



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

No. 146

Senate

The Senate met at 10 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.

Holy God, Your goodness extends to all generations. Thank You that You can be found by all who truly seek You. You are our God, and we trust Your love, wisdom, and power.

Lord, guide our Senators to protect our goodly heritage of freedom, using them to defend our Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Please, God, hear our fervent prayers, for You are our refuge and strength.

Cause us to live now as we shall wish we had done when our time comes to die.

We pray in Your great 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. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 90 seconds.

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

CENTRAL COLLEGE TUITION REDUCTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have two points I would like to make. I have three bills designed to help students better understand the actual cost of college because it is kind of a complicated thing to determine because there is not enough transparency.

Colleges tend to think that having a high tuition is a reflection of quality, which just means that they all have to offer more scholarships. Between that and the complexity of Federal student aid, price shopping for college is very difficult and some people might think impossible. That is why I was glad to learn that one of Iowa's well-respected private colleges, Central College in Pella, IA, has lowered its tuition from \$38,600 a year to \$18,600 to better reflect the actual cost. Yes, that is right—they reduced their college tuition by \$20,000 a year. Maybe Pella Central College will start a trend.

REMEMBERING CHUCK GEERTZ

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, on another point, Iowans, and particularly veterans, mourn the loss of Chuck Geertz of Muscatine. Sergeant First Class Geertz was an Active-Duty servicemember for 23 years but continued to serve his Nation after his retirement in 2009, and this is how he did it: through establishing an organization in 2008 called Healing at English River Outfitters or, as he established the acronym, HERO. That organization does great good. It provides veterans and their families with relaxing outdoor activities for physical and mental healing.

Chuck is remembered for his caring spirit and dedication to his community and, most important, his fellow veterans. While he will be missed, his legacy of community service will continue.

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

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

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 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)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, it was a good August. While I head back to South Dakota almost every weekend, August gives me the chance to spend multiple uninterrupted weeks back home visiting with South Dakotans and traveling to the far corners of the State.

August is also fair season in South Dakota, and there is nothing better than a South Dakota fair. This year I got to attend the South Dakota State Fair, the Brown County Fair, the Sioux Empire Fair, the Turner County Fair, and the McCook County Fair, to name a few on the list. As usual, I had a great time at all of them. Of course, the people are the best part of the fair, although I have to say that the fair food is not far behind. I am still enjoying at this late date the Tubby Burger

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



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that I had at the Brown County Fair, and I will tell you that they don't have burgers like that here in Washington, DC.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of South Dakota, and, as always, a lot of my conversations over August were centered on agriculture. Farmers and ranchers have had a very rough few years, and addressing the needs of our agriculture community is one of my top priorities in Congress.

One big concern for our producers is ethanol and biodiesel. While we received some good news this year with the approval of year-round E15 sales, the ethanol industry is still facing significant challenges owing to the excess of small refinery waivers that have been issued—an issue we continue to try to address.

Perhaps the biggest concern for our farmers right now is trade. Multiple protracted trade disputes have exacerbated an already struggling ag economy and have left farmers and ranchers unsure how markets are going to be going forward.

While ranchers received some good news in August with the announcement that the administration has reached a deal to increase U.S. beef sales to Europe, that is just a tiny fraction of what we need to be doing trade-wise. Each time I speak with the President and his administration, I tell them what South Dakota farmers have told me: We need to conclude negotiations on the various trade deals we are working on as soon as possible to open new markets and to expand existing ones and to give agricultural producers certainty about what the playing field is going to look like going forward.

One of my priorities right now is pushing for passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada free-trade agreement. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement will preserve farmers' access to two of our Nation's most significant agricultural export markets—Canada and Mexico—and substantially expand market access for U.S. dairy products in Canada. Negotiations on this agreement have already been concluded. We need Democrats in the House to indicate their willingness to take it up and pass it.

August is always a great time to share with South Dakotans what I am working on in Washington and to get their feedback, which is why I am glad I had the opportunity to host several townhall meetings across the State, toured numerous local businesses, and visited nearly every corner of South Dakota.

As South Dakotans know, I am a longtime member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. I served as chairman of the committee in the last Congress, and I currently chair the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet. This has given me the chance to address a number of issues facing Americans and South Dakotans, from the

frustration of illegal robocalls to the data privacy concerns we all face in the internet age. It has also given me the chance to focus on digital issues that affect rural States like South Dakota, particularly the lack of high-speed internet access in rural areas.

To residents of large cities, being without access to high-speed internet is unthinkable, but for families in rural areas, which lack the telecommunications infrastructure of cities and suburbs, even basic internet access can sometimes be a struggle. Broadband access is frequently just a dream, and that has real consequences for these Americans.

It is not just a matter of being able to stream Netflix without interruption. In our digital economy, a lack of reliable, high-speed internet access means losing out on opportunities to grow your business, it means fewer educational opportunities, and it means fewer healthcare resources in areas that already lack easy access to specialty care services. Telehealth promises to reduce some of the geographic barriers to care for individuals in rural areas, but it depends largely on high-speed internet access. Then there is the rapidly developing field of precision agriculture. Precision agriculture, which uses tools like robotics and remote monitoring to help farmers manage their fields, promises to help farmers substantially increase their yields while reducing their costs. But, once again, it depends on reliable access to high-speed internet.

That is why I have made this issue such a priority. Nationwide, the digital divide is shrinking, as more and more Americans gain access to broadband. In South Dakota, we are ahead of the curb, thanks to people like Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken, who has worked aggressively to remove barriers to telecommunications investment in cities like Sioux Falls. I was very encouraged by the Federal Communications Commission's recent announcement that it will invest \$705 million over the next decade to bring broadband to rural areas in South Dakota that currently go without.

There is more work to be done, and I am committed to pushing this issue until reliable broadband access is standard in rural America. During the last week of the August break, I brought the Commerce Committee to Sioux Falls to conduct a field hearing on rural broadband. We brought an FCC Commissioner with us so that he could hear directly from South Dakotans who are on the frontlines of rural broadband expansion and leading the innovations that come along with it. It was a great hearing, and I am very encouraged by the progress we are making on this issue. I look forward to doing more work on this issue in the coming months.

I am energized by the time that I spent with South Dakotans during the August break, and I am looking forward to continuing to fight for South

Dakota's priorities here in Washington this fall.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDON PLACK

Madam President, before I close, I want to take a minute to recognize one of the people who has been instrumental in helping me serve South Dakotans throughout my time in the Senate.

This week, my whip office chief of staff, Brendon Plack, is leaving my office after 14 years. He has been with me during my entire time here in the Senate, from the very first month on the job, and it is difficult to imagine the office without him.

He started out at the bottom, as the guy who had to drive me to evening events so that I could squeeze in a little more work or a few more phone calls to South Dakota on the way. But he was always cheerful about it, and, even better, he drove well and never ran out of gas. It may not sound like a big deal, but having been subsequently stranded on the way to an event after running out of gas, I appreciate, as always, Brendon's preparedness.

Brendon soon moved up to legislative correspondent, then to legislative assistant, and then up from there to policy director, legislative director, staff director, and chief of staff. He has been an indispensable part of my team.

No job has ever been too big for Brendon, no task too hard. It doesn't matter how long the hours get. He is always willing to put in the work that needs to be done, and he stays cheerful through it all, lifting everyone else up with him.

He is a natural leader who is not only exceptionally talented himself but is great at spotting talent in others. He helped me to put together an outstanding team for the whip office and has helped me to maintain an outstanding team in my personal office.

In politics, as we all know, you meet people who are great at the nuts and bolts of policy and know every detail of an issue, and you meet people who aren't as focused on the details but have an ability to see the big picture and how what we are doing fits into our larger goals. You don't always meet people who can do both, but Brendon has always been able to get into the nuts and bolts of a policy and at the same time see the bigger picture.

One of the things I have appreciated most about Brendon is the fact that no matter what we are doing, South Dakota is at the forefront of his mind. As a native of Madison, SD, and the son of a farmer, Brendon has a keen insight into South Dakotans' priorities. Whether it is tax reform or energy legislation or agriculture, Brendon is always thinking about how we can serve South Dakota on the national stage. He has played a key role in so many of the things I have been able to get done for South Dakota here in Washington.

Now, I have described a pretty outstanding individual, but Brendon is not without his flaws. He is a longtime Vikings fan. Over the past 14 years, I

have tried hard to convince him that he should be rooting for the Green Bay Packers, but so far I haven't gotten anywhere.

Fortunately, our shared appreciation for the tuba has helped us to get over our major disagreements on football. Both Brendon and I are tuba players from way back, although I think he is a little more accomplished at the tuba than I am. I never made it beyond the high school marching band. Brendon went on to Augustana University in South Dakota on a music scholarship and played in the concert band. I just learned that he actually had lost his tuba scholarship—if you can believe this—to dedicate time to my first campaign.

As I said earlier, it is hard to think of my office without Brendon. He will be deeply missed, but I look forward to watching him excel in all his future endeavors. I know that he may enjoy having a little bit more time to spend with his wife Lindsay and his little ones, Timmy and Katie Lou. As we all know, days on the Hill can be very long.

If you ask Brendon how he got into politics, he will tell you about the meeting he attended in college where I was the guest speaker. That meeting, Brendon says, got him interested in politics for the first time. Shortly after, he applied to work on my first Senate campaign, and the rest, as they say, is history.

To hear Brendon tell it, attending that meeting was a lucky day for him, but I know it was an even luckier day for me and for the people of South Dakota.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, there are two possible paths when it comes to the appropriations process in Congress. There is a bipartisan path, where both parties work together in good faith to pass all 12 appropriations bills. Then there is the partisan path, where one party breaks faith with the other, and we end up traveling down a road of brinksmanship. Continuing resolutions become the order of the day, and the risk of a government shutdown increases.

We all know the bipartisan path is far preferable. It both avoids the possibility of another damaging government shutdown, and when we legislate the appropriations bills, we can intelligently allocate our resources for the

future. Continuing resolutions, on the other hand, are blunt objects that simply recycle last year's priorities. It hurts our military; it hurts the middle class; and it hurts the American people.

We are at an important crossroads between those two passes right now. After successfully negotiating the broad outlines of a budget deal earlier this year, we must now agree on the allocations to the 12 appropriations subcommittees. These are known as the 302(b) allocations. This process was completely bipartisan in 2018; these allocations passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously 31 to 0.

This year, the Republican majority, without consulting with Democrats, has proposed taking away \$12 billion from urgent domestic priorities and from urgent military priorities and wasting it—wasting it on President Trump's ineffective and expensive border wall. This is the very wall President Trump promised over and over again that Mexico would pay for when he ran for office and garnered support for it from his constituency.

No Republican—certainly not the Republican leader who knows this place well—could seriously believe Democrats would agree to that: \$12 billion for the wall, stolen from healthcare programs to fight opioid addiction and encourage cancer research, stolen from military families? No Republican could expect Democrats to support that, nor should they. It is terrible policy.

This morning, in the appropriations markup, every single Republican on the committee, including Leader MCCONNELL, voted to move forward on this idea. Republican Senators who oppose the President's emergency declaration voted for it; Republican Senators whose States would lose tens of millions of dollars in military funding voted for it. This is the clearest indication yet that Republicans may well be abandoning a bipartisan appropriations process. They would do so at their peril, as well as the peril of the Nation.

Republicans have started off here on the wrong foot, repeating the exact same mistakes they made at the end of 2018, which resulted in the longest government shutdown in American history—a shutdown that President Trump and Republicans rightly shouldered the blame for.

There is only one bit of good news in this maneuver. There is still time for Republicans to reverse course. The Republican majority should sit down with Democrats on the committee and start over on the 302(b) allocations, figure out an order to bring each bill to the floor, and get a bipartisan process back on track. That is how we Democrats want to do it. That is how we have always gotten appropriations bills done. No one wants to resort to a continuing resolution or, God forbid, another Republican, Donald Trump-inspired government shutdown, but it takes two to tango.

My Republican colleagues must know that what happens in the next few days

and weeks will determine whether we can proceed with a bipartisan appropriations process this fall or not.

I urge Leader MCCONNELL and every single Republican to reverse course—it is certainly not too late—and work with us and get it done. I spoke to Leader MCCONNELL yesterday right here in the well and suggested just that. He seemed open to it. Let's hope our request is heard.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. President, on guns, yesterday, in an open letter to the Senate, the leaders of 145 companies—some of the most recognizable in our country—added their voices to the millions of Americans who want action on gun violence. Here are the words of these corporate leaders, hardly leftwing radicals: "Doing nothing about America's gun violence crisis is simply unacceptable . . . the Senate must follow the House's lead by passing bipartisan legislation that would update the background checks law, helping to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them."

They are correct, and the people who shouldn't have them, almost no one thinks they should. Should felons have guns? Should spousal abusers have guns? Should people adjudicated mentally ill have guns? Yet the enormous loopholes in the law allow them to have guns. Forty percent of the guns sold in America now are sold without background checks because they are sold either online or at gun shows.

These corporate leaders are exactly right. They are not asking for anything radical. They are asking for something that 93 percent of the American people support.

When it comes to gun safety legislation, no policy is a better starting point than universal background checks. We are certainly open to debating the finer points of legislation with our Republican colleagues, but we certainly will not settle for anything less than meaningful action to address gun violence. We know meaningful action begins with closing the loopholes in our background check system so guns don't fall into the wrong hands in the first place.

After saying the issue of gun safety would be front and center when Congress returned, Leader MCCONNELL has given no indication of when the Senate might have a debate. Instead, he has suggested it is up to the White House—a mercurial, inconsistent White House—to determine what, if any, legislation reaches the floor. Meanwhile, after Republicans met with President Trump at the White House this week, a few said President Trump was liable to let Congress take the lead.

Well, Leader MCCONNELL, President Trump, Republican Senators, it is the old Abbott and Costello routine again. They are going like this: Congressional Republicans point at the White House, the White House points at congressional Republicans, and nothing gets done.

We know why nothing gets done. The public overwhelmingly—the vast majority of Americans, the vast majority of Republicans, the vast majority of gun owners, the majority of NRA members—want to close the loopholes, but the NRA has our Republican colleagues quaking in their boots, and they almost always bow down in obeisance to the NRA. The NRA says: Let us look at the legislation. Then it is so weakened, it virtually does nothing. That is not going to happen this time.

We need a vote on H.R. 8—modest, bipartisan, universal background check legislation. Our Republican colleagues should realize this game they are playing of Pennsylvania Avenue hot potato has become a shopworn strategy to delay and kick responsibility around so Republicans can avoid addressing the tough issue—the issue the American people sent us here to take on.

When Leader MCCONNELL says he is just going to do what President Trump wants—how unreliable. President Trump has been all over the lot on gun safety, with no real results in the 2½ years he has been in office. What lack of leadership. Let's just do it. The public wants us to do it.

What is different this time, my colleagues on the Republican side, is the public is so strongly on the side of what we want to do—closing the loopholes—that people will begin to pay a political price for not doing it. It used to be the equation was the other way, a small, dedicated core of advocates, quite extreme, on the pro-gun side had more weight than the vast majority of the American people who cared about this issue but didn't make it high up on their list. What has changed is this: It is one of the most important issues in the country. That is not I saying it; that is what the average citizen is saying.

The idea now of bowing down to the NRA, of not doing anything they don't want you to do is a political loser. I urge my Republican colleagues, for the sake of our country, for the sake of lives, to change their minds and behave differently.

The fact of the matter is this: The issue of gun violence is not going away, and the American people are not going to settle for half measures or half-baked solutions that the NRA crafts.

While we continue to press the White House to make its position public, we urge Leader MCCONNELL to do something very simple: Let us debate H.R. 8, the bipartisan, House-passed universal background checks bill on the floor ASAP.

CHINA

Mr. President, on China, a report in the Wall Street Journal this morning describes how China will seek to narrow the scope of ongoing negotiations with the United States, hoping to focus on trade alone, leaving national security issues for a separate conversation. Of course, in many cases, these two issues are intertwined and indissoluble. Of course, China and the United States

will invariably disagree about which issue is a trade issue and which issue is a national security issue.

Regardless, this transparent attempt by China to dodge a conversation about its predatory actions against American companies should not stand. China has stolen an entire generation of innovation from the United States. Of course they don't want to talk about this topic, and of course they want to defer this conversation to a day in the future that will never come.

