom Partners, which supply ready-made products from around the world. Selling these ready-made products in the Rethreaded storefront and online supports like-

minded enterprises that also strive to end human trafficking.

Rethreaded not only creates sustainable products for a good cause but also provides a supportive community for women who are in need of hope and healing. In addition to providing employment, Rethreaded has established programs to assist employees in the recovery process. Programs such as its warm-line telephone crisis support service, mental health group services, care management services, and individual counseling services target the unique challenges facing trauma victims.

Congratulations to Kristin and the entire team at Rethreaded on their 8 years of service. I commend their efforts to provide dignified employment and skills training to women in our community who have been impacted by human trafficking. Rethreaded is a great example of the positive impact social entrepreneurship ventures can have in our communities. I look forward to watching their continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 241. An act to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 281. An act to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require Federal Reserve banks to interview at least one individual reflective of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity when appointing Federal Reserve bank presidents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1690. An act to require carbon monoxide alarms or detectors in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2852. An act to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to require compliance with the existing appraiser education requirement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3620. An act to provide rental assistance to low-income tenants in certain multi-

family rural housing projects financed by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture, and to develop and implement a plan for preserving the affordability of rural rental housing, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, September 11, 2019, he has signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 831. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for and make determinations regarding roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 241. An act to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 281. An act to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require Federal Reserve banks to interview at least one individual reflective of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity when appointing Federal Reserve bank presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1690. An act to require carbon monoxide alarms or detectors in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2852. An act to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to require compliance with the existing appraiser education requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3620. An act to provide rental assistance to low-income tenants in certain multi-family rural housing projects financed by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture, and to develop and implement a plan for preserving the affordability of rural rental housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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-2482. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9998-21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2483. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alcohols, C2-33, Manuf. of By-products from, Overheads; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9998-

48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2484. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "C10-C16 Alkylbenzene Sulfonates; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9998-57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2485. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyraflufen-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9998-98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2486. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spinosad; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9995-90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2487. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred between 2011 and 2016 in the Environmental Programs and Management account and the Hazardous Substance Superfund account; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2488. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Availability of Department of the Navy Records and Publication of Department of the Navy Documents Affecting the Public" ((RIN0703-AA95) (32 CFR Part 701)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2489. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Trade Agreements'" ((RIN0750-AK53) (DFARS Case 2019-D016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2490. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Orders for Facilities and Services'" ((RIN0750-AK10) (DFARS Case 2019-D045)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2491. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Provision 'Award to Single Offeror'" ((RIN0750-AK61) (DFARS Case 2019-D024)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2492. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing

and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Cancellation or Termination of Orders'" ((RIN0750-AJ97) (DFARS Case 2019-D035)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2493. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Update to Performance Information System References" ((RIN0750-AK70) (DFARS Case 2019-D033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2494. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Clause 'Returnable Containers Other Than Cylinders'" ((RIN0750-AK62) (DFARS Case 2019-D025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2495. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Appendix A, Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, Part 1-Charter" (RIN0750-AK73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2496. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Release of Past Infringement'" ((RIN0750-AK49) (DFARS Case 2019-D012)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2497. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Readjustment of Payments'" ((RIN0750-AK54) (DFARS Case 2019-D017)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2498. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Reporting and Payment of Royalties'" ((RIN0750-AK55) (DFARS Case 2019-D018)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2499. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2019-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2500. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management

Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2019-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2501. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2019-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2502. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nicaragua Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 582) received during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2503. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy on the Compliance Assistance Sandbox" (Docket No. CFPB-2018-0042) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2504. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy on No-Action Letters" (Docket No. CFPB-2018-0042) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2505. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy to Encourage Trial Disclosure Programs" (Docket No. CFPB-2018-0023) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2506. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Definition for General Service Lamps" ((RIN1904-AE26) (10 CFR Part 430)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2507. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; NC; Revision to I/M Program & Update to Charlotte Maintenance Plan for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 9999-55-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2508. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Infrastructure for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Repeal of State Regulations for Total Suspended Particulate" (FRL No. 9998-72-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in

the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2509. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Amendments to the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Non-Assembly Line Coating Operations” (FRL No. 9999-41-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2510. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 9999-67-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2511. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to Administrative Rules of Montana” (FRL No. 9999-32-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2512. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; East Helena Lead Nonattainment Area Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request” (FRL No. 9999-28-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2513. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Approval of Regional Haze State Implementation Plan Revision for Electric Generating Units in Arkansas” (FRL No. 9998-66-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2514. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Colorado; Regional Haze 5-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan” (FRL No. 9999-34-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2515. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Utah; Interstate Transport Requirements for Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulfur

Dioxide, and Fine Particulate Matter” (FRL No. 9999-15-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2516. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Albuquerque-Bernalillo County; Municipal Solid Waste Landfills” (FRL No. 9998-59-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2517. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Montana; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for East Helena SO₂ Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 9999-29-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2518. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “South Dakota; Proposed Approval of Revisions to the State Air Pollution Control Rules and to the Permitting Rules for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration” (FRL No. 9999-16-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2519. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reconsideration of the Area Designation for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Williamson County, Illinois” (FRL No. 9999-60-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2520. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances” ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9999-26)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2521. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (17-3)” ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9998-12)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2522. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress of Unclosed Grants and Cooperative Agreement Awards for Which the Period of Performance Has Been Expired More Than Two Years Calendar Year 2018 Reporting Period”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2523. A communication from the Director of External Affairs, Federal Retirement

Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additional Withdrawal Options” (5 CFR Parts 1650 and 1651) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2524. A communication from the Secretary of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of 5.56mm automatic rifles and parts to Thailand for end use by the Royal Thai Army in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTT 19-030); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2525. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Revisions to Administrative Match Requirement” (RIN0584-AE74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2526. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Increase of the Annual Limit on Accepted Requests for Track I Prioritized Examination” (RIN0651-AD39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2527. 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; Illinois River, Mile Marker 162 to 166, Peoria, IL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0729)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2528. 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; Fireworks Display, Delaware River, Chester, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0690)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2529. 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; Sabine River, Orange, TX” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0376)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2530. 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; Bahia De San Juan, San Juan, PR” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0729)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2531. 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; Ohio River, Portsmouth, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0552)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2532. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; Los Angeles Fleet Week, San Pedro, California” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0589)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2533. 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; Los Angeles Fleet Week, San Pedro, California” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0590)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2534. 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; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Lafitte, LA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0718)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2535. 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; Tennessee River, Kentucky Dam Marina Fireworks, Gilbertsville, KY” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0662)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2536. 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; Ohio River, Newburgh, IN” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0591)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2537. 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; Delaware River, Baker Range, DE and NJ” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0238)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2538. 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; Ohio River, Point Pleasant, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0665)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2539. 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; Delaware Bay, Lewes, DE to Cape May, NJ” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0542)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2540. 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; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0694)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2541. 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; Homewood Wedding Fireworks Display, Lake Tahoe, Homewood, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0603)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2542. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0643)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2543. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulations; Upper Mississippi River, 839.5 to 840.5 St. Paul, MN” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0437)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2544. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bronx River, Bronx, NY” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0442)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2545. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0627)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2546. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Endicott, NY; Correction” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0347)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2547. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1012)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2548. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0322)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2549. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0608)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2550. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0187)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-132. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the Department of Health and Human Services to rescind the new Title X regulations that will impede access to essential, time-sensitive health care for low-income individuals across California and the nation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, The federal Title X family planning program was established in 1970 by the United States Congress with broad bipartisan support to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive care to low-income and uninsured individuals who may otherwise lack access to health care; and

Whereas, Title X is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning services, including birth control, pregnancy testing, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases; and