Make no mistake about it, what the Chinese are doing is another effort to protect Huawei and similarly large Chinese corporations from further action in the United States. They don't let our best and biggest corporations sell goods in China. Why should we let them sell goods here, particularly when there is a national security risk as there is in Huawei? My late father-in-law, a New York City cabdriver, used colorful language. He said: Do you know what? When it comes to China, we are not Uncle Sam; we are Uncle Sack. Let's stop that already.

President Trump has shown some strength in this issue, but then he also often backs off. We have to be tough on Huawei—very tough on Huawei. That is the best way to teach China that they can't sell whatever they want here in America and not let us sell in China.

I have a concise and pointed request to the White House this morning: Tell China to forget about it. Don't let China exclude our Nation's security and Huawei from the negotiations.

Let me remind President Trump and his advisors that over the past several years, China has endeavored to keep our blue-chip technology companies out of its markets. When it does allow American companies access, it makes the transfer of proprietary intellectual property and technology to Chinese companies a precondition. When American companies don't play by their rules, Chinese companies steal the technology.

President Trump, you have been tougher on China than President Bush or Obama. I give you some credit for that, but it will all come to naught unless we actually take action. Don't let Huawei sell here. Don't let Huawei get the components made in America they need to continue to threaten both our economic and national security.

If China keeps American companies out, we should keep important Chinese companies out, particularly those like Huawei, until China relents. They will if we stay strong and if we stay tough.

President Trump, stay strong on China and on Huawei.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. President, finally, on some praise for the Trump administration, I don't do it that often, but when it is due it is due. Yesterday, the Federal Drug Administration announced that it plans to pull most flavored e-cigarettes from the market. I have been concerned about the possible danger of e-cigarettes for a long time. I have been one

of the first to bring attention to the fact that the e-cigarette manufacturers aim at kids with both flavors and advertising. I have called for greater scrutiny, asked companies to recall brands of e-cigarettes where the parts are exploding, and have particularly focused on getting the FDA to ban e-cigarettes with flavors that are designed to appeal to teenagers and young kids.

I had several conversations and meetings with FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb about this issue. In fact, I brought him some kids from high school in Westchester who said that e-cigarettes were hurting their school and that so many kids were involved. I think it made a good impression—a strong impression—on former Commissioner Scott Gottlieb.

We take wide-ranging steps to prevent tobacco companies from targeting underage children in their markets but so far have done little to prevent e-cigarettes from executing basically the same strategy. It is past time the FDA moved to take these kid-friendly products off the shelves, and I commend the FDA's announcement that it plans to take action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate what the Democratic leader just said about the flavored e-cigarettes, and I, too, commended the Trump administration yesterday for taking this action. It is a big deal in our high schools in Ohio and in other venues as well, and this will help to keep a lot of young people from engaging in this, which is bad for their health. Certainly, just like cigarette smoke, it also leads to addictions. I commend him for that.

The Democratic leader also talked about the fact that President Trump has been tougher on China than any previous President in modern times, certainly, and that is also true. Let's all hope the Chinese Government comes to the table in the next few weeks, as they get back to their discussions, ready to actually address some of these issues, particularly, the issue of their subsidies, which are contrary to our laws, but also the international rules, the technology transfer, and the taking of our intellectual property. These are changes in the structure of our trade relationship that are required for us to get to that level playing field that all of us should want.

I also agree about the notion that we should have more reciprocity. If they are keeping our stuff out, we should be able to respond in kind. Ultimately, we all want a resolution to this issue. We want the tariffs to be eliminated, but we want to do it on a basis where there is actually fair trade between our two countries.

With regard to the appropriations process, I, too, am hopeful we can get something done here on a bipartisan basis. The Democratic leader suggested

we might end up with a government shutdown. We should never end up with a government shutdown. It is terrible policy. It hurts government workers. It is bad for taxpayers.

We will be issuing a report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations tomorrow in this regard to show how the last three government shutdowns have resulted in tremendous pain, not just to those who get furloughed and those who work without pay but also to the taxpayer, and they are fairly inefficient. Let's not even talk about a government shutdown. Why are we going down this road?

OHIO

Mr. President, in the Senate, this is the first week back in session after what is called the August work period. Today, I want to talk a little bit about my travels around the State of Ohio over the August district work period and talk about what I learned that can help inform us here as to what we can do better in the Congress to help on issues that are important to people I represent in Ohio.

One that was striking for me, and it has been for the last several years, is workforce needs. There aren't enough workers to fill the jobs that are out there. What a great opportunity it is for people to come in out of the shadows and get to work, but also what a necessity it is now for our economy to have these workers. I learned a lot about that and heard a lot about that.

The changing drug crisis. We in Ohio have been hit hard with the opioid crisis, but it is evolving, as always. There is fentanyl, which is a synthetic form of opioids, but now crystal meth is much more powerful and cheaper than ever and is coming in from Mexico, and we need to be responsive to that change.

Challenges in Ag country. Our farmers are hurting. Low prices the last few years have been compounded by terrible weather this year. It was the worst planting in my memory in Ohio. A lot of crops didn't get in at all. Of those that did, about half of them are not in good shape. This is tough on our farmers.

Ways to do a better job in protecting Lake Erie. This is a huge issue for us in Ohio. It is our No. 1 tourist attraction, and it is an incredible source of income in jobs. We have about a \$6 billion fishing industry now in the Great Lakes. The most important lake of all is Lake Erie. As an example, several million people get their drinking water from Lake Erie. I learned a lot about that over the break.

Then, also, there is the importance of our military having the support they need. I went to our military bases around the State and learned about what we can do to help them more, and also I got the opportunity to visit two of our NASA centers in Ohio. One of the 10 NASA research centers is in Cleveland, OH, NASA Glenn. There is Plum Brook Station, where we test equipment heading to the Moon soon.

That was very helpful to understand better about how we can be providing steady funding in the Congress so that we can indeed fulfill our missions that we have always had here in this country, which is to push beyond the bounds and, in this case, to go back to the Moon and have the first woman on the Moon and, then, eventually, to go to Mars and the benefits of that.

It was a busy month. I traveled to 39 different counties in Ohio over the last several weeks and more than 4,000 miles in my pickup truck, which now has over 180,000 miles on it, traveling around our State and to 75 different events.

When I began my second term representing Ohio in 2017, I made it a goal of mine to visit all 88 counties in Ohio during this term. I am happy to report that just during August we achieved that goal. A few years early, we hit all 88 counties. We will continue to go around our State and to see people in every part of our State, hear them out, and, again, to know what the best thing is to do in Congress to be able to help them and their families and to help our State.

I also traveled by train and by ferry in Lake Erie, by bike on charity bike rides, and even by kayak on the Cuyahoga River, to meet with constituents about how Washington can be a better partner for them and their families. I met with a lot of small businesses, and I talked to them about how they are doing. The tax reform and the regulatory relief has really helped, and this is why we have a stronger economy now than anybody projected. It is why we have more jobs being created. It is why we have wages going up for the first time in a decade in Ohio.

Last month, we actually had nationally wage increases of 3.5 percent year to year, well above inflation. That is a welcomed change. Really, in Ohio, after about a decade and half of flat wages and not keeping up with inflation and people feeling like they are working hard and playing by the rules but they couldn't get ahead, now you finally see wages going up. The biggest increases are among lower income and middle-income workers. That is exactly what you want.

I am happy to report that, and I am happy to report that small business owners in Ohio are happy that it is working for them because they expanded their plants and their operations and they hired more people.

What I did hear consistently from employers at every level—and for that matter, from hospitals and nonprofits and from State and local government—is one thing: workforce. They don't have enough qualified workers to fill the jobs they have. Again, it is a great opportunity to bring people off the sidelines—people who are not applying for work, not looking for work—and to raise labor force participation, which economists say is relatively low, and bring them off the sidelines. We also need these people to be able to meet our economic needs.

If you go on OhioMeansJobs.com, this morning, in that website you will see about 150,000 jobs being advertised—150,000 open jobs. When you look at those jobs, a lot of them require skills. They are not the kind of skills you get from a college degree but the kind of skills you achieve somewhere between high school and college—things like welding, machining, coding, other IT jobs, techs for hospitals, and truckdrivers. These jobs are open right now in Ohio. Economists call these jobs “skilled jobs” but, again, they are the kind of jobs that you can get the skills from in short-term training programs.

I have been a big fan of improving those skills, and we have made some progress here. We started a caucus called the Career and Technical Caucus. I am the cochair and cofounder of that. It is to focus on these practical, hands-on, skills-training for jobs that can help us to be able to fill this need.

The openings we have in Ohio are also all around the country. I was pleased that recently the President signed my Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act into law, which allows States and localities to use Perkins grant funding to establish these career and technical education academies at the high school level, but we need to do more.

One that would really help is if we could pass what is called the JOBS Act. It is legislation I have introduced consistently with Senator TIM KAINE from Virginia. It is really very simple. It says we ought to be able to use Pell grants not just for college but also for these shorter term training programs. In fact, they are much more relevant to what we need right now.

Sadly, most people who get a Pell grant to go to college don't end up with a college degree. I support Pell grants in colleges and universities. It is an important way for lower income students to get access to education. But why not allow those same students to get a shorter term training program under their belt? Right now they can't afford it. If you want to get a welding degree to get an industry-recognized credential to become a welder in Ohio, you can get a job right away—a good-paying job with good benefits. Yet it is costly to go through that program. They are less than 15 weeks. So they don't qualify for Pell.

A student is told: You can go to college and get a history degree, but you can't get a welding certificate and use a Pell grant. That is just wrong. It is unfair. I heard the same thing again and again at visits I made to community colleges around Ohio over August and visits I made to career and technical schools around Ohio, which is why they want the JOBS Act, and they want it now because they know it will help them.

I heard from one student at a welding program at a CTE school who told me she wanted to get an advanced welding certificate so she could get a great job. She knows exactly what she wants to

do, but she can't afford it. This is an 18-year-old in her last year of high school. She is working three jobs right now, but she can't afford the cost. So she is probably going to take a Pell and go to college when she would prefer to take a Pell and get this advanced certificate that is internationally recognized so she can get a good welding job. Again, that is something we should pass here and do it soon.

The Higher Education Act may well be passed this year. It is a perfect vehicle for it. I want to thank Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, who has been supportive of this commonsense change to be able to get our young people and others the training they need to be able to access the jobs that are out there.

Elsewhere around the State, I did meet with our farmers in several counties. The heavy flooding has led to the worst planting season in our modern history in Ohio. We have helped a little bit because the Department of Agriculture, at our urging, has included Ohio in disaster declarations. So some of these farmers who have not been able to plant are getting low interest loans right now and eventually will get some grant money. That is good.

These farmers also want to have the access to more markets around the world because they know that is going to increase their prices and enable them to get back on their feet after these tough times with the weather.

They are particularly concerned about what is happening with regard to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Remember, we have this existing agreement called NAFTA, which is with Mexico and Canada, our two largest trading partners. For Ohio, they are by far our two largest trading partners. But right now, the NAFTA agreement is 25 years old, outdated, not keeping up with the times, and not opening up markets enough. So we have this new agreement that has been signed by Mexico and signed by Canada. We are ready to go with it, but it has to be confirmed in the U.S. Congress. Right now, unbelievably, it is being held up, even though our farmers desperately want it. You know who else wants it? Our workers, because it is going to help manufacturing.

The people who are involved in trade understand the importance of Canada and Mexico because they are our largest markets, and it is going to be so helpful for our country and for my State of Ohio if we can get it done. The International Trade Commission, which is an independent body, studied this and said: Yes, it is going to create over 150,000 new jobs in the auto industry. It is great for Michigan, Ohio, and other States. Again, all we have to do is have a vote here in the U.S. Congress to be able to confirm this, and we can put it in place. It will help our economy. It will help create more jobs. It will help create some certainty going forward. We need to get this done.

Many of the things in the agreement are things that Democrats have been

calling for for years—tougher labor standards that are enforceable, as an example. It actually has a minimum wage—40 to 45 percent of vehicles made under USMCA must be produced by workers earning an average of \$16 an hour. It has a 70-percent requirement to use North American steel. It has a number of things that the Democrats have called upon us to do for years.

If we don't pass USMCA, the alternative is the status quo, which is NAFTA. In effect, if you don't support USMCA, it must mean that you support the status quo, which is NAFTA, which, again, so many Democrats have been criticizing over the years. Let's get this done. The 25-year-old NAFTA is not the status quo that anybody should want when we have this better agreement in front of us.

Specifically, if the House of Representatives were to bring the bill to the floor, I believe they could pass it just because of the logic, the fact that this agreement is so much better than the status quo. Then, over here in the Senate, we would have no trouble passing it, in my view.

During my tour over the August break, I also spent time visiting with a lot of groups and organizations that are combating the drug epidemic that has gripped my State of Ohio and our country. As you know, we now have more people in Ohio dying from overdoses than from any other cause of death. It is unbelievable. In 2017, 72,000 people died of overdoses in this country, more than we lost in the entire Vietnam war, just in one year—72,000 Americans.

We have made some progress recently. We should be proud of that. Last year, for the first time in 8 years, we saw a reduction in overdose deaths. It is partly because Congress has stepped up—over \$4 billion in new funding for prevention, longer term treatment programs, recovery programs, and more Narcan for our first responders. This is important, but we also have to realize that the threat is evolving and changing.

One thing I learned when I was home and talking to groups all over the State about this issue is that, yes, the legislation we passed is helping. I got to see how it is helping and to see how my legislation, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, is being put to work in Ohio.

The new threat in Ohio is these new drugs that are coming in, particularly crystal meth. The crystal meth coming in from Mexico is more powerful and less expensive than ever. We used to have meth labs in Ohio. You may have had them in your communities as well. You probably will not hear much about meth labs anymore. Why? Because the stuff on the street is even more powerful than you can make in a meth lab, in someone's home, and it is less expensive.

In fact, the law enforcement folks in Ohio are telling me that the meth on the street in Ohio is less expensive

than marijuana, and it has a much more corrosive effect on our communities and a devastating impact on families and individuals, increasing crime. This is the psychostimulant, like cocaine, that is causing more aggressive crimes, in fact.

With regard to the opioid crisis, we need to keep our eye on the ball. We need to continue what we are doing. Congress deserves credit for expanding the treatment, longer term recovery programs, some of the prevention money, the use of Narcan, but at the same time, we have to be more flexible.

The legislation I have introduced—and I hope we will be able to pass—will provide more flexibility to our communities to take that money for opioids and use it for whatever the community needs to address substance abuse.

When I was home, I also heard a lot about Lake Erie, which is our treasure in Ohio. It is the No. 1 tourist attraction in the State. It is the place where Ohioans have come for generations and generations for recreation, for fishing, for swimming. Also, so many Ohioans depend on it for their drinking water.

There are several million Ohioans who require us to have clean drinking water out of Lake Erie, and those individuals are worried. Why? Because in Toledo a few years ago, we actually had a recommendation that we shut down the water system because of the toxic algal blooms that are in Lake Erie. This year was another tough year for the toxic algal blooms, cutting off fishing opportunities and swimming opportunities. We need to do more to address it.

Again, Congress has made progress in this area. We have passed legislation that is helping. We have added more money that is helping. My legislation to deal with harmful algal blooms is giving the Federal Government a bigger role. That is important.

Clearly, we need to do more, and one is to ensure that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Federal legislation, continues to be funded. That is the fight we are having now in the appropriations process. Senator STABENOW and I have introduced legislation to authorize that program going forward and to increase the funding slightly. Why? Because it is working. These are public-private partnerships all around the Great Lakes to deal with the harmful algal blooms, to deal with the pollution, and to deal with the invasive species coming in. It is one of those Federal programs that works well.

We also had the opportunity to go to all of our military bases around the State of Ohio and to go to our two NASA facilities. Again, I am so proud of the individuals in Ohio who are standing up for our troops in their own way—whether it is the Lima tank plant, where I got to visit individuals making our M1 Abrams tanks and our Stryker vehicles, or whether it is at NASA, where we are preparing for the next mission to the moon.

NASA Administrator James Bridenstine came with us to the Glenn

Research Center in Cleveland and the Plum Brook testing facility. We got to see how those scientists and engineers—the best in the world—are working to complete the Artemis Program. Again, this is an ambitious effort to put a woman on the moon and the next man on the moon within the next 5 years, laying the groundwork for our mission to Mars.