Whereas, Title X supports outreach and education efforts that link community members to care; and

Whereas, California's Title X provider network, which is the largest and most diverse Title X system in the nation, served more than one million low-income Californians in 2017 and over 25 percent of all Title X patients nationwide; and

Whereas, Every \$1 invested in publicly funded family planning and related services saves taxpayers \$7 by helping avert costs related to unintended pregnancies; and

Whereas, One billion three hundred thousand dollars is saved annually in California because of public investment in family planning and related services provided at Title X health care centers across the state; and

Whereas, Services provided by clinics that received Title X funding in California helped patients avert over 200,000 unintended pregnancies in 2015; and

Whereas, Title X is an essential part of California's family planning safety net and has played a critical role in reducing unintended pregnancy rates to a 30-year low; and

Whereas, The new federal Title X regulations interfere with the provider-patient relationship and gag Title X funded agencies by directing providers to withhold full and accurate medical information from patients about pregnancy options or by prohibiting providers from giving patients referrals for abortion care; and

Whereas, Patients rely on and trust their health care providers to provide a comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased evaluation of their condition, along with all available treatment options; and

Whereas, The American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics establishes that withholding information without the patient's knowledge or consent is ethically unacceptable and that patients should be informed of all burdens, risks, and expected benefits of all medical options; and

Whereas, The State of California strongly believes public dollars should go toward family planning programs that provide comprehensive, medically accurate, unbiased information, and offer the full range of contraceptive methods; and

Whereas, The federal government's harmful Title X regulations are likely to force many health care organizations and qualified family planning providers in California to choose between a critical funding source and accepting onerous and unnecessary regulations, resulting in reduced access to quality, time-sensitive care for low-income individuals across the state: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the United States Department of Health and Human Services to rescind the new Title X regulations that will impede access to essential, time-sensitive health care for low-income individuals across California and the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-133. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Mississippi urging the United States Congress, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a Convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States limited to the purposes of imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government and limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 596

Whereas, the Founders of the United States Constitution empowered state legisla-

tors to be guardians of liberty against excessive use of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to operate under a proper interpretation of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the United States Constitution through a Convention of the States under Article V for the purpose of restraining these and related abuses of power; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Mississippi, the House of Representatives Concurring Therein:

SECTION 1. That pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi joins in the applications of the States of Georgia (SR 736, 2014), Florida (SM 476, 2014), Alaska (HJR 22, 2014), Alabama (HJR 112, 2015), Tennessee (SJR 67, 2016), Indiana (SJR 14, 2016), Oklahoma (SJR 4, 2016), Louisiana (SCR 52, 2016), Texas (SJR 2, 2017), Missouri (SCR 4, 2017), North Dakota (HCR 3006, 2017), Arizona (HCR 2010, 2017), and Arkansas (SJR 3, 2019) to call a Convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States limited to the purposes stated in those applications; provided, however, that the commissioners from Mississippi to the Convention are expressly limited to consideration and support of amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, and amendments that limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and no amendments on any other topic whatsoever. The Mississippi delegates are hereby instructed not to support term limits for members of Congress.

SECTION 2. It is the express intention of the Mississippi Legislature that this application is to be aggregated with the applications of the above-mentioned states and with subsequent applications of other states limited to the purposes identified in this application and in those applications of the above-mentioned states.

SECTION 3. The Legislature of Mississippi adopts this application expressly subject to the following reservations, understandings and declarations:

(a) An application to the Congress of the United States to call an Amendment Convention of the States pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution confers no power to Congress other than the power to call such a Convention. The power of Congress to exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the authority to name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a Convention;

(b) Congress shall perform its ministerial duty of calling an Amendment Convention of the States only upon the receipt of applications for an Amendment Convention for the substantially same purpose as this application from two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states;

(c) Congress does not have the power or authority to determine any rules for the governing of a Convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. Congress does not have the power to set the number of delegates to be sent by any state to such a Convention, nor does it have the power to name

delegates to such a Convention. The power to name delegates remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the several states;

(d) By definition, an Amendment Convention of the states means that states shall vote on the basis of one state, one vote;

(e) A Convention for proposing amendments convened pursuant to this application shall be limited to consideration of the topics specified herein and no other. This application is made with the express understanding that an amendment that in any way seeks to amend, modify or repeal any provision of the Bill of Rights shall not be authorized for consideration at any stage. This application shall be void if ever used at any stage to consider any change to any provision of the Bill of Rights;

(f) Pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, Congress may determine whether proposed amendments shall be ratified by the legislatures of the several states or by special state ratification conventions. The Legislature of Mississippi recommends that Congress select ratification by the legislatures of the several states; and

(g) The Legislature of Mississippi may provide further instructions to its delegates and may recall its delegates at any time for a breach of a duty or a violation of the instructions provided.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and copies to the members of the said Senate and House of Representatives from this state; also to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation.

SECTION 5. This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject, or until the Mississippi Legislature acts to withdraw this application.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 1345, a bill to amend and reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (Rept. No. 116-101).

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. RUBIO:

S. 2460. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to modify a provision relating to acquisition of beach fill; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2461. A bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2462. A bill to help reduce household energy burdens by expanding access to solar

energy for low-income households; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. COONS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SMITH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2463. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for regulation and taxation of electronic cigarettes and alternative nicotine products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2464. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide injunctive relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2465. A bill to amend the law certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2466. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for safe and secure water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. MERKLEY)):

S. 2467. A bill to establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved urban communities and rural communities to green spaces; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2468. A bill to require employers to provide training to employees whose jobs are in danger of being changed or replaced due to technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 308. A resolution calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 348

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 506

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1413

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1413, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish an initiative on improving the capacity of military criminal investigative organizations to prevent child sexual exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1564

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1564, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agen-

cies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. 1754

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to provide Medicaid assistance to individuals and families affected by a disaster or emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 1784

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1784, a bill to provide for the issuance of a Stamp Out Elder Abuse Semipostal Stamp.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) 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.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1840

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to establish certain requirements for the small refineries exemption of the renewable fuels provisions under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1846

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1846, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2242

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2242, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Presidential campaigns to detect and report such acts.

S. 2459

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2459, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of certain disputes arising from claims of servicemembers and veterans.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 308—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OR TO RELEASE UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL WHELAN

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 308

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and continues to be held there more than eight months after his arrest;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court has extended Paul Whelan's pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas officials from the United States Embassy in Moscow have routinely had their topics of discussion with Paul Whelan severely limited by the Federal Security Service;

Whereas even Paul Whelan's Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas the United States Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of

Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.";

Whereas Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to present credible evidence on the allegations against Paul Whelan or immediately release him from detention;

(2) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains in detention;

(3) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to ensure Paul Whelan is afforded due process and universally recognized human rights;

(4) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to continue to press the Government of the Russian Federation at every opportunity and urge the Government of the Russian Federation to guarantee a fair and transparent judicial process without undue delay in accordance with its international legal obligation; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to an end.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 1941, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 205, a bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 5 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10

a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Katherine Lemos to be Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Steven J. Menashi to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen S. Marston to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Richard E. Myers II to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Anuraag Singhal to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 99, S. 178.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to direct United States resources to address gross violations of universally recognized human rights, including the mass internment of over 1,000,000 Uyghurs and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in China and the intimidation and threats faced by United States citizens and legal permanent residents.

SEC. 3. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Bank-

ing, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China has a long history of repressing approximately 13,000,000 Turkic, moderate Sunni Muslims, particularly Uyghurs, in the nominally autonomous Xinjiang region. These actions are in contravention of international human rights standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(2) In recent decades, central and regional Chinese government policies have systematically discriminated against Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and other Muslims in Xinjiang by denying them a range of civil and political rights, including the freedoms of expression, religion, movement, and a fair trial, among others.