It was great to be home. It was great to have the opportunity to visit with folks all over the State of Ohio. We were busy, but it is also great now to have the opportunity to come back refreshed and to talk about how we can make a bigger difference for them here in the U.S. Congress with some of the legislative initiatives I have talked about today.

There is so much we can and should do this fall. I am eager to roll up my sleeves and have a productive session here, working on a bipartisan basis to get things done for the people I represent and for all Americans.

Thank you.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I think people are surprised when they come to Texas and find out how diverse a State it really is. Not everybody there looks like me or pronounces their last name the same way.

In fact, we are a huge melting pot of people from all over the country and, literally, many from around the world who come to the State because we have a growing economy, creating jobs and opportunity. People can find work to provide for their family and achieve their dreams.

It shouldn't surprise anybody that Texas is increasingly diverse. We have benefited a lot from the variety of folks and cultures and ideas that have come around the world and planted roots in the Lone Star State.

When I ask folks if they know what the second most spoken language in Texas is, they say: Well, that is easy. It is Spanish.

I say: Well, that is right. Let me give you a harder one. What is the third most commonly spoken language in Texas?

After a couple of guesses, they are usually surprised when I say Vietnamese.

It is not in the overall numbers of Spanish or English, to be sure, but we have a vibrant Vietnamese community in Texas that was established after the fall of Saigon and the Vietnam war. Many of them immigrated to the Houston area or to the metroplex area.

Of course, they have faced many of the same struggles as those who have come to America throughout our country's history. In addition to adjusting to a new home, language, and culture, they have dealt with some ugly aspects of their new home: racism and bigotry.

From those challenges and from overcoming those challenges, they

have derived tremendous strength, demonstrated outstanding drive and a desire to succeed.

Our Vietnamese-American communities in Texas are growing and thriving, and they continue to play a very important role in our increasingly diverse State.

I had the chance to meet with a number of my Vietnamese-American constituents during the August break, and we talked about some of the issues that concern them the most.

Just last weekend, in fact, I visited Cali Saigon Mall in Garland, TX, for their annual children's festival. I participated in an on-stage discussion with a number of community leaders. Although the children seemed more interested in the tiger dance or musical performances and the colorful costumes, it was a great opportunity for me to hear from these folks firsthand. We had a serious discussion about the human rights climate in Vietnam, which has continued to decline.

The Vietnamese Government limits political freedom by denying its own citizens their right to vote in free and fair elections. It denies them the freedom of assembly and expression and due process rights—the sorts of basic rights we call human rights here in the United States.

Last year, one of my constituents, a young man named William Nguyen, was unjustly beaten and detained for participating in demonstrations in Ho Chi Minh City. We were fortunate enough to secure his release back home after the government convicted him on trumped-up charges. I was glad to welcome him back to the good old U.S. of A.

Sadly, the people who continue to live in Vietnam have to escape from a brutal Communist regime, which continues to disregard the most basic human rights, threaten religious freedom, and silence the press.

Vietnam remains one of the lowest ranked countries in the world when it comes to freedom of the press. In 2018, Reporters Without Borders ranked Vietnam 176th out of 180 countries worldwide.

It should come as no surprise that Vietnamese Americans who have lived under this type of rule—or who have family members who still do—don't take our freedoms here in America for granted. It is just the opposite. These immigrants are great patriots who fully appreciate the freedoms they enjoy here in America because they realize how close they came to seeing those same freedoms denied in their home country.

With them, I share their concerns about the rising interest here at home in failed ideas, like socialism, and will continue to dispel rumors that socialism can provide more than the free enterprise system, which has created the very prosperity that Vietnamese Americans and other immigrants enjoy here in the United States.

In addition to our efforts to strengthen our own democracy, we need to do

more to strengthen democracies around the world and to protect basic human rights. Earlier this year, I reintroduced the Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act to try to do just that. This bill would impose travel restrictions and other sanctions on Vietnamese nationals complicit in human rights abuses against their fellow citizens. These sanctions would not be lifted until the Vietnamese Government releases all political prisoners and stops the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators.

We simply can't avert our gaze and allow these practices to continue without any sort of accountability. I say the same for what is happening now in Hong Kong.

I appreciate the many Vietnamese Americans who have shared their experiences with me on this topic, and I will continue to advocate for a brighter future for the people of Vietnam.

TRIBUTE TO SANDY EDWARDS

Mr. President, on one other matter, I want to take a moment to recognize a member of my staff who is nearing her retirement—Sandy Edwards.

Sandy is the regional director in my Austin field office. She has been with me for nearly two decades—first, in my office when I was attorney general of Texas and now in the U.S. Senate, where she serves, as I said, as my central Texas regional director.

Everybody who knows Sandy knows she has the heart and spirit of a public servant. She works hard to make sure that every Texan who contacts my office feels appreciated, understood, and is happy with the support they receive.

She knows that our faces represent what people get for their tax dollars. With Sandy, central Texans have gotten some serious bang for their buck. Over the years, she has, of course, developed countless relationships with people and organizations that are working to improve our Texas communities in Central Texas.

I will never forget one year spending a December evening out in East Austin at an incredible nonprofit called the Community First! Village. We joined formerly homeless people for a Christmas tree lighting and spent a cold, rainy night with them rejoicing at what this organization and the good-hearted people who work there have helped them to achieve.

At one point, in 2012, Sandy had me biting down on a Starburst candy so students attending Girlstart Summer Camp could analyze my dental impression. I never got a report back of exactly how that turned out.

Sandy is not a fair-weather friend. She has also been by my side during some very difficult times. For example, in 2009, following the horrific shooting at Fort Hood, she was there as I fought to find words to provide even an ounce of comfort to the grieving post and the families there. We paid our respects to these American heroes and watched the ramp ceremony as their flag-draped caskets were loaded into a C-17 for their flight to Dover.

Then there was 2013 in West, TX. That is not the region. That is the name of the city. Following a massive fertilizer plant explosion, it tore through a tight-knit community and claimed the lives of 15 people, including most of the town's volunteer fire department. Sandy, of course, was on the ground, as she always is, helping to connect with the first responders and local officials, making sure they had the support we could provide from our office.

She was there during the Bastrop fires in 2011, the Wimberley flooding in 2015, and the deadly hot air balloon crash in Maxwell, TX, in 2016. Sandy has been a gracious helping hand during the tough times and an enthusiastic cheerleader during the good ones. I am sorry to lose such a devoted staffer and friend, and I know my team in Texas will miss her bighearted participation in our team effort.

I don't think it is really a coincidence that Sandy chose the month of September to retire because, of course, this is the start of her beloved Texas Longhorns' football season. I know she is looking forward to attending UT games this fall, along with her husband Stan and perhaps her son Kyle and his wife Brittney. I know for sure she will enjoy spending more time at her family's ranch in the Texas Hill Country.

I come to the Senate floor to publicly express my appreciation, as well as that of my entire staff and I would dare say every single Texan who ever met her, and to thank Sandy Edwards for the lives she has touched and made better. I say, thank you, Sandy, and I wish you a well-deserved next chapter in your life.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Louisiana.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, \$1 million a minute—not \$1 million an hour or a day or week, \$1 million a minute. That is how much we borrow every minute to operate the Federal Government. It is \$1.4 billion—that is nine zeros—a day. That is how much more we spend than we take in. Some people have said—I have heard Americans say this—that we spend money like a drunk sailor. That is not accurate because a drunk sailor stops when he runs out of money. We just borrow.

We don't just print this money. We issue Treasury notes and Treasury bonds and Treasury securities. We borrow it. Some Americans loan it to us. Some folks in other countries like Japan and China, they expect to be paid back, and we do have to pay them back. In a couple of years, we are going to be spending more in our budget on interest on our debt than we are spending on defense.

Now we are in the middle of putting together a budget for the American people. The first thing we had to do was agree on how much money we are going to spend. They call that the topline number, but that just means how much money we are going to spend

for the next 2 years. You will not be surprised to learn we are going to spend more.

I think it was a bad deal. I voted against it. Our agreement on what we are going to spend in the budget we are putting forward now, according to the CBO, is going to add to our \$22 trillion—that is 12 zeros—deficit. In fact, what we just agreed to, the additional spending, is going to add, according to our Congressional Budget Office, \$12 trillion over the next 10 years.

I voted against it. I lost. The majority rules. Now we are trying to put together a budget with all this extra money, and our challenge is or ought to be: How do we spend the money the American people are going to give us in an efficient way? I think every single Member of the Senate wants to do that.

I want to talk for a few minutes about an issue that is going to come up. It is going to come up through the subcommittee I chair. It has to do with elections, and it has to do with money.

Russia tried to interfere with our election. You can write that down and take it home to mama. It is true. They did it. They didn't change a single vote, but they did try to influence the way Americans did vote. To try to prevent that from happening again in 2018, this Congress gave our States \$380 million to shore up their election systems. They haven't spent all that yet.

This Congress also took other steps. The Senate has unanimously approved two bipartisan election security bills. I think they are both now pending in the House. We passed the Defending the Integrity of Voting Systems Act. That is going to make it a Federal crime to hack any voting system in a Federal election. We passed the Defending Elections Against Trolls from Enemy Regimes Act. We call that the DETER Act. It will bar people who interfere in our elections or attempt to do so from entering the United States. Our Department of Homeland Security, very able women and men, and our cyber security advisors there, smart people—they are helping our State and local officials, on a daily basis, guard against threats.

We had a classified briefing. By "we," I mean all Members of the Senate, Republicans and Democrats. "Classified" means it is in our room down in the basement where foreign agents cannot listen in. The FBI Director was there. The Director of National Intelligence was there. Most senior ranking members of our military were there, and the topic was: How did we do in 2018? We know the Russians and others took a run at us in 2016. They didn't succeed, but they tried. How did we do in 2018?

Let me tell you, our men and women at the FBI and in our military and in Homeland Security, they are on it. Our 2018 election went off without a hitch. I am not saying some foreign despots didn't try to influence how we voted, but they didn't change a single vote. Our people did a great job, and every

Senator, Democratic and Republican, in that room, in that classified setting—I can't tell you the details. I wish I could. If I could, you would be impressed. But everybody walked out of there and said: Man, we are on it. The 2018 elections went off without a hitch, and, by God, we are ready for 2020.

We didn't just do that. I am going to go back to what I just said. We gave our States \$380 million. They haven't even spent all of it yet, but there is going to be an effort to spend a whole bunch more to give it to the States. I don't know how much, but at least \$200 million, maybe \$400 million, maybe a billion. If I thought it was necessary, I would vote for it.

Some of my colleagues, in perfectly good faith, think the States need more money, even though they haven't spent what we gave them to begin with and even though all of our intelligence officials say we are ready for 2020. Some of my colleagues, in good faith, think they need more money, but some of my colleagues see this as a first step to nationalizing elections, and that is what worries me.

Do you know what makes our elections safest of all? You can't just hack one system. You have to hack 50. You have to hack 50 because the States run elections, and they do a pretty good job. They do a really good job.

There is an effort—not by all but by some—to get the Federal Government in charge of elections. Do you know how you do that? You don't just jump in and grab them. You sneak up on them. I will tell you how you sneak up on them. You start giving them money, and you get them addicted. You give them a little more money, and you get them addicted. Then, the next thing you know, the Feds are running the elections, and not for all but for some of my colleagues that is what this is about.

This country started out as a self-reliant, tax-averse Union of States. They were very skeptical of the Federal Government. Our original States and all those after them, they insisted on running their own elections, and it has worked. We don't need the Federal Government in charge of elections.

There are some of my colleagues coming this time—and, look, I am not impugning their integrity. They are entitled to their opinion because this is America, but I am entitled to mine. In the effort last year, we were able to beat it back. I am afraid some of my friends on this side of the aisle this time are having second thoughts. I am hearing all kinds of rumors. It is amazing what you can pick up around this place if you just walk around the floor and keep your mouth shut and your ears open. You hear all kinds of stuff.

I am here to say, if we do it, we are going to look back, when the Federal Government is running our elections and screwing them up, and say this is where it began. If you want to put the U.S. Federal Government in charge of your elections instead of the States, if

you think that is a swell idea, I want you to close your eyes for a minute and imagine living in a world designed by the post office because that is what you are going to get.

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

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

RETURN OF PAPERS REQUEST—S. 1790

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to request from the House of Representatives the return of the papers to S. 1790 to provide for a correction. I further ask that if the House agrees to the Senate's request, upon receipt of the papers from the House in the Senate, notwithstanding passage of the bill, the amendment at the desk be agreed to and the papers be returned to the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bowman nomination?

Mr. KENNEDY. 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), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

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 60, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 280 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Barrasso	Boozman	Carper
Bennet	Braun	Cassidy
Blackburn	Burr	Collins
Blunt	Capito	Cornyn

Cotton	Isakson	Romney
Cramer	Johnson	Rounds
Crapo	Jones	Sasse
Cruz	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Daines	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Enzi	Lankford	Shaheen
Ernst	Lee	Shelby
Fischer	Manchin	Sinema
Gardner	McConnell	Sullivan
Graham	McSally	Tester
Grassley	Moran	Thune
Hassan	Murkowski	Tillis
Hawley	Perdue	Toomey
Hoeven	Peters	Warner
Hyde-Smith	Portman	Wicker
Inhofe	Risch	Young

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—9

Alexander	Harris	Rubio
Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Coons	Roberts	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The 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.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

END CHILD TRAFFICKING NOW ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this is not the first time I have come to the floor to discuss a situation that is on our Nation's southern border and the need that we as a country have for a stronger, more efficient immigration policy. I have made more than one trip to South Texas this year, and each time I have returned, I have found myself more motivated to cut through the noise, and to get something done.

What should be a practical policy discussion has, unfortunately, turned political, and very real problems have compounded into an unprecedented crisis.

Within these Halls, we have debates over asylum caps and visa requirements. They are indeed important issues, but recent reports on the explosion of human rights violations perpetrated by cartels, coyotes, and international gangs have added some much needed context to these debates.

By now, we have all heard how dangerous the journey to our southern border can be for those who are being brought forward by cartels, coyotes, and international gangs. Traffickers have really built a big business—a very big and profitable business—on moving drugs and desperate human cargo across the border. Sometimes these individuals make it, and sometimes the guides leave their charges to die—to die alone in the desert. Rumors of abuse, assault, and gang rape have manifested and been proven true. Border Patrol agents at most ports of entry administer pregnancy tests to girls as young as 12 years of age.

While we waste time arguing over talking points, monsters—absolute monsters—are dragging children into the crosshairs of an international crisis. While we debate the best way to amend our loose asylum laws, traffickers are finding ways to exploit those laws, using children to force their way back and forth across the border under the guise of parental legitimacy.

"Child recycling" is a crude term but an accurate term, and we define it as when a minor is used more than once by alien adults who are neither relatives nor legal guardians but pose as family members for the purposes of crossing the border. How despicable and how very selfish of them. Child-recycling isn't a myth, unfortunately. It is not an urban legend. It is a definite, well-defined, clear and present danger.

DHS has uncovered more than 5,500 fraudulent asylum claims since May of 2018. I want you to think about that number—5,500 fraudulent asylum claims since May of 2018. Customs and Border Patrol tells us that unaccompanied minors are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and that drug runners and sex predators are rolling the dice on these fraudulent asylum claims to move their products—which, bear in mind, are people and drugs—to move them more efficiently.

Earlier this year, Immigration and Customs Enforcement introduced a pilot program they believed would help determine how serious the child recycling problem is. They began administering DNA tests on all adults accompanied by minors who claimed a familial relationship but lacked the paperwork to prove this relationship. As a safeguard, all swabs were destroyed, and no genetic profiles were collected or stored. The purpose was solely to

prove a DNA match. And thank goodness somebody was watching. The results have been horrifying. One in five claims of kinship is fraudulent. That means one in five children who were brought to the border and then funneled into the pilot program was likely being exploited.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to say that finally we have had enough and to voice their support for the End Child Trafficking Now Act. This act requires the Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, to administer DNA tests for all adults accompanied by minors at a port of entry who claim a familial relationship without sufficient legal documentation to prove the connection.

Refusal of the test will be met with immediate deportation. Fabrication of family ties or guardianship will carry a maximum 10-year penalty, and the child will be processed as an unaccompanied minor under current law. Proven family members and guardians, however, will be allowed to move forward with the immigration process.

The tests themselves are simple—a quick swab of the cheek and a quick wait. I say “quick” because we will be using a new form of genetic testing that can analyze a DNA sample in about 90 minutes.

I will tell you that I am aware that the various factions in this Chamber have vastly different approaches to immigration reform. We should be having a serious discussion about the fundamental flaws in our policies and our plans to fix them. I welcome these discussions, and I look forward to the changes, but I know and my colleagues know that no one bill or package will repair what is broken in our current immigration system. There is no viable quick fix.

We owe it to this country and we owe it to the children who are brought here under duress and under false premises to do whatever we can to prevent what experience and pilot testing have proved we can indeed prevent. Let's make certain that children coming to the southern border are with family and that they are protected.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call 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.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY HASIAK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before we vote, I wish to take a moment to recognize a lifelong public servant, Cindy Hasiak, who will be retiring after 32 years in this Chamber, with the Sergeant at Arms and with the Senate doorkeepers.

Cindy came to the Senate in the spring of 1987. In her time here, she has

seen hundreds of Senators pass through these doors. When particular Senators were nowhere to be found, she was usually the one who would have chased them down.

There is also so much work in the Senate that gets done behind the scenes. So much of it is essential to our operations, and all of it is performed flawlessly, quietly, wonderfully by dedicated staffers who rarely get the recognition they deserve. Truly, the Senate would not function without the quiet dedication and steady excellence of folks like Cindy.

As her days of chasing down Senators come to a close, I wish her all the best as she embarks on a well-earned and well-deserved retirement where, luckily for her, she will be close to her family, friends, and loved ones and far from the frenetic demands of wrangling 100 Senators with 100 different schedules.

We all thank her for her dedicated career in public service. She will always, always, always have the gratitude of this grand institution.

I yield the floor.

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

Ms. COLLINS. 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), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

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 85, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 281 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin	Bennet	Blumenthal
Barrasso	Blackburn	Blunt

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

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—14

Alexander	Isakson	Roberts
Booker	Klobuchar	Rubio
Coons	McSally	Sanders
Harris	Moran	Warren
Inhofe	Perdue	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Louisiana.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. 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.

UNCLAIMED U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am not going to speak for 10 minutes, but I do want to call attention to an example of breathtaking hypocrisy, and I am not proud of it.

We all understand in a social contract that the price of living in an organized society is giving up some of our hard-earned money. That is why we pay taxes. Nobody likes paying taxes, but we understand that taxes are necessary to pay our teachers, build our roads, defend our country, and help those who are less fortunate than us.

We set up a pretty good apparatus to go after you if you don't pay your taxes. If you don't pay your taxes, or you don't pay them in the right amount, or you don't pay them on time, they have people trained in the IRS—I am not criticizing. They are just doing their job, but they will chase you like a hound from Hades. So you

pay. That is the law, and we are all supposed to abide by it, but what happens when the Department in which the IRS is centered will not follow the same rules? I am talking about the Department of Treasury. The IRS is under the Department of Treasury. Now, what is good for the goose is supposed to be good for the gander.

The U.S. Department of Treasury is sitting on \$26 billion—not million, billion. That is nine zeros of matured, unclaimed savings bonds that belong to the people of this country. They have the names, and they have the addresses. Do you know what they are doing to try to contact these Americans? Nothing. Zero. Nada. Zilch. They just sit there holding on to the money.

We know what a savings bond is. We couldn't have won World War II without savings bonds. A lot of Americans took their hard-earned money, and they bought savings bonds. You know how it works. I am just making these numbers up, but you buy a savings bond. You give the Federal Government 100 bucks. You don't get anything every month. You give up 100 bucks, and in 20 years you go back and redeem your bond and it is now worth \$200. In the meantime, the Federal Government gets this loan to use your money. When that 20 years is up, the bond matures. It doesn't pay interest anymore.

Some people lose their bonds. Some people forget about their bonds. Some people pass on, and their kids inherit their bonds. They are lost, but you can always count on the Department of Treasury to keep a list of who owns bonds and which ones have been redeemed and which ones haven't. The U.S. Department of Treasury has that list, and there are millions of Americans whose names are on that list. They have names and addresses, and they don't do anything to give it back. They just stand there sucking on the teat.

Let me give you some examples. We are talking real money. I will just pick a couple out: New Jersey, \$695 million belongs to the people of New Jersey—not the politicians in New Jersey, not the government, the people—that the Treasury is holding.

Let me see if I can find—Washington State, \$560 million belongs to the people of Washington State—not the big dogs, not the mayors, not the politicians, the real people who get up every day and go to work and pay their taxes. For Hawaii, they have \$113 million. In my State, Louisiana, there is \$337 million. There is \$3 billion belonging to people in California.

We are going to get up in the morning, and the IRS—they are just doing their job. You better pay your taxes. They will take your firstborn. But when they have \$26 billion of the American people's money, you can't find them with a search party. It is not right. It is not right.

I sued them when I was State treasurer, and I got a bunch of other State treasurers to sue them too. I don't like

suing people, but the Department of the Treasury has spent tens of billions of dollars fighting the American people. They just don't want to give the money back—and you wonder why people hate the government.

I have a bill to try to do something about it. It is not personal. I think the world of our Treasury Secretary. I would think a whole lot better of him if he would start writing checks to the American people. I am not going to give up on this issue. All we are asking is that the Treasury Department share the names with the States. Every State has an unclaimed property program. They have a great one in Washington, a great one in Hawaii. Usually it is a State treasurer. They know to give money back to people. They don't charge a fee. Right is right, and this is wrong. The Department of Treasury needs to give the money back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

EMERGENCY FUNDING

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, it is not a rhetorical flourish to say that Senate Republicans are being fully obedient to the President of the United States. The evidence of the last few days has confirmed that Republicans are not standing up for American institutions when they are tested, and they will not defend the American people when it counts the most. Through their silence, through their legislative actions, and through their votes, Republicans are allowing funds appropriated to the Department of Defense—funds that address critical military needs in their own home States—to be stolen in order to pay for the President's wall.

Let me explain. The way we do MILCON, military construction, is nonpartisan. It is not bipartisan; it is nonpartisan. That means there is zero politics involved in selecting military construction projects for funding.

The process goes like this: The base commanders decide what projects they need in order to support their missions and military communities. These projects are set up through the chain of command from the base command to the installation command. If the installation command says the project meets the cut and is important enough for military readiness, it is sent to the Service Chief, the Marine Corps Commandant, the Secretary of the Navy, and so on.

From there, each Service Chief decides what projects to present to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and then the Office of the Secretary of Defense racks and stacks these projects. It is a rigorous process, and not a single Member of the U.S. Senate gets to intervene during this process. They figure out which ones get addressed in the fiscal year, and some projects make the cut and others don't. The only thing we get to decide, once the matrix is sent to us, is how much money we have to deal with all of our military construc-

tion needs. Again, there is zero political involvement—no politicians, no side deals, no partisan uniforms. So by the time the Congress receives the final list of projects from DOD, every project has been thoroughly vetted. We recognize that at that point, every project is essential for the safety and security of the Nation, and every Secretary of Defense, every Secretary of the Army, every Secretary of the Navy, and so on looks us in the eye in the Senate Armed Services Committee and in the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and says: This is essential. There is not a penny out of place. We need this, and we need this badly.

Shame on the Republicans for allowing this argument over whether to build a border wall to do two things; first, to infect the institution of the Department of Defense with politics and to start to undermine the credibility of the Department and its interactions with the legislative branch; second, and very importantly, to diminish funding for critical military projects.

What kind of projects are we talking about? There are 127 projects that are being raided that we funded. We enacted a law, the President declared an emergency, and the Republicans upheld that emergency. Now these projects are being defunded.

Let me give you a couple of examples out of these 127. This is the form that comes in. These are the words of the Department of Defense.

The first project, Fort Bragg, NC, "Butler Elementary School Replacement." There is a section that is called "IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED." In other words, this is what happens if we don't provide this funding. This is what the Department of Defense says:

The continued use of deficient, inadequate, and undersized facilities that do not accommodate the current student population will continue to impair the overall educational program for students. If a new facility is not provided, the substandard environment will continue to hamper the educational process and the school will not be able to support the curriculum and provide for a safe facility.

Let me take this example of the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Laurel Bay, SC. The impact if funding is not provided:

[Fire and emergency service] personnel assigned to Laurel Bay will continue to work from a significantly undersized and unsafe facility. Because the structure does not meet seismic requirements, complete structural collapse is probable during a seismic event, causing death or major injury to emergency personnel, and thus preventing timely response to the [Marine Corps] housing community following the event.

Finally, and this is going to be 3 out of 127 projects rated: Fort Greely, AK, "Missile Field #1 Expansion." These are the ground-based interceptors designed to enhance our missile defense in the case of an attack from North Korea, "IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED." This one is succinct and scary:

Planned enhancements and capabilities of the BMDS to meet emerging threats will not

be available for our Nation's homeland defense.

Those are 3 out of 127 projects.

I just want to ask my Republican colleagues: Where do you draw the line? I understand you can't stand up to the President every time or even most of the time, but my goodness, when they take funding from military families, from bases and installations, from missile defense, from military schools, can't you draw the line there? There has to be a point at which you say enough is enough. There has to be a point when you decide that agreeing with the President under any and all circumstances—and in this case, the most extreme of circumstances—is not how you are going to lead and govern on behalf of your home State.

Let me say this in closing: I still hold out hope for a bipartisan solution to this issue. Democrats and Republicans may have very different goals, and we have different ideas about how to reach them, but there has to be a better way forward than raiding military funds for the wall. If there is anything that can bring the Senate together, it should be ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of our Nation's servicemembers and their families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me thank Senator SCHATZ for his comments. I hope every Senator will follow the points he is making because I think they are critically important.

First and foremost, we are talking about the appropriate power of the legislative branch of government. We have the power to appropriate. We are the article I branch of government. We have appropriated money for border security. We have appropriated money for military construction. Congress clearly intended the monies that we appropriated for military construction to go to our military installations and our military families. We made that conscientious decision.

Now the President is transferring funds from military construction that help our service personnel to the border wall. I say that because it is an unconstitutional grasp of power. It compromises the checks and balances that are in our Constitution. It is an abuse of power, but it is also affecting the quality of life of the men and women who have voluntarily agreed to join our military to protect our country. We can give you many examples.

We are talking about \$3.6 billion of funds that were taken from military construction that are now being used by the President to fund the border wall. It is not Mexico that is paying for this wall; it is the men and women who are serving our Nation who are going to pay for this wall and our military service. That is outrageous, and every Member of the Senate should be concerned about that.

Let me talk about my own State of Maryland and the military construc-

tion projects in Maryland that would be directly affected. There is a road project at Fort Meade for \$16.5 million. Fort Meade is just a few miles away from the Nation's Capital. For any of you who have had the opportunity to travel between Baltimore and Washington, it is about halfway when you come to Fort Meade. You will notice the challenges of trying to get onto Fort Meade's base. The mission being done at Fort Meade is a national security priority for this country, and these roads are critically important for our national security. It has been backed up a long time. Now, thanks to the President—if this goes forward—it will be backed up a lot longer.

The second cut is \$37 million to Joint Base Andrews for a HAZMAT cargo path. This is a matter of safety for the men and women who work at Joint Base Andrews.

I hope all of you are familiar with Joint Base Andrews, which is located just a few miles from here. The Air Force is there. Many of us go through that facility. It is critical that they have the facilities to protect our Nation's Capital and protect the Members and personnel who use that facility. The President, again, is taking away from the safety of the mission at Joint Base Andrews.

The one issue I want to talk about that really highlights the hypocrisy of this transfer is the cut of \$13 million to a child development center at Joint Base Andrews. I want to read for my colleagues the justification given by the Air Force for this request. I am quoting:

The existing child development center was originally constructed as a medical clinic in 1943, renovated to serve many purposes over the last 74 years and is inadequate for current needs. Presently, base child development center has over 37 children on a waiting list for enrollment. The existing facility has suffered from sewage backups, a leaking roof, HVAC failures, along with mold and pest management issues. Work orders continue to pile up despite heavy focus from [engineers], making it more difficult to ensure accreditation each year. The bathrooms are constantly flooding and drainage issues in [the] kitchen result in monthly backups.

The justification continues by saying that the child development center "either needs to be recapitalized due to condition, or taken out of service."

Then they wrote:

IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED: Not providing this facility forces members to use more expensive, less convenient and potentially lower quality off-base programs. These off-base child development centers typically cost \$9400 more than on-base, creating a severe financial strain on military personnel. Quality of life will be severely degraded resulting in impacts to retention and readiness because Airmen and their families will not have a safe and nurturing environment for child care.

This is the Air Force's justification for this project. As they point out, it will cost military families an additional \$10,000 a year. Who is paying for the wall? Our military families are paying for the wall, not the Govern-

ment of Mexico. That is what is involved here.

We cannot let this go forward. Every Member of this body should be aware of what is happening. I just mentioned three of the projects that are on that list of \$3.7 billion that are being transferred to fund the wall that Congress intentionally provided the money for military families. That is wrong. We should stand up for our military families.

I enjoy the fact that we all say we support our military. We are very proud of their stepping forward to defend us, and now we are telling them they have to pay an extra \$10,000 for childcare. That is what is involved here. I hope every Member of this body will voice their opposition to what the President is attempting to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor this afternoon with my Democratic colleagues to voice my strong opposition to this administration's move to take money away from our military to fund President Trump's wasteful border wall.

I often say that we make a promise as a nation to take care of our servicemembers and their families sacrificing to defend our freedoms. But the Pentagon's announcement this week that it plans to move billions of dollars away from critical military construction projects across our country is more than a broken promise to our troops; it is an egregious abuse of power that undercuts Congress's constitutional obligation to set our Nation's budget, and it compromises critical national security priorities.

Earlier today, Democrats on our Appropriations Committee and I supported an amendment to the Defense appropriations bill that would prevent the President from undermining Congress's authority. I was very disappointed to vote against that bill because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would not join us to pass that necessary amendment and stand up against this outrageous plunder.

This Executive overreach is deeply disturbing. It is particularly relevant to my home State of Washington, one of the States most impacted by the Pentagon's reckless decision this week. We learned that efforts to update the pier and maintenance facility at Naval Base Kitsap—a project essential to ensuring the safety and readiness of our military's nuclear submarines—are now deferred indefinitely because the nearly \$89 million that Congress appropriated specifically for that priority are now being moved to build Trump's wall.

As a reminder, this is a wall that the majority of the American people did not ask for and do not want and that President Trump originally claimed Mexico was going to pay for. It is a wall that Congress has time and again decided not to fund on a bipartisan

basis, to the point that President Trump decided to make a bogus national emergency declaration and side-step Congress to raid the Federal coffers for his reckless vanity project.

It is not just Naval Base Kitsap. We also learned that President Trump and the Pentagon are more than happy to fund this wall by slashing other military priorities, like strengthening access to military childcare, repairing vital military assets that were damaged by recent natural disasters, and more that enable our troops and their families to serve our country as we ask them to do.

Here is the bottom line: I—and Senate Democrats—will not stand by while this President steps over Congress to build his wall on the backs of our troops and their families because they deserve a lot better for this country. I will not let up until this is made right.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, in this day and age, it would be easy to grow cynical and simply tune out the noise of a 24-hour cable news cycle that feeds off the latest Trump tweet. From Donald Trump's recent decision to invite the Taliban to join him for a retreat at Camp David for the weekend of the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks to his earlier statements caught on tape, bragging about sexually assaulting women, I fear that too many—including Members of this Chamber—have become numb to this repeated debasing of the Presidency, numb to a President who lacks even a hint of remorse or shame as he spews lies to the people he was elected to serve.

We cannot afford to be numb. We cannot let this become normal. No, we must hold Donald Trump accountable for his false promises and for his lies. We must ask what happened to Mexico's paying for the wall. Trump promised every American over and over again that they wouldn't have to spend a dime on his wall, pledging that Mexico would pick up the tab 100 percent. He even said, "It's an easy decision for Mexico: make a one-time payment of \$5-\$10 billion."

Of course, it wasn't so easy, and now Trump has done a 180, falsely claiming that he never said Mexico would write that check, trying to gaslight us all with every lie that he tells. We simply can't let him get away with it.