(3) Increased unrest in the Xinjiang region as a result of the central government's severe repression is used in Orwellian fashion by the Government of the People's Republic of China as evidence of “terrorism” and “separatism” and as an excuse for further disproportionate response.

(4) In 2014, Chinese authorities launched their latest “Strike Hard against Violent Extremism” campaign, in which the pretext of wide-scale, internationally linked threats of terrorism were used to justify pervasive restrictions on, and gross human rights violations against, the ethnic minority communities of Xinjiang.

(5) Those policies included—

(A) pervasive, high-tech surveillance across the region, including the arbitrary collection of biometric data, such as DNA samples from children, without their knowledge or consent;

(B) the use of QR codes outside homes to gather information on how frequently individuals pray;

(C) facial and voice recognition software and “predictive policing” databases; and

(D) severe restrictions on the freedom of movement across the region.

(6) Chinese security forces have never been held accountable for credible reports of mass shootings in Alaogha (2014), Hanerik (2013), and Sirigbuya (2013), as well as the extrajudicial killings of Abdulbasit Ablimit (2013) and Rozi Osman (2014).

(7)(A) The August 2016 transfer of former Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Chen Quanguo to become the Xinjiang Party Secretary prompted an acceleration in the crackdown across the region.

(B) Local officials in Xinjiang have used chilling political rhetoric to describe the purpose of government policy, including “eradicating tumors” and “spray[ing] chemicals” on crops to kill the “weeds”.

(C) Uyghurs are forced to celebrate Chinese cultural traditions, such as Chinese New Year, and unique Uyghur culture is facing eradication due to state control over Uyghur cultural heritage, such as muqam (a musical tradition) and meshrep (traditional cultural gatherings), and due to elimination of the Uyghur language as a medium of instruction in Xinjiang schools and universities.

(8) In 2017, credible reports found that family members of Uyghurs living outside of China had gone missing inside China, that Chinese authorities were pressuring those outside the country to return, and that individuals were being arbitrarily detained in large numbers.

(9) There is ample credible evidence provided by scholars, human rights organizations, jour-

nalists, and think tanks substantiating the establishment by Chinese authorities of “political reeducation” camps.

(10) Independent organizations conducted interviews, including testimonies from Kayrat Samarkan, Omir Bekali, and Mihrigul Tursun, along with others who had been detained in such facilities, who described forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, food deprivation, and solitary confinement, as well as uncertainty as to the length of detention, humiliation, and denial of religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms, and confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty. Poor conditions and lack of medical treatment at such facilities appear to have contributed to the deaths of some detainees, including the elderly and infirm. Uyghurs Muhammed Salih Hajim (2018), Yaqubjan Naman (2018), Abdughappar Abdujappar (2018), Ayhan Memet (2018), Abdulreshit Seley Hajim (2018), Nurimangul Memet (2018), Adalet Teyip (2018), Abdulehed Mehsun (2017), Hesen Imin (2017), and Sawut Razman (2017) reportedly died while in the custody of the Chinese authorities in “political reeducation” camps, without proper investigation of the circumstances.

(11) Uyghurs and Kazakhs, who have now obtained permanent residence or citizenship in other countries, attest to receiving threats and harassment from Chinese officials.

(12) Under pressure from the Government of the People's Republic of China, countries have forcibly returned Uyghurs to China in violation of the non-refoulement principle and their well-founded fear of persecution. States returning Uyghurs include Egypt, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and India.

(13) Six journalists for Radio Free Asia's Uyghur service have publicly detailed abuses their family members in Xinjiang have endured in response to their work exposing abusive policies across the region.

(14) Several United States-based companies are conducting business with Xinjiang authorities without sufficient due diligence or safeguards to ensure their business operations do not create or contribute to human rights violations.