The truth is that Donald Trump already revealed whom he really wants to pay for his wall. He discloses it every time his administration begs Congress to spend billions of your tax dollars building it. He doesn't care that many who live on the border believe building a wall from sea to shining sea is the least effective and most expensive way to secure the border. Trump may not care, but that helps explain Trump's failure to convince Congress to fund his vanity project—even when Republicans controlled both Chambers for 2 years.

His outrageous response to his failure revealed another sad truth: The Presidency hasn't changed Donald Trump one bit. President Donald Trump is the very same old Donald Trump whose true character was revealed on the leaked "Access Hollywood" tapes.

In Trump's mind, when you are the President, you can do anything. Congress didn't appropriate funds for your ineffective wall? Well, just grab funds that Congress authorized for more important programs. Tired of failing to convince Congress to spend American tax dollars on your wall? Well, just declare a fake emergency. Senate Republicans will let you do it.

Listen, Trump's decision to build his vanity wall with funds stolen from military construction projects and Homeland Security initiatives isn't really about border security; it is about politics. If he actually wanted to secure our Nation's border, he wouldn't be stripping away funding from the dedicated men and women who are responsible for defending it: the U.S. Coast Guard. Yet that is exactly what he has done—ripped tens of millions of dollars away from Coast Guard programs. He has ignored that his actions could endanger our national security, and he has ignored that we are right in the middle of hurricane season.

As if that were not bad enough, he has also defunded facilities that are dedicated to cyber warfare operations and bomb defusing training. He is slashing money from schools and childcare centers for our servicemembers' children too.

Donald Trump told us over and over again that Mexico would pay for his wall. That was a lie. Mexico isn't paying for his wall. Our servicemembers and their families are. The families at Fort Campbell are, as their children will now have to keep eating lunch in their school's library because President Trump decided that revving up his political base was more important than upgrading an aging military school. My blood boils when I hear that the children of U.S. servicemembers are being forced to learn in makeshift classrooms within classrooms. No child should have to learn in that kind of environment. In my view, that is the true national emergency.

Let me tell you about three other cases in which the President is stealing money in order to pay for his wall. One is at the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in California.

The project that is losing funds will supply the Colorado Air National Guard with an adequately sized and properly configured space to support a Space Control Squadron functions in accordance with force structure changes. The facility must provide adequate space to support the squadron's operations, maintenance, security, command and administration, and storage areas. The facility must have an unobstructed view of the southern horizon.

The current situation is that this Space Control Squadron, most likely

happening at Peterson Air Force Base, does not currently exist, and there is no adequate facility located at either Peterson or Buckley Air Force Base for this Space Control Squadron.

The only solution that meets all mission requirements is to construct a new facility on Peterson Air Force Base. If this facility is not provided, the squadron will be unable to beddown the space control mission and equipment, with operational and strategic mission impacts due to inadequate facilities.

This is what he is stealing money from in order to build his vanity wall.

A second project is at Fort Greely, AK. The impact of taking the money from this project will mean that Fort Greely, AK, will not have the enhancements and capabilities for the Ballistic Missile Defense System.

The mission of the Agency is to develop and field an integrated, layered Ballistic Missile Defense System to defend the United States, our deployed forces, allies, and friends against all ranges of enemy ballistic missiles in all phases of flight. This expansion project will provide the BMDS with increased ground-based interceptor capabilities, to allow for operational capability.

What happens if the funds are not provided? The planned enhancements and capabilities of the Ballistic Missile Defense System to meet the emerging threats will not be available for our Nation's homeland defense.

He is stealing money away from our Nation's homeland defense to build his vanity wall.

Finally, at Fort Huachuca, AZ, the current situation is that the facilities do not meet the current mandatory criteria specified for vehicle testing and maintenance facilities. The current facilities date back to the 1930s and 1940s and have surpassed their estimated life expectancies. The facilities violate current antiterrorism/force protection standards. Existing utility systems, such as water, sewer, electric, and gas, require replacement. There are no other suitable buildings on the installation that are available in support of this mission.

If they lose the funding for this project, the personnel will continue to work in substandard and unsafe facilities. The motor pool facilities do not comply with current life, safety building codes and quality-of-life standards. The current HVAC, fire suppression, the existing AT/FP and infrastructure deficiencies jeopardize the personnel's health, security, and safety.

This is what he is taking money from to build this wall. The Senate could put a stop to this. It is up to us and our actions, and this very Chamber will determine whether the children of Fort Campbell, whether the personnel at Fort Huachuca, and whether the staff at Fort Greely, AK, can do their jobs. We can defend the power of the purse or we can be complicit in its destruction.

Look, I am not naive. I know some don't share my outrage, that some believe that overcrowded military schools, a decrease in our national security defense, and our ability to defend against hostile ballistic missiles are not a crisis, let alone a national disgrace. These Trump loyalists cower to his bullying tactics, and in the coming days, they will try to reward his abuse of power. They will not stop Trump and return the stolen taxpayer dollars. Rather, they will argue that we should dig even deeper into the Nation's funds to spend more of your tax dollars to replace the money Trump stole. This is wrong. The Constitution entrusts Congress to authorize and to appropriate funds, not the President.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in condemning this raid of taxpayer funds. We must block these outrageous cuts that will harm military readiness, weaken our border security, and hurt the families of those who are brave enough to serve.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate having received the papers with respect to S. 1790, notwithstanding the passage of the bill, amendment No. 938 is agreed to, and the measure will be returned to the House.

The amendment (No. 938) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

In section 6943(a), strike paragraph (2).

After section 6966, insert the following:

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 6971. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this title or the amendments made by this title shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

EMERGENCY FUNDING

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I start by thanking my friend and colleague the Senator from Illinois, Ms. DUCKWORTH, for her service to our country many years ago in the military, for her serving in Iraq, and now for her serving our country in a different capacity; that of standing up in the U.S. Senate to defend the Constitution and to defend this institution against what is clearly an unconstitutional power grab by the President of the United States.

When I took my oath of office—when we took our oaths of office—we all swore to support and defend the Con-

stitution of the United States. Back in March of this year, 59 Senators kept that promise when we stood together, on a bipartisan basis, to say no to a gross abuse of Executive power—to an unconstitutional power grab—when we said: No, Mr. President, you may not ignore the will of the Congress. You may not ignore the appropriations that were passed by both Houses of Congress and signed by you. You may not ignore them and rob critical military projects across the country to fund an unnecessary wall.

Now, we can all debate—we have debated many times—the merits of this wall, but there really should be no debate about the fact that the way the President has gone about it undermines the Constitution and undermines the powers given in that Constitution to the Senate and to the House. We made that statement on a bipartisan basis back in March—59 Senators.

Mr. President, don't go robbing military construction accounts and defense accounts to finance the wall.

Yet here we are, 6 months later, and the President is attempting to do exactly that. He is diverting important investments in our military in places across Maryland and around the country.

As has been pointed out, the President said repeatedly that Mexico was going to pay for this wall. Instead, taxpayers are having to pay for this wall, and service men and women and the families of service men and women are bearing the brunt of the President's latest raid.

I see the majority leader is on the floor. Just yesterday, the majority leader said he was going to fight the President's effort to take money away from a middle school in Kentucky to build the wall.

I have a question for the majority leader and all of my colleagues who want to fight to protect the projects in their States. Are they willing to stand up for projects in every State that hurt military families?

Here is what the Air Force wrote about a Maryland project. It is one that is not very far away from here—at Andrews Air Force Base. It is an air force base that, I dare say, every Member of this Senate has had the occasion and honor to visit from time to time. I have in my hand the budget request from the Air Force for a project at Andrews to help the service men and women who work there.

Their article reads:

Not providing this facility forces members to use more expensive, less convenient and potentially lower quality off-base programs. These off-base child development centers typically cost \$9,400 more than on-base, creating a severe financial strain on military personnel.

That is what the Air Force writes—an additional \$9,400 a year for military men and women who we know are not getting big paychecks.

That is not all the Air Force wrote. It went on to write in its justification

for this investment: “Quality of life will be severely degraded, resulting in impacts to retention and readiness because Airmen and their families will not have a safe and nurturing environment for childcare.”

That is from the U.S. Air Force.

I invite all of our colleagues to visit that base and look at the current conditions there because here are the current conditions at the current childcare center that the Air Force is seeking to remedy with this investment.

Again, this is a quote right from the Air Force:

The existing facility has suffered from sewage backups, a leaking roof, HVAC failures, along with mold and pest management issues. Work orders continue to pile up . . . making it more difficult to ensure accreditation each year. The bathrooms are constantly flooding, and drainage issues in the kitchen result in monthly backups.

That is from the Air Force. Those are the conditions our men and women at Andrews are currently facing in the childcare center. That is why the Air Force asked for this money that the President is now trying to take away.

It turns out that when you do the math and when you look at the cost, the money being taken away from this childcare center that would address these awful conditions that exist would build about a half a mile of a wall—a wall that is unnecessary. Yet, even if you believe we need to build this long wall, you should agree that we should not be robbing moneys out of the accounts that help the families of our service men and women.

That was one of the projects in Maryland the President raided. He also raided two others, including one to address traffic congestion at Fort Meade, which is the home to many facilities, including, of course, the National Security Agency. In all, \$66 million was robbed from service men and women in the State of Maryland.

That was just Maryland. We have heard about other States. We have also heard about cuts around the world—cuts from a program that was originally known as the European Reassurance Initiative—funds that we were investing, along with our allies, to deter Russian aggression in places like Ukraine. We called it the European Reassurance Initiative. I don't know what is reassuring now about robbing those accounts. That will have a direct negative impact on our national security and the readiness of the U.S. forces and those of our allies.

We are going to have a lot of opportunities in the coming weeks to address this issue. I hope we will address it on a bipartisan basis. I hope we will address it as U.S. Senators who recognize that the President's actions here are a direct assault on article I—that they are a direct assault on the spending powers given to Congress under article I.

We have our differences. We had a markup in the Appropriations Committee today. Members had a chance to

offer their amendments. Some were accepted. Some were rejected. It was the democratic process at work, and that is the same democratic process we used to put these investments for our military families in place in the first place.

The Senate acted. The House acted. In fact, the President signed the bill, and now he comes back to grab that money through this unconstitutional power grab.

I will end with this, because I think all of us recognize the danger and the precedent that will be set here. We may agree or disagree with the President's decision to build a wall, but beware—beware, everybody—of a future President—a Republican or Democratic President or of some other party—using the same mechanism to undermine the Constitution and to undermine article I.

Let's unite as U.S. Senators to stop that from happening.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 399.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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 John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 288.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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 Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 223.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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 Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 419.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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 Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 418.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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 Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

REMEMBERING MICHAEL BAUER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Michael Bauer, who died in late August after a battle with cancer.

You couldn't miss Michael—he was the outspoken, critical ally of scores of boards and organizations in the LGBTQ community of Chicago; the first call they made when they needed an effective advocate. When the conversation turned to political friends and foes, issues of the moment and candidates in the hunt, he never had a private thought or waited his turn to share it. And when the music started, Michael was the first on the dance floor.

I met Michael more than 20 years ago as a downstate Congressman running for the U.S. Senate. After an introductory dinner with Michael, his partner, Roger, and my wife Loretta, Michael gave me a passing grade, but I always knew he liked Loretta more.

His name was first on the list of must-calls for political candidates. But if you only knew the public side of Michael, you might not have known the fire inside that drove his life. Over

time we became friends, and that friendship led to trust between us. Michael shared with me the private stories, the journey of his life.

At the center were his parents, survivors of the Holocaust who spent their whole lives facing the memories of friends and family who perished. Michael knew that they were victims of forces they did not have the power to control. He was determined to know more about the cruelty and hate they faced. This search took him to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, where he carefully reconstructed his family's experience. Michael believed that through these efforts, his mother, Tema, now 103, was given back the real story of her life in a war that sent her to slave labor camps. He said with this research his mother's entire memory of the horror of the Holocaust was validated. This search for the truth was personal to Michael as the Jewish son of a survivor and as a gay man who knew the Nazis targeted and murdered homosexuals as well.

Personally facing the massive loss of life in the Holocaust, I think Michael felt a special pain with the AIDS crisis. I remember when he told me that fellow members of a board he served on were still not taking care to protect themselves. He was truly saddened as he feared for their fate.

But if life had been cruel to his family and the world outside could be perilous, Michael had one constant, one protector. He talked to me so many times about Roger, truly the center of his life, his partner, his love, and ultimately his husband. For me, it was a personal insight into a loving relationship at a level I had never before witnessed so closely. I could not imagine Roger without Michael, as now we must.

When it came to the world of politics, Michael willingly, frequently shared his opinion of every candidate and every issue. No one escaped his penetrating, outspoken scrutiny.

But Michael was always ready to help his friends, often in memorable ways. In 2000, with Joe Lieberman as the first Jewish candidate for Vice President, Michael and Roger made a point of heading to Los Angeles for the convention. When they heard I had an event planned there, they insisted on giving me a ride from the hotel. When they arrived in their rented convertible, Michael and Roger were properly dressed in muscle t-shirts and ready to drive through Beverly Hills. As we cruised through Wilshire Blvd and Rodeo Drive, Michael insisted on prepping me for the upcoming Gore-Lieberman campaign—he taught me valuable Yiddish words and phrases. Michael was always there with advice for his friends.

In 1996, we celebrated my first Senate election night together. I remember his trademark smile and the tears in his eyes. After I was elected to the Senate, Michael wasted no time bringing an issue to my attention. It was not an

ask for a job or a contract or anything that would benefit him personally; he asked if I could find time to visit the Howard Brown Health Center on Halsted. Of course I agreed—how could you say no to Michael? The visit led to a conversation where Michael looked me in the eye and said the Howard Brown Center was critical in fighting the AIDS crisis. He told me of friends who were afraid of other health venues and afraid to face the realities of their lives. Howard Brown was their best chance and for some, their only chance. He wanted me to see firsthand the impact of the AIDS crisis in our country.

Michael Bauer used his knowledge and connections to help others, to protect others, to fight a deadly crisis that was burying his friends. In his heart, Michael was a caring, loving person who used his talents and his access to help those on the outside of the halls of power. Loretta and I join Roger, Tema, Michael's extended family and so many friends in mourning the loss of Michael.

Farewell, Michael. You will be missed.

REMEMBERING MARGARET BLACKSHERE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Margaret Blackshere was a trailblazer as the first woman to serve as president of the nearly 1-million strong Illinois AFL-CIO. In July, she passed away at the age of 79, and I rise today to honor her memory. I share the privilege with countless others to call her a friend.

Margaret and her sister were raised by their single mother, Frances, and Aunt Margie in North Venice, IL. Her mother made sure her daughters knew that they could do anything. There were no boy chores or girl chores; there were just chores. Laundry and rewiring a lamp were normal activities.

She started off studying to be a nun, but she changed course and ended up studying elementary education at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Her religious convictions remained an essential part of her life, but education was her calling.

After college, Margaret began teaching in a school in Madison, IL. She and her fellow teachers were making only \$3,000 a year and weren't treated with respect, but they noticed that the steelworkers and mineworkers in the area were respected and doing well because they belonged to a union and worked together to secure better working conditions. Margaret and her colleagues decided they needed to form a union and demand adequate pay from the superintendent. The superintendent refused so Margaret took action and organized a 5-week strike. One small issue—because she and the other teachers were public employees, their strike was illegal. Margaret and her colleagues were jailed, but the jail only had two cells. This meant that every day, Margaret arrived at the jail with her children, ages 3 and 5, and every

night, she went home because there wasn't enough space. Her fellow teachers saw her dedication and elected her president of the teachers' union in Madison.

Margaret went back to Southern Illinois University to earn a master's degree in urban education. She became focused on issues about children living in poverty.

Her work with the union and its attempts to earn greater pay for teachers opened the door to politics. She began working on local election campaigns. It wasn't just about money anymore; it was about having a voice. With her hard work, Margaret was elected vice president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, IFT, and chair of its legislative committee.

Eventually, Margaret reluctantly gave up teaching, which she loved so much, and became a lobbyist for the IFT. She worked in Springfield to improve the salaries and working conditions of teachers. Margaret also began building networks and alliances. In 1993, the Illinois AFL-CIO needed a secretary-treasurer. Margaret was easily elected because she was respected by so many people from her time campaigning and working for the IFT.

In 2000, Margaret became president of the Illinois AFL-CIO. When Margaret came into office, she inherited a staff of 25. None of them was a person of color. The executive board had no women on it. Illinois AFL-CIO also didn't have health insurance that covered well-baby care or mammograms. Margaret brought these benefits into place. She also transformed the executive board by making it more diverse. Before long, seven African Americans, two Latinos, and eight women had positions on the board.

Under Margaret's leadership, the Illinois AFL-CIO helped lead the fight to raise the State's minimum wage—not once but twice. She led efforts to guarantee women equal pay for equal work, to expand healthcare, and to improve Illinois' workers' compensation system.

Margaret excelled at bringing people of different backgrounds together to achieve goals. She used to say, "If you've got a good cause, people will join it." She helped create Transportation for Illinois with the Illinois Automobile Asphalt and Pavement Association, the Chicago Transit Authority, and other businesses, organized labor, industry, governmental, and nonprofit organizations to support strong transportation investments for Illinois. The groups may have fought each other on a host of issues, but she gave them a unified voice for infrastructure.

Margaret devoted much of her life as well to charitable organizations and served on many boards, including the Illinois branches of United Way and the American Red Cross, Alliance for Retired Americans, Voices for Illinois Children, Unemployment Insurance Advisory Board, and the Federal Reserve

Board of Chicago. She served as an inspiration to the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership alongside my wife, Loretta, encouraging and training women to become effective leaders in Illinois.

Over the years, Margaret received more awards and accolades than can be recounted here. She was delighted to be the guest of honor for Chicago's St. Patrick Day Parade in 2003. Margaret loved celebrating her Irish heritage.

Loretta and I will miss her great humor and her willingness to always wish others well unless they were playing her beloved St. Louis Cardinals.

Margaret is survived by her two sons, Michael and Thomas; her sister, Patricia; and four grandchildren.

FALUN GONG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, throughout my years in the Senate, I have met with people from around the world who have been persecuted by their own governments, but the stories I have heard from survivors and family members of the victims of China's efforts to silence and eliminate religious minorities continue to shock me. The Chinese Government systematically brutalizes millions of people, including Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghur Muslims, and Falun Gong practitioners.

Those who practice Falun Gong use meditation and are guided by a philosophy of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance, but because the Chinese Communist Party fears any organized religion or association it cannot control, it views this revival of traditional Chinese religion as a threat to its survival.

Falun Gong practitioners recently marked the 20th anniversary of the beginning of China's campaign of brutality against their community. On July 20, 1999, hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners were arrested in their homes in the middle of the night. Over the following week, as many as 50,000 Falun Gong were reportedly detained. In the years since that initial crackdown, the Chinese Government has relentlessly continued its repression of Falun Gong.

Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested, interred at reeducation camps, beaten, sleep-deprived, starved, sexually assaulted, electrocuted, forced, shackled, and had their limbs slowly broken, until they have renounced their beliefs and practices. They have been ordered to participate in propaganda vilifying their own community. They have had their organs harvested against their will. They have been murdered. We will probably never know how many innocent people have been the victims of these atrocities, since the Chinese Government denies to the outside world that it is happening, while justifying it to their own citizens.

The Chinese Government should immediately cease its arbitrary detention and brutalization of Falun Gong practi-

tioners and other religious and ethnic minorities. It should release political prisoners from reeducation centers, decriminalize religious and spiritual practices, and allow international human rights groups and journalists to interview survivors. It should commit to ending the use of torture, organ harvesting of prisoners, and propaganda against minorities.

The plight of these people in China, the horrors of torture and murder by the government, can seem very far away from Washington, DC, and very far away from my State of Vermont. Yet Vermonters travel to Washington to meet with me and my staff, urging Congress to take action on behalf of Falun Gong. Vermonters are persistent people who rightly refuse to let us forget about Falun Gong and the other victims of China's repression. It is all too easy to ignore crimes against humanity on the other side of the globe, when the victims are people we will never meet, but Vermonters demand that we pay attention. The Falun Gong deserve to be remembered, and they deserve the international community's collective action.

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. 19-38 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Morocco for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$209 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-38

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: Kingdom of Morocco.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$187 million.
Other \$22 million.
Total \$209 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Five thousand eight hundred and ten (5,810) MK82-1 Bomb (Tritonal).

Three hundred (300) MK84-4 Bomb (Tritonal).

One hundred and five (105) Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) KMU-572F/B Tail Kits.

One hundred eighty (180) MXU-651B/B Air Foil Group (AFG), GBU-10.

Four thousand one hundred twenty five (4,125) MXU-650C/B AFG, GBU-12.

Four thousand three hundred and five (4,305) MAU-169L/B Computer Control Group (CCG), GBU-10, -12, -16.

Five thousand one hundred seventy-eight (5,178) FMU-152 Fuze.

Non-MDE: Also included are flares M-206, Flares MJU-7A/B, Impulse Cartridges BBU-36, Impulse Cartridges BBU-351B, Bomb Sensor DSU-33C/B, chaff, bomb components, spares, repair parts, support equipment, publications and technical documentation, engineering technical and support services, and other related elements of logistics, transportation, and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (MO-D-AAG and MO-D-AAE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: MO-D-SAY.

(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 11, 2019.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Morocco—Additional F-16 Ammunition

The Government of Morocco has requested a possible sale of five thousand eight hundred and ten (5,810) MK82-1 Bombs (Tritonal); three hundred (300) MK84-4 Bombs (Tritonal); one hundred and five (105) Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) KMU-572F/B Tail Kits; one hundred eighty (180) MXU-651B/B Air Foil Groups (AFG), GBU-10; four thousand one hundred twenty five (4,125) MXU-650C/B AFGs, GBU-12; four thousand three hundred and five (4,305) MAU-169L/B Computer Control Groups (CCG), GBU-10, -12, -16; and five thousand one hundred seventy-eight (5,178) FMU-152 Fuzes. Also included are flares M-206, Flares MJU-7A/B, Impulse Cartridges BBU-36, Impulse Cartridges BBU-35/B, Bomb Sensor DSU-33C/B, chaff, bomb components, spares, repair parts, support equipment, publications and technical documentation, engineering technical and support services, and other related elements of logistics, transportation, and program support. The estimated cost is \$209 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major Non-NATO ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Africa.

The proposed sale will improve Morocco's capability to meet current and future threats of terror from violent extremist organizations prevalent throughout the region.

Additionally, the additional munitions provided by this sale will improve interoperability with the United States and other regional allies and enhance Morocco's ability to undertake coalition operations, as it has done in the past in flying sorties against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing these additional munitions and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Raytheon USA, Orbital ATK (USA), General Dynamics, Kilgore Cheming Groupe (USA), Cheming Groupe (USA), and Kaman Precision Products (USA). The purchaser typically requests offsets, however there are no known offset agreements at this time in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require U.S. Government or contractor representatives to be assigned to Morocco.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-38

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. Sensitive and/or classified (up to SECRET) elements of the proposed sale include munitions and support equipment: MK82-1 Bomb (Tritonal), MAU-169L/B, MXU-651B/B, MXU-650C/B, Fuzes FMU-152A/B, and JDAM MK-84 KMU-572 F/B. The hardware, software, and data identified are classified to protect vulnerabilities, design and performance parameters, and other similar critical information.

2. GBU-10/12/16/58 Paveway II (PWII), a Laser Guided Bomb (LGB), is a maneuverable, free-fall weapon that guides to a spot of laser energy reflected off the target. The LGB is delivered like a normal general purpose (GP) warhead, and the semi-active guidance corrects for many of the normal errors inherent in any delivery system. Laser designation for the LGB consists of a Computer Control Group (CCG) that is not warhead specific, and a warhead specific Air Foil Group (AFG) that attaches to the nose and tail of a GP bomb body. The PWII can use either the FMU-152 or FMU-139D/B fuzes. The overall weapon is CONFIDENTIAL. The GBU-10 is a 2,000 lb (MK-84 or BLU-117 B/B) GP bomb body fitted with the MXU-650 AFG, and MAU-209C/B or MAU-168L/B CCGs to guide to its laser designated target. MK-82 bomb body's hardware are UNCLASSIFIED.

3. Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) is a Joint Service weapon which uses an onboard GPS-aided Inertial Navigation System (INS) Guidance Set with a MK82, MK83, MK84, BLU-109, BLU-100, BLU-111, BLU-117, BLU-126 (Navy) or BLU-129 warhead. The Guidance Set, when combined with a warhead and appropriate fuze, forms a JDAM Guided Bomb Unit (GBU). The JDAM Guidance Set gives these bombs adverse weather capability with improved accuracy. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. After release, JDAM autonomously guides to a target using the resident GPS-aided INS guidance system. JDAM is capable of receiving target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by onboard aircraft sensors (i.e. FLIR, Radar, etc.) during captive carry, or from a third party source via manual or automated aircrew cockpit entry. The JDAM as an All Up Round is UNCLASSIFIED; technical data for JDAM is classified up to SECRET.

4. Joint Programmable Fuze (JPF) FMU-152 is a multi-delay, multi-arm and proximity sensor compatible with general purpose blast, frag and hardened-target penetrator weapons. The JPF settings are cockpit selectable in flight when used with JDAM weapons.

5. 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.

6. A determination has been made that Morocco 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.

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

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. 19-45 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Morocco for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$776 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-45

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: Kingdom of Morocco.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$700 million.

Other \$76 million.

Total \$776 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two thousand four hundred and one (2,401) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF).

Twenty-eight (28) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF) Fly-to-Buy Lot Acceptance Missiles.

Four hundred (400) M220A2 TOW Launchers and/or four hundred (400) M41 Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS) Launchers.

Non-MDE: Also included are missile support equipment; Government furnished equipment; technical manuals/publications; spare parts; tool and test equipment; training; U.S. Government technical and logistical support, contractor technical support, and other associated equipment and services.

(iv) Military Department: Army.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: MO-B-USZ.

(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 11, 2019.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Morocco—TOW 2A., Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF)

The Government of Morocco has requested a possible sale of two thousand four hundred and one (2,401) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF); and twenty eight (28) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF), Fly-to-Buy missiles for lot acceptance testing; and Four hundred (400) M220A2 TOW Launchers and/or four hundred (400) M41 Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS) Launchers. Also included are missile support equipment; Government furnished equipment; technical manuals/publications; spare parts; tool and test equipment; training; U.S. Government technical and logistical support, contractor technical support, and other associated equipment and services. The estimated cost is \$776 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major Non-NATO ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa.

The proposed sale of the TOW 2A Missiles and TOW Launchers will advance Morocco's efforts to develop an integrated ground defense capability. A strong national defense and dedicated military force will assist Morocco to sustain itself in its efforts to maintain stability.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors involved in this program are Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, Arizona and McKinney, Texas. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to Morocco.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-45

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 TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF) is a direct attack missile designed to defeat armored vehicles, reinforced urban structures, field fortifications and other such targets. TOW missiles are fired from a variety of TOW launchers in the U.S. Army, USMC, and FMS customer forces. The TOW 2A RF missile can be launched from the same launcher platforms as the existing wire-guided TOW 2A missile without modification to the launcher. The TOW 2A missile (both wire & RF) contains two tracker beacons (xenon and thermal) for the launcher to track and guide the missile in flight. Guidance commands from the launcher are provided to the missile by a RF link contained within the commands from the missile case. The hardware, software, and technical publications provided with the sale are UNCLASSIFIED. However, the system itself contains sensitive technology that instructs the system on how to operate in the presence of countermeasures.

2. Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS) is designed to fire all existing versions of the TOW missile and consists of a Target Acquisition Subsystem (TAS), a Fire Control Subsystem (FCS), a Li-Ion Battery Box (LBB), a modified Traversing Unit (TU) plus the standard launch tube and tripod. The ITAS provides for the integration of both the direct view optics and a second generation Standard Advanced Dewar Assembly (SADA) II thermal sensor into a single housing; direct view optics that provide viewing the target scene in daylight and non-obscured conditions; introduction of both passive and active eye safe laser-ranging; development of embedded training and training sustainment; automatic bore sight which allows the gunner to align the night vision system with the direct view optics; insertion of advanced Built-in Test/Built-in Test Equipment (BIT/BITE) which provides fault detection and recognition and go/no go status for the gunner; and an Aided Target Tracker (A17) that provides the capability to process infrared imagery into recognizable contour features used to assist the gunner's aim point.

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 Morocco 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 Morocco.

FT. HUACHUCA

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in opposition to cutting congressionally mandated support from critical military construction projects in Arizona, the United States, and around the world. This misguided effort takes \$30 million away from Ft. Huachuca, home to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, where all Army intelligence professionals train at least once in their careers.

The \$30 million was set to fund construction of a long-needed, new facility

to protect and maintain equipment used to replicate the communications networks and threat displays of our adversaries. This investment is critical to ensuring our Army intelligence professionals receive the training they need to keep our country safe. Backfilling these cuts will likely delay several other needed projects at Ft. Huachuca and may lead to wasted taxpayer dollars as the cost of construction goes up over time.

I recently saw firsthand how the training our soldiers receive at Ft. Huachuca is essential in preparing our country to respond to threats from Russia, China, and other bad actors around the globe. As we continue to counter terrorism, we must consider threats our adversaries pose across multiple domains—notably disinformation campaigns, cyber warfare, and conventional military operations. Our intelligence training mission at Ft. Huachuca is critical to our national security, and our intelligence soldiers deserve our full support.

Ft. Huachuca is the largest employer in Cochise County, and the residents of Sierra Vista and the surrounding communities remain steadfast supporters of our brave servicemembers and America's intelligence mission. They know personally that taking \$30 million from the base risks military readiness and our security.

This misguided plan weakens our national security and will likely cost American taxpayers more money in the long-run, which is why I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have rejected taking money away from these important military projects. We all support the men and women of our Armed Forces and must work together to ensure they have the resources and support to do their jobs and keep us safe.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CODY CRINER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Deputy Cody Criner of Sweetgrass County for his brave action in service of his community.

On February 6, 2019, Deputy Cody Criner was performing a routine check at a rest stop along I-90 near Big Timber, when he came across a Toyota Prius. At first, he believed the car to be abandoned. The car was covered in snow, and the hood and the exhaust were completely frozen over. Abandoned cars are common along this stretch of highway; however, Deputy Criner knew in his gut that something was wrong.

Deputy Criner approached the vehicle to inspect the windows, and that is when he saw the hand of a 33-year-old man. The man's eyes were rolled into the back of his head, and he wasn't responding as Criner pounded on the window. In temperatures 10 degrees below

freezing, Criner knew time was working against him.

Criner took quick action and grabbed a hammer and broke the passenger side window. He proceeded to cover the man with as many blankets as he had and even took the beanie off his own head to keep the man warm. On that cold February day, Criner saved a man's life.

Deputy Criner's quick action and commitment to service is exemplary of the Montana spirit. I know that Sheriff Alan Ronneberg and the entire Sweetgrass community are thankful to have a faithful public servant in Deputy Cody Criner.

In recognition of Deputy Cody Criner's bravery and service, I ask unanimous consent that his name be entered into the RECORD and recognized as Montanan of the week.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS A. MUNGAS

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor CAPT Nicholas A. Mungas, commodore of Training Air Wing One, at NAS Meridian, for his 25 years of service to the U.S. Navy.

CAPT Nicholas Mungas grew up in Kalispell, MT. Following his nomination, Captain Mungas attended and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1995, with a degree in economics. Directly following, he attended flight school and, in November of 1997, was designated a naval aviator at NAS Kingsville in Texas.

Captain Mungas's operational assignments include FA-18 pilot tours with Strike Fighter Squadron, VFA 105, USS *Enterprise*, CVN 65, USS *Harry S. Truman*, CVN 75; VFA-195, USS *Kitty Hawk*, CV 63; and VFA-136, USS *Enterprise*, CVN 65; completing multiple Mediterranean and Western Pacific deployments, while supporting Operations Southern Watch, Deliberate Forge, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom.

Captain Mungas has excelled in all areas of the Navy, but most notably as a naval pilot. Captain Mungas attended the navy fighter weapons school, better known as TOPGUN. He also served as an instructor pilot in the Strike Fighter Squadron 106, where he was selected as the Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic Fleet Instructor Pilot of the Year in 2004.