(15) The Government of the People's Republic of China is increasingly investing in the “Belt and Road Initiative” across Xinjiang and throughout Central Asia, extending its influence through organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization without regard to the political, religious, cultural, or linguistic rights of ethnic minorities.

(16) The Secretary of State, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and individual members of the executive branch and Congress have all expressed growing concern regarding the pervasive human rights abuses across Xinjiang and the “political reeducation” camps.

(17) In August 2018, the United Nations Committee to Eliminate Racial Discrimination challenged the Government of the People's Republic of China over abuses in Xinjiang, including the establishment of mass arbitrary detention camps.

(18) Between August and September 2018, Chinese authorities responded to these allegations by either flatly denying them or insisting that the facilities are “vocational training centers”.

(19) In September 2018, newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet noted in her first speech as High Commissioner the “deeply disturbing allegations of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uyghurs and other Muslim communities, in so-called re-education camps across Xinjiang”.

(20) On September 18, 2018, the Washington Post editorial board wrote, “At stake is not just the welfare of the Uyghurs, but also whether the

technologies of the 21st century will be employed to smother human freedom.”

(21) In December 2018 testimony before the Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Scott Busby testified that the number of those detained in camps since April 2017 was “at least 800,000 and possibly more than 2 million”.

(22) In December 2018, independent media reports pointed to growing evidence of forced labor in the camps, as well as reports of individuals who have been released from camps being forced to labor in nearby factories for low wages under threat of being sent back to “political reeducation” camps.

(23) In December 2018 and January 2019, Chinese officials organized visits to “political reeducation” camps in Xinjiang for a small group of foreign journalists and diplomats from 12 non-Western countries. In the months preceding the visits, international media reported that officials worked to remove security features from some “political reeducation” facilities, and coached detainees and area residents not to make negative comments about the camps. Reports also indicated that officials had transferred large numbers of detainees to detention facilities in other parts of China.

(24) Experts have described the Xinjiang region as “a police state to rival North Korea, with a formalized racism on the order of South African apartheid” and the repression in the Xinjiang region as a “slow motion Tiananmen”.

(25) On December 31, 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 105-409), which condemned China’s “forced disappearances, extralegal detentions, invasive and omnipresent surveillance, and lack of due process in judicial proceedings,” authorized funding to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in China, and supported sanctions designations against any entity or individual that—

(A) violates human rights or religious freedoms; or

(B) engages in censorship activities.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should condemn abuses against Turkic Muslims by Chinese authorities in Xinjiang and call on Chinese President Xi Jinping to recognize the profound abuse and likely lasting damage of China’s current policies, and immediately close the “political reeducation” camps, lift all restrictions on and ensure respect for internationally guaranteed human rights across the region, and allow for reestablishment of contact between those inside and outside China;

(2) the United States Government should develop a strategy to support the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and numerous United Nations Special Rapporteurs’ urgent calls for immediate and unfettered access to Xinjiang, including the “political reeducation” camps, and instruct representatives of the United States at the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to condemn the mass arbitrary detainment, torture, and forced labor of Turkic Muslims in the People’s Republic of China;

(3) the Secretary of State should consider the applicability of existing authorities, including the Global Magnitsky Act (subtitle F of Public Law 114-328), to impose targeted sanctions on members of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and state security apparatus, including Xinjiang Party Secretary Chen Quanguo and other officials credibly alleged to be responsible for human rights abuses in Xinjiang and elsewhere;

(4) the Secretary of State should fully implement the provisions of the Frank Wolf Inter-

national Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281) and consider strategically employing sanctions and other tools under the International Religious Freedom Act (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) and to employ measures required as part of the “Country of Particular Concern” (CPC) designation for the Government of the People’s Republic of China that directly address particularly severe violations of religious freedom;

(5) the Secretary of Commerce should review and consider prohibiting the sale or provision of any United States-made goods or services to any state agent in Xinjiang, and adding the Xinjiang branch of the Chinese Communist Party, the Xinjiang Public Security Bureau, and the Xinjiang Office of the United Front Work Department, or any entity acting on their behalf to facilitate the mass internment or forced labor of Turkic Muslims, to the “Entity List” administered by the Department of Commerce;

(6) United States companies and individuals selling goods or services or otherwise operating in Xinjiang should take steps, including in any public or financial filings, to publicly assert that their commercial activities are not contributing to human rights violations in Xinjiang or elsewhere in China and that their supply chains are not compromised by forced labor;

(7) the Federal Bureau of Investigation and appropriate United States law enforcement entities should track and take steps to hold accountable officials from China who harass, threaten, or intimidate not only United States citizens and legal permanent residents, including Turkic Muslims, Uyghur-Americans, and Chinese-Americans, but also Chinese nationals legally studying or working in the United States;

(8) the Secretary of State should work with traditional United States allies and partners to take similar steps and coordinate closely on targeted sanctions and visa restrictions;

(9) the Secretary of State should appoint a United States Special Coordinator for Xinjiang, from officers and employees of the Department of State, who will coordinate diplomatic, political, public diplomacy, financial assistance, sanctions, counterterrorism, security resources, and congressional reporting requirements within the United States Government to respond to the gross violations of universally recognized human rights occurring in the Xinjiang region, including by addressing—

(A) the mass detentions of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities;

(B) the deployment of technologically advanced surveillance and police detection methods; and

(C) the counterterrorism and counter-radicalism claims used to justify the policies of the Government of the People’s Republic of China in Xinjiang;

(10) the United States Special Coordinator for Xinjiang position should continue until the mass surveillance and internment of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities has ended and all detainees released; and

(11) the full and timely implementation of sections 408, 409, and 410 of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409) is critical to demonstrating unwavering support by the United States for the universally recognized human rights of all ethnic, cultural, and religious minorities in China, including Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL SECURITY REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a report to assess national and regional security threats posed by the crackdown across Xinjiang, the frequency with which Central and Southeast Asian governments are forcibly returning Turkic Muslim refugees and asylum seekers, and

the transfer or development of technology used by the Government of the People’s Republic of China that facilitates the mass internment and surveillance of Turkic Muslims, including technology relating to predictive policing and large-scale data collection and analysis.

(b) ANNEX.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an unclassified annex with a list of all Chinese companies involved in the construction or operation of the “political education” camps, and the provision or operation of surveillance technology or operations, across Xinjiang.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 7. PROTECTING CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM INTIMIDATION AND COERCION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall provide a report to the appropriate congressional committees that outlines any and all efforts to provide information to and protect United States citizens and residents, including ethnic Uyghurs and Chinese nationals legally studying or working temporarily in the United States, who have experienced harassment or intimidation by officials or agents of the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Communist Party within the United States and those whose families in China have experienced threats or detention because of their work or advocacy.

(b) DATABASE OF DETAINED FAMILY MEMBERS OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS.—The Secretary of State should explore appropriate mechanisms to establish a voluntary database to which United States citizens or permanent resident family members of the Uyghur diaspora can provide details about missing family members, with a view towards pressing for information and accountability from the Government of the People’s Republic of China and to take appropriate measures to expedite the asylum claims of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other Turkic Muslim minorities.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the CEO of the United States Agency for Global Media shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the current status and reach of United States broadcasting to the Xinjiang region and Uyghur speaking communities globally, barriers to the free flow of news and information to these communities, and, if appropriate, detailed technical and fiscal requirements necessary to increase broadcasting and other media to these communities globally;

(2) describes efforts to intimidate Radio Free Asia and Voice of America reporters reporting on human rights issues in the People’s Republic of China; and

(3) in consultation with the Global Engagement Center at the Department of State, describes and assesses disinformation and propaganda by the Government of the People’s Republic of China or other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization targeting Uyghur communities globally and efforts to downplay gross violations of universally recognized human rights occurring in the Xinjiang region and any activities or programs that address these efforts.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to commend and support the journalists of the Uyghur language service of Radio Free Asia for their reporting on the human rights and political situation in Xinjiang despite efforts to silence or intimidate their reporting through the detention of family members and relatives by the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