After his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Mungas has accumulated over 2,900 flight hours and has performed 576 carrier arrested landings. His distinguished career includes the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Strike Flight Air Medal, and the Department of State Meritorious honor award.

As well as being a highly qualified and distinguished pilot, Captain Mungas has served as the Joint Chiefs of Staff desk officer and U.S. Africa Command lead planner, as well as a military detailee to the U.S. Depart-

ment of State in the Office of the Euro-Atlantic Security Affairs in the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance.

His record of excellence and leadership is an inspiration to all young Montanans and aspiring naval aviators. I, along with all of Montana, are grateful for his life of service to our Nation.

In recognition of CAPT Nicholas A. Mungas and his personal accomplishments and contributions to his country, I ask unanimous consent that his name be entered into the RECORD.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YMCA'S YOUTH ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today, I am proud to recognize in the RECORD an organization that has meant so much to so many worldwide.

In June, the YMCA celebrated a major anniversary. Since its creation 175 years ago, the YMCA is now located in 119 countries and serves 58 million individuals, including my own family in Alpharetta, GA; the local YMCA is named for my father: the "Ed Isakson/Alpharetta Family YMCA."

Now, the YMCA is celebrating 75 years of an important civic engagement program called Youth Assembly. Youth Assembly is a high school mock State legislative program, which I participated in as a student myself, serving as a press delegate in 1962.

At Youth Assembly, students discuss current issues confronting their State with other high school students from across the State, along with educators, State administrators, and other elected officials. In Georgia, this program brings together a diverse group of students who come from very different parts of our State. Students choose from a range of areas relevant to the legislative process, including executive, judicial, legislative, lobbyist, and media roles. This program is competition-based, and those delegates who excel in each of the programs are recognized during the closing session.

In Atlanta, the program is held annually at the State capitol, where volunteers from State departments act as resources for the students while they debate the issues. These volunteers, along with State YMCA staff, help guide students through mock committee meetings and procedures. Students debate and vote on the bills that their fellow delegates have written and presented. Bills that pass in committee are then taken to the floor of the house or senate for full debate and vote. Participants also engage in campaigns and elections for officers who will serve during the following year.

Bringing these students together helps them learn not only the legislative process but also more about people from different backgrounds and from parts of their own State who may not be as familiar to their upbringing.

For our democracy to survive, it requires citizen participation. Anything

we can do to help students—and all citizens—to better understand government and recognize the importance of playing a role in its operation is important. If everyone were more involved day-to-day, we might see fewer disagreements, but we would certainly have a better understanding of how our country operate, and how opinions can differ without being disagreeable.

Becoming involved in government helps us all, and I commend the YMCA on the 75th anniversary of this meaningful program for our youth.●

TRIBUTE TO MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund, for her powerful advocacy for racial justice and on behalf of children, the poor, and all marginalized people.

On September 18, the Coalition on Human Needs will honor Mrs. Edelman as an extraordinary Human Needs Hero. Mrs. Edelman's storied career spans several epochal chapters of American history. Her activism and leadership led to the creation of programs such as Head Start, federally funded child care, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and tax credits for low-income families. Through the Children's Defense Fund and in her earlier work, Mrs. Edelman led in opening doors for children with disabilities, overhauling child welfare services, and expanding educational opportunities and health care for all children. From her early fight to ensure that nutrition aid reached the poorest families to her ongoing advocacy to protect children of color and all children from the ravages of poverty, Marian Wright Edelman has assisted tens of millions of children living in poverty and touched countless lives for the better.

Mrs. Edelman grew up the daughter of a Baptist minister, who raised her with a strong emphasis on the value of faith, family, and education. These values would guide her through the challenges of entering the public sphere as an African-American woman. Mrs. Edelman's advocacy began while she was a student at Spelman College, where she was an active participant of the civil rights movement. Upon graduating from Yale Law School, Mrs. Edelman became the first African-American woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar. In Mississippi, she practiced with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and was an integral part of the Freedom Summer of 1964. She was instrumental in exposing the plight of child poverty in the South and throughout the United States, culminating in Senator Robert Kennedy's historic trip to witness the plight of hungry children in Mississippi.

Subsequently, Mrs. Edelman served as counsel to the Rev. Martin Luther King's Poor People's Campaign. In 1973,

she founded the Children's Defense Fund, an organization that to this day continues to work tirelessly to ensure child poverty will one day be a thing of the past. The CDF's "Leave No Child Behind" mission is to ensure every child "a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities." To that end, CDF continues the tradition of Freedom Schools in 28 States and empowers outstanding high school students who have overcome tremendous adversity through its Beat the Odds program.

Through her work, Mrs. Edelman has achieved international renown, garnering numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She has authored several books on her life and our Nation's shared responsibility to children.

Mrs. Edelman has been a guiding voice in much of my own work in Congress, and I know that countless other Members of Congress would say the same. This is particularly true with respect to my involvement in the Family First Prevention Services Act, a law that changed the way our Nation supports child welfare services by expanding the largest Federal program—title IV-E of the Social Security Act which pays for foster care services—to also support services for families to help prevent the need for foster care in the first place. This legislative victory simply would not have occurred were it not for the strong and steady voice of Mrs. Edelman and her colleagues at the Children's Defense Fund.

Marian Wright Edelman will long be remembered as one of the greatest champions of children in our Nation's history, and so it is my honor and privilege today to recognize Marian Wright Edelman.●

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.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001—PM 28

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90

days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared in Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001, "National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks," is to continue in effect beyond September 14, 2019.

The threat of terrorism that resulted in the declaration of a national emergency on September 14, 2001, continues. The authorities that have been invoked under that declaration of a national emergency continue to be critical to the ability of the Armed Forces of the United States to perform essential missions in the United States and around the world to address the continuing threat of terrorism. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, in response to certain terrorist attacks.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2019.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 205. An act 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.

H.R. 1941. An act 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.

At 12:55 p.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1146. An act to amend Public Law 115-97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes.

At 2:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Clerk of the House be directed to return to the Senate the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, in compliance with a request of the Senate for the return thereof.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 205. An act 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; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1146. An act to amend Public Law 115-97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1941. An act 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; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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-2551. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Threat Reduction Agency Privacy Program" (RIN0790-AK64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2552. A communication from the Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Consumer Credit Card Market"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2553. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Memorandum of Justification regarding determination pursuant to section 451 of the Foreign Assistance Act to support Burundi and Mauritania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2554. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2018 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2555. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Student Assistance General Provisions and Federal Family Education Loan Program (Institutional Accountability)" (RIN1840-AD26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2556. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2019, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" (MD Docket No. 19-105) (FCC 19-83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2557. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Implementing Karl's Law and Section 506 of RAY BAUM'S Act; Inquiry Concerning 911 Access, Routing, and Location in Enterprise Communications Systems; Amending the Definition of Interconnected VoIP Service in Section 9.3 of the Commission's Rules" (PS Docket Nos. 18-261 and 17-239 and GN Docket No. 11-117) (FCC 19-76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2470. An original bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-102).

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2474. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-103).

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2020" (Rept. No. 116-104).

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1273. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-105).

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. UDALL (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2469. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the use of advanced leak detection technology for pipelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 2470. An original bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2471. A bill to give middle-class families access to the maximum Federal Pell Grant, to increase college transparency, and State maintenance of efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2472. A bill to redesignate the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Plum Brook Station, Ohio, as the NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. JONES):

S. 2473. A bill to extend certain provisions of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery

Act until September 30, 2030, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 2474. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2475. A bill to modify the effective date for inclusion of certain members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2476. A bill to provide a temporary increase in the limitation on deductible contributions made for relief efforts related to Hurricane Dorian; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2477. A bill to establish a National Commission on Fibrotic Diseases; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JONES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2478. A bill to designate the Bahamas under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide temporary protected status under such section to eligible nationals of the Bahamas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 309. A resolution designating September 2019 as "National Voting Rights Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 310. A resolution recognizing the semiquincentennial of the community of Wheeling, West Virginia; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 311. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as "Patriot Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 312. A resolution designating the week beginning September 8, 2019, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 66

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 66, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 511

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 668, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) 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. 839

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 851

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

S. 947

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 947, a bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes.

S. 982

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1048

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Reducing Youth Use of E-Cigarettes Initiative.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms.

SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1114, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate a provision under the Medicare Advantage program that inadvertently penalizes Medicare Advantage plans for providing high quality care to Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1267, a bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

S. 1279

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1279, a bill to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

S. 1416

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1416, a bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit anticompetitive behaviors by drug product manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1468, a bill to support the successful implementation of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement in Cambodia, and for other purposes.

S. 1628

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1628, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the employer credit for paid family and medical leave, and for other purposes.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 1825

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1825, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor 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 Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) 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. 1906

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors 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. 1969

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1969, a bill to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 2026

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) 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. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) 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. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2203, a bill to extend the transfer of Electronic Travel Authorization System fees from the Travel Promotion Fund to the Corporation for Travel Promotion (Brand USA) through fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes.

S. 2206

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2206, a bill to express the sense of Congress regarding restoration and maintenance of the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium.

S. 2229

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2229, a bill to protect consumers from deceptive practices with respect to online booking of hotel reservations, and for other purposes.

S. 2322

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2322, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2417, a bill to provide for payment of proceeds from savings bonds to a State with title to such bonds pursuant to the judgment of a court.

S. 2463

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. RES. 205

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 205, a resolution expressing the gratitude of the Senate for

the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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.

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, *supra*.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 309—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MONTH”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 309

Whereas voting is one of the single most important rights that can be exercised in a democracy;

Whereas, over the course of history, various voter suppression laws in the United States have hindered, and even prohibited, certain individuals and groups from exercising the right to vote;

Whereas, during the 19th and early 20th centuries, Native Americans and people who were born to United States citizens abroad, people who spoke a language other than English, and people who were formerly subjected to slavery were denied full citizenship and prevented from voting by English literacy tests;

Whereas, since the 1870s, minority groups such as African Americans in the South have suffered from the oppressive effects of Jim Crow laws designed to prevent political, economic, and social mobility;

Whereas African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other underrepresented voters were subject to violence, poll taxes, literacy tests, all-White primaries, property ownership tests, and grandfather clauses;

Whereas members of the aforementioned groups and others are currently, in some cases, subject to intimidation, voter roll purges, bans on former prisoners from voting, and financial barriers that act effectively as modern day poll taxes;

Whereas, in 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to protect the right of African Americans and other traditionally disenfranchised groups to vote, among other reasons;

Whereas, in 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States invalidated section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, dismantling the preclearance formula provision in that Act

that protected voters in States and localities that historically have suppressed the right of minorities to vote;

Whereas, since the invalidation of the preclearance formula provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, gerrymandered districts in many States have gone unchallenged or have become less likely to be invalidated by the courts;

Whereas these gerrymandered districts have been found to have a discriminatory impact on traditionally disenfranchised minorities through tactics that include “cracking”, diluting the voting power of minorities across many districts, and “packing”, concentrating minority voters’ power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts;

Whereas the courts have found the congressional and, in some cases, State legislative district maps, in Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin to be gerrymandered districts that were created to favor some groups over others;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), calls on Congress to update the formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas some form of a restrictive voting law has been instituted in 22 States since 2013;

Whereas these restrictive voting laws encompass cutbacks in early voting, voter roll purges, placement of faulty equipment in minority communities, requirement of photo identification—the procurement of which amounts to a modern day poll tax, and the elimination of same-day registration;

Whereas these changes could outright disenfranchise or make voting much more difficult for more than 80,000,000 minority, elderly, poor, and disabled voters, among other groups;

Whereas, in 2016, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas were ruled to violate voters’ rights and overturned by the courts;

Whereas there is much more work to be done to ensure all citizens of the United States have the right to vote;

Whereas National Voter Registration Day is September 25; and

Whereas September 2019 would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Voting Rights Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2019 as “National Voting Rights Month”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to uphold the right of every citizen to exercise the sacred and fundamental right to vote;

(3) encourages Congress to pass—

(A) the For the People Act of 2019 (S. 949 and H.R. 1 of the 116th Congress), to increase voters’ access to the ballot, prohibit the use of deceptive practices to intimidate voters, end gerrymandering, create automatic voter registration, limit the power of restrictive voter identification laws, make critical investments in election infrastructure and technology, and address corruption in campaign finance and ethics;

(B) the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 (S. 561 and H.R. 4 of the 116th Congress), to restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) that prohibit discriminatory voting practices, remove barriers to voting, and provide protections for minority voters in States with a history of voting discrimination;

(C) the Securing America’s Federal Elections Act, or the SAFE Act (S. 2238 and H.R. 2722 of the 116th Congress), to provide funding for States to improve the administration

of elections, including by enhancing technology and election security, replacing antiquated voting systems, and meeting new standards for administering elections; and

(D) other voting rights legislation that seeks to advance voting rights and protect elections in the United States;

(4) recommends that public schools and universities in the United States develop an academic curriculum that educates students about—

(A) the importance of voting, how to register to vote, where to vote, and the different forms of voting;

(B) the history of voter suppression in the United States before the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

(C) current issues relating to laws passed after 1965 that restrict the right to vote; and

(D) any actions taken by State and Federal Government officials since passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that have created barriers to the exercise of the right to vote;

(5) encourages the United States Postal Service to issue a special Fannie Lou Hamer stamp during the month of September to remind people in the United States that ordinary citizens risked their lives, marched, and participated in the great democracy of the United States so that all citizens would have the fundamental right to vote; and

(6) invites Congress to allocate the requisite funds for public service announcements on television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media, billboards, buses, and other forms of media to remind people in the United States when elections are being held and to urge people to get out and vote.

SENATE RESOLUTION 310—RECOGNIZING THE SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL OF THE COMMUNITY OF WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 310

Whereas 2019 marks 250 years since the September in which pioneer Colonel Ebenezer Zane used an axe to notch, girdle, and strike his name into a gathering of trees, marking a plot of land through tomahawk rights;

Whereas, in the spring of 1770, Zane returned with his brothers, Jonathan and Silas, to inhabit the clearing he created above the mouth of Wheeling Creek and they, along with the families who soon followed, formed the nucleus of the community that would become the city of Wheeling;

Whereas, in 1782, Native American and British forces attacked Fort Henry in Wheeling to drive out colonial settlers;

Whereas the ammunition supply at Fort Henry was exhausted, and Betty Zane courageously volunteered to retrieve gunpowder from the Zane family homestead, gathered the gunpowder in a tablecloth, and safely returned, resulting in a victory for the citizens of Wheeling;

Whereas, in 1810, Conrad Cotts, an experienced miner from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, opened the first commercial coal mine in the area that is now West Virginia in Wheeling;

Whereas the territory of Wheeling was originally part of the Commonwealth of Virginia;

Whereas the First Wheeling Convention took place from May 13 to May 15, 1861, at West Virginia Independence Hall, located at the corner of 16th Street and Market Street;

Whereas, on May 23, 1861, voters in Virginia ratified the Secession Ordinance to

leave the United States and join the Confederacy;

Whereas, in June 1861, pro-Union Virginians met for the Second Wheeling Convention and—

(1) declared all State offices in Virginia vacant and all acts of the General Assembly to be null and void, thus creating the Restored Government of Virginia that sought to rebuild ties with the Union; and

(2) installed Wheeling as the provisional capital;

Whereas, on October 24, 1861, residents of the area that is now West Virginia voted to approve statehood for West Virginia;

Whereas, on April 20, 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation on the admission of West Virginia to the Union;

Whereas the city of Wheeling became the first capital of the State of West Virginia, and Wheeling served intermittently as the capital until Charleston was selected by a vote of the citizens of the State;

Whereas the city of Wheeling served as an early transportation epicenter, connecting the Ohio River with the Potomac River via the National Road, opening further expansion to the West;

Whereas “Nail City” became an early nickname for Wheeling, reflecting the strong steel industry and the growing manufacturing presence of the State in the region;

Whereas the Wheeling Suspension Bridge was once the longest suspension bridge in the world, and construction mechanisms of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge were used while building the Brooklyn Bridge in New York;

Whereas, on September 23, 1952, General Dwight D. Eisenhower telegraphed Senator Richard M. Nixon, requesting to meet face-to-face the following day in Wheeling where General Eisenhower was holding a presidential campaign rally and would ultimately approve of Senator Nixon as the Republican nominee for Vice President;

Whereas the Wheeling Jamboree, utilizing local country music talent, was first aired on WWVA at 11 p.m. on Saturday, January 7, 1933, revolutionizing the way radio appealed to listeners;

Whereas participants of the Ogden Newspapers Half Marathon run 13.1 miles on one of the toughest courses in the United States;

Whereas the Wheeling Nailers, a member of the East Coast Hockey League and an affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins, is the oldest surviving minor league franchise below the American Hockey League;

Whereas the Winter Festival of Lights at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling attracts more than 1,000,000 visitors annually for one of the best holiday light shows in the United States; and

Whereas DiCarlo’s Pizza took advantage of the post-World War II economic boom and expanded across the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia, becoming famous for cold cheese piled on top of a rectangular pizza slice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the semiquincentennial of the community of Wheeling, West Virginia; and

(2) encourages the citizens of Wheeling to observe and celebrate the semi-quincentennial with appropriate ceremonies to commemorate this historic occasion.