SEC. 9. REPORT AND SEMI-ANNUAL BRIEFING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, after consulting relevant Federal agencies and civil society organizations, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make available on the website of the Department of State an interagency report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the number of individuals detained in political “reeducation camps” and conditions in the camps for detainees in the Xinjiang region, including whether detainees endure torture, forced renunciation of faith, or other mistreatment;

(2) a description, as possible, of the geographic location of the camps and estimates of the number of people detained in such facilities;

(3) a description, as possible, of the methods used by People’s Republic of China authorities to “reeducate” Uyghur detainees, as well as the People’s Republic of China agencies in charge of reeducation;

(4) an assessment of the number of individuals being arbitrarily detained, including in pretrial detention centers and prisons;

(5) an assessment of forced labor in the camps and in regional factories for low wages under threat of being sent back to “political reeducation” camps;

(6) a list of Chinese companies and industries benefitting from such labor, and a description of actions taken to address forced labor in Xinjiang concurrent with the People’s Republic of China’s Tier 3 designation under the 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report;

(7) an assessment of the level of access People’s Republic of China authorities grant to diplomats, journalists, and others to the Xinjiang region and a description of measures used to impede efforts to monitor human rights conditions in the Xinjiang region;

(8) an assessment of the repressive surveillance, detection, and control methods used by People’s Republic of China authorities in the Xinjiang region, and a list of individuals who hold senior leadership positions and are responsible for “high-tech” policing, mass incarceration, and reeducation efforts targeting Uyghur and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region;

(9) a description of United States diplomatic efforts to address the gross violations of universally recognized human rights in the Xinjiang region and to protect asylum seekers from the region, including in multilateral institutions and through bilateral relations with the People’s Republic of China, the nations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and other countries; and

(10) a description, as appropriate, of diplomatic efforts by United States allies and other nations to address the gross violations of universally recognized human rights in the Xinjiang region and to protect asylum seekers from the region.

(b) **BRIEFING AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.**—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary’s designee, shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees covering the subjects listed in subsection (a). At the time of each briefing, the Department of State shall provide unclassified written materials detailing the subject matters covered in paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (6), and (9) of such subsection.

(2) **TERMINATION.**—The briefing requirement under paragraph (1) terminates 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10. REPORT ON SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE XINJIANG REGION OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

retary of State shall, except as provided in subsection (c), submit to Congress a report that includes a statement of whether the persons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria to be designated for the imposition of sanctions under section 1263 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–238; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) because the persons—

(1) are responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in the Xinjiang region of the People’s Republic of China; or

(2) materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, such violations.

(b) **PERSONS DESCRIBED.**—The persons described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Party Secretary for Xinjiang region of the People’s Republic of China, Chen Quanguo.

(2) Senior full or alternate members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China whose professional responsibilities relate to the governmental administration of the Xinjiang region, or who have conducted business with government entities in the Xinjiang region.

(c) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary shall not be required to submit a report under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, that the Government of the People’s Republic of China allows independent, unrestricted, and unsupervised access to the Xinjiang region for international human rights organizations.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 178), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 267.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 267) recognizing the September 11th National Memorial Trail as an important trail and greenway all individuals should enjoy in honor of the heroes of September 11th.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 267) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 27, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, September 12; 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 Bowman nomination under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EUGENE SCALIA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 11, 2019:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEPHEN AKARD, OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

THE JUDICIARY

STEPHANIE L. HAINES, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

DALE CABANISS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JAMES BYRNE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

THE JUDICIARY

ADA E. BROWN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS. STEVEN D. GRIMBERG, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

MARY S. MCELROY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND.

STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

STEVEN C. SEEGER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.