SENATE RESOLUTION 311—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17 AS “PATRIOT WEEK”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 311

Whereas the events that led to the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, have significance for every citizen of the United States and are honored in public schools across the United States on Constitution Day, which is September 17 of each year;

Whereas the rule of law, the social compact, democracy, liberty, equality, and unalienable human rights are the essential values upon which the United States flourishes;

Whereas diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the United States, and the motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States, “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, symbolizes that individuals in the United States from all walks of life are unified by shared values;

Whereas exceptional, visionary, and indispensable individuals such as Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, John Adams, John Marshall, George Washington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison founded or advanced the United States;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions signed in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr., express sentiments that have advanced liberty in the United States; and

Whereas the Bennington (’76) flag, the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag of the United States, the flag of the women’s suffrage movement, the Union (Fort Sumter) flag, the Gadsden flag, and the flags of the States are physical symbols of the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as “Patriot Week”;;

(2) recognizes that understanding the history of the United States and the first principles of the United States is indispensable to the survival of the United States as a free people;

(3) acknowledges, in great reverence to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, that citizens of the United States should take time to honor the first principles, founders, documents, and symbols of their history;

(4) recognizes that each generation should renew the spirit of the United States based on the first principles, historical figures, founding documents, and symbols of the United States; and

(5) encourages citizens, schools and other educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments and their agencies to recognize and participate in Patriot Week by honoring, celebrating, and promoting the study of the history of the United States so that all people of the United States may offer the reverence that is due to the free republic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8, 2019, AS “NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK”

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 312

Whereas direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential support that ensures that individuals with disabilities are—

- (1) included as a valued part of the communities in which those individuals live;
- (2) supported at home, at work, and in the communities of the United States; and
- (3) empowered to live with dignity;

Whereas all communities have a stake in ensuring that individuals with disabilities thrive through the connections of the individuals to their families, friends, and communities, fostered by the direct support professionals of those individuals;

Whereas home and community-based services driven by the direct support professional workforce can result in cost efficiency and better outcomes relating to support and services for individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities by helping those individuals make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals build close, respectful, and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support to individuals with disabilities, including—

- (1) assisting with the preparation of meals;
- (2) helping with medication;
- (3) assisting with bathing, dressing, and other aspects of daily living;

(4) assisting with access to the environment of the individuals;

(5) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities;

(6) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests; and

(7) meeting complex behavioral and medical needs;

Whereas there is a documented critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States;

Whereas direct support professionals are a critical element in supporting—

- (1) individuals who are receiving health care services for severe chronic health conditions and individuals with functional limitations; and
- (2) the successful transition of individuals from medical events to post-acute care and long-term support and services;

Whereas many direct support professionals are the primary financial providers for their families;

Whereas direct support professionals are hardworking, taxpaying citizens who provide an important service to people with disabilities in the United States, yet many con-

tinue to earn low wages, receive inadequate benefits, and have limited opportunities for advancement, resulting in high turnover and vacancy rates that adversely affect the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999)—

(1) recognized the importance of the deinstitutionalization of, and community-based services for, individuals with disabilities; and

(2) held that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S. 12101 et seq.), a State must provide community-based services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities if—

(A) the community-based services are appropriate;

(B) the affected person does not oppose receiving the community-based services; and

(C) the community-based services can be reasonably accommodated after the community has taken into account the resources available to the State and the needs of other individuals with disabilities in the State; and

Whereas, in 2019, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home- and community-based settings and that trend will increase over the next decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 8, 2019, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States;

(4) commends direct support professionals for being integral to the provision of long-term support and services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) encourages the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor to collect data specific to direct support professionals; and

(6) finds that the successful implementation of the public policies affecting individuals with disabilities in the United States can depend on the dedication of direct support professionals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 938. Mr. INHOFE proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 938. Mr. INHOFE proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; as follows:

In section 6943(a), strike paragraph (2).

After section 6966, insert the following:

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 6971. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this title or the amendments made by this title shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator BILL CASSIDY, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 1146, a bill to amend Public Law 115-97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes, dated September 12, 2019.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have 3 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Ryan D. McCarthy to be Secretary of the Army and Barbara M. Barrett to be Secretary of the Air Force.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kathryn Sullivan be given floor privileges for today.

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

RECOGNIZING THE SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL OF THE COMMUNITY OF WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 310, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 310) recognizing the semiquincentennial of the community of Wheeling, West Virginia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 310) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am really pleased to be here with my fellow Senator from the State of West Virginia to talk about a really great city and very historic city in our State of West Virginia, and that is to recognize the 250th birthday anniversary of the city of Wheeling, WV.

In September of 1769, Ebenezer Zane set out into the great unknown, as many of our brave earlier settlers did. He found a place nestled at the mouth of a river, and he girdled a group of trees together and carved his family name into them, claiming his tomahawk right, as was the custom of the time. That clearing that Zane created, where he built his home and raised his family, would develop into the city of Wheeling.

I grew up just 10 miles south of Wheeling, WV. Wheeling is a city of industry, good people, and growth. Yes, there have been ups and downs over the years, but today it is as vibrant as ever. As West Virginians, we all take pride in our State's progress through the years, but Wheeling has made a particularly special mark on our State.

During the Wheeling Convention of 1861, Western Virginians voted to secede from Virginia so that we could remain loyal to the Union. They declared that Virginia officials had abandoned their posts, and they established a provisional government with Francis Pierpont as the Governor.

Then, in 1863—something we are very proud of—President Lincoln issued a proclamation admitting the State of West Virginia into the Union and instituting Wheeling, WV, as our first State capital.

The bold actions of the men of the Wheeling Convention opened the gate for the creation of the State I know we know and love, the State that we are so proud to call home and to serve here in the Senate.

As a matter of fact, we have a statue to honor our first Governor, Governor Francis Pierpont, the father of West Virginia, and it still stands in the Capitol in Statuary Hall today.

As a new State following the Civil War, West Virginia sought to cement its place in the recovering Union, and Wheeling became an early transportation epicenter. Probably, traveling to the Presiding Officer's State, you had to go right through Wheeling.

With the presence of the National Road, including the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, which is still there today, the city connected the Ohio River with the Potomac River and offered further expansion to the west. As a result, Wheeling, WV, was able to become a powerhouse in the steel industry. We have all heard of Wheeling steel. In the late 19th century, Wheeling was producing nearly half of the Nation's nails, earning it the nickname "Nail City."

Today, Wheeling has revived its downtown, winning the 2019 Great American Main Street Award.

In the past 3 years, they have opened 37 new small businesses—the backbone of our State—and the city has opened tourism to the Ohio River Valley, from the Victorian Capitol Theater and the shops and eateries of Centre Market to one of the best—and, I will say, not one of the best but the best—holiday light shows in the country at Oglebay Park, their Winter Festival of Lights.

Wheeling is historic. It is beautiful, and it is booming. That is all thanks to the creative and incredible men and women who have called it home over the years.

One of my favorite historic stories about Wheeling involves one of those brave men, Major Samuel McColloch.

Back in September of 1777, during the Revolutionary War, there was a siege on Fort Henry, which today is Wheeling. As the fort came under attack by a group of Native Americans, Major McColloch arrived at the fort with 40 mounted men. They all made it safely inside the gate except for the major, who was then forced to flee to a nearby hill. If you know anything about West Virginia or Wheeling, WV, we have plenty of hills.

So when he got to the top, he found himself surrounded, and his only hope of escaping was by leaping off of the edge, which was about a 300-foot drop. Well, being the bold leader that he was, Major McColloch took the jump. He and his horse survived this leap, and they galloped away.

Today, that spot is marked by an historic marker, and it is called McColloch's Leap. I can remember my parents, when I was a young girl and we would go to Wheeling, stopping and explaining this incredible story about the leap of Major McColloch with his horse down the 300 feet. You ought to go see it, because when you look at it, you go: Whoa, that is a long way.

Of course we cannot forget the women who also helped to shape Wheeling's history. There was another siege on Fort Henry that took place in September of 1782. It is often known as the Last Battle of the Revolutionary War. Native Americans and British

Rangers had laid siege to the fort, with some 40 men defending it and protecting and guarding the women and children inside.

As the battle raged on, the settlers knew that they would soon deplete their ammunition, but they knew of a stockpile at the nearby Zane homestead. So one volunteer, Betty Zane, Ebenezer's sister and one of the original settlers of Wheeling, stepped up. She ran to her brother's cabin at her own peril, gathered up the gunpowder in a tablecloth and returned through enemy fire.

Betty was successful and unharmed, and with the replenished resources, the forces were forced to retire, resulting in a victory for Wheeling and a very young United States of America.

So, as we gather today, Senator MANCHIN and I, to honor Wheeling's 250th birthday, I also honor the individuals who built the city, from the first settlers to those who walk down Market Street today. Together, they have secured an important place for Wheeling in our Nation's history, and they have made it the success and the incredible city that it remains today.

I was just in Wheeling last weekend, where we had a parade celebrating the 250th birthday of Wheeling. With the amount of young people, music, and great feeling that exuded all throughout the city—restaurants full, bands playing patriotic music—it was a wonderful day for the entire community to celebrate that birthday.

In West Virginia, we have little names for little cities and how we feel. Wheeling is a place I have frequented many, many times in my life. I can say that day, celebrating the 250th birthday on Saturday, I definitely had the "Wheeling feeling." I had the opportunity to see so many of those in the northern panhandle celebrate Wheeling as a vibrant city. I look forward to continuing to celebrate this vibrant city and everyone who calls it home for years to come.

I yield the floor and welcome Senator MANCHIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The other Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague Senator CAPITO. We are very proud West Virginians, born and raised in West Virginia, as you can tell by our presentations. It is a special day where we can say happy birthday to Wheeling.

Wheeling is an unbelievable historical city, when you think about it. When you think about the State of West Virginia, we were the only State forged out of the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln's handprint was all over our State, and basically he was involved in our becoming a State in 1863.

The significance of the formation of our State—and Wheeling being a major economic stronghold because of the river, because of the gateway—can you believe that in 1949, when the suspension bridge was built, it was called the Gateway to the West? It is not that far

from here, maybe 4 hours' drive. So you can see how our country has expanded and how quickly it expanded.

The lessons learned during the construction of the bridge were later used to build the Brooklyn Bridge. I want to tell Senator SCHUMER that we helped. I am sure he would be pleased with that.

In 1933, the Wheeling Jamboree—the Wheeling Jamboree was the longest. People will tell you, during World War II, they would hear—because it was 50,000 watts, they would hear it on the battleships. It was unbelievable.

The music, the talent, the country music that came out of there from some of the most famous artists of the time and still yet to this day passed through Wheeling.

These points in time showcase the importance of the city of Wheeling and the State of West Virginia throughout American history.

I keep thinking about the Marsh Wheeling stogies. Anybody who maybe liked to smoke a cigar every now and then—that was 1840, and it is still in operation. It is unbelievable.

Of course Senator CAPITO talked about Wheeling Steel. It had a tremendous industrial might there for many, many years.

As talked about also, the Zane brothers established a settlement in 1769. Continuing to join the Zane brothers, people came from all over. A small settlement kept growing and growing like the country was at that time.

Wheeling's Fort Henry played a role in what is considered the last battle of the Revolutionary War. It was a significant strategic point for us.

The Restored Government of Virginia at that time—Virginia seceded in 1861. In 1861, there was no Virginia as we know Virginia today. They moved over to Western Virginia, which is where Wheeling is. That was the restored government, and that is where the capital was. That was all through Arthur Boreman.

In 1863—we have a statue in the capital that has Abraham Lincoln walking at midnight deciding whether he is going to sign the proclamation. The country is already divided; now he is going to divide a State. That had not been done because basically, up until then, the Constitution was very clear: You had to have permission from the territory you were in or from another State to secede. But Abraham Lincoln took it upon himself.

If you see the beautiful, unusual shape of our State, there are very few straight lines. Especially when you see the zoning of the eastern panhandle—it is an hour-and-10-minute drive from here—you have Harpers Ferry and John Brown's raid in 1859, which kicked off the Civil War. Then you have the railroads, the confluence of the Shenandoah and the Potomac. It is just unbelievable. He knew he needed that arsenal.

This is the folklore. I don't know if it is true or not, but it is a good story. The three counties we have over there

are Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson. It was said that after the war, they were supposed to have a referendum and a vote to see if it would go back to the State of Virginia. Well, I am understanding that Ulysses S. Grant, who was then the President—it is said that he stationed quite a few troops that had voting rights, and the rest is history because it is still West Virginia. There are really some good anecdotes about that.

Wheeling became the provisional capital for the split in the western part of Virginia during the Civil War.

There are so many parts of Wheeling that I have become so fond of, and the people. The "Wheeling feeling" is a saying they have. They have a Wheeling Jamboree. They have a Wheeling Italian festival. The ethnicity of that community is unbelievable. It brings everybody together, and it has brought everybody together.

Having been raised in Farmington—SHELLEY was raised about 2 hours north of me. Back in those days, it was a good 2-hour drive. I am a little bit farther in the north-central part of the State, closer to Fairmont-Morgantown. But knowing about that—Wheeling was the hub. It was the place to go. It was basically the gateway also at that time into Pittsburgh, and it is still considered a distant suburb of Pittsburgh to a certain extent. The economy, the history, the people—some famous people, some productive people—a lot of our leaders come from that area.

When Wheeling became the first capital—we couldn't decide where the capital of West Virginia should be, so they floated up and down the Ohio River, back to Charleston and back to Wheeling, Charleston and Wheeling, until it settled in Charleston, WV.

I am just proud to be standing here with my colleague today. For those who live in Wheeling today and those who have lived in Wheeling at some time in their lives or have family—because all the good-quality jobs are there, good union jobs, well-paying jobs and benefits—to all of them, there is a special place in our hearts for Wheeling, WV, a special place in American history for Wheeling, WV, and a special place in all of our hearts for the State of West Virginia.

I say thank you and happy birthday to a great city of ours and to the great State of West Virginia. We are proud this has become a resolution that has been entered and accepted.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this summer, while American families enjoyed time away from work and from school, the big pharmaceutical companies revved up their influence machine to dismantle bipartisan legislation aimed at bringing down prescription drug costs.

In July, the Senate Finance Committee, on which I am the ranking

Democrat, passed legislation that constitutes the most serious and the most significant bipartisan effort in recent memory to lower drug prices. It is the result of months and months of work by Members on both sides. With respect to Chairman GRASSLEY he and I worked literally every single day for 6 months with our colleagues to try to bring together this bipartisan package. Now the big pharmaceutical companies want to shred the bipartisan Finance Committee bill into confetti.

The bill has two particularly important proposals. First, it has an out-of-pocket cap in Medicare that is going to save senior citizens \$27 billion in the next decade. It will end the era when prescription drugs forced senior citizens into bankruptcy.

The second key proposal is the one that really has Big Pharma mobilizing their lobbyist armies. It is a provision that stipulates that if big pharmaceutical companies are engaged in price gouging—engaged in price gouging—they are going to face consequences. They are going to be able to set the prices, but if they price gouge, the taxpayer is not going to funnel up unlimited subsidies any longer. That is what that provision does that the big pharmaceutical companies are fighting. It is literally a requirement that drug companies, big drug manufacturers, when they price gouge, make a payment to Medicare, a penalty, one might call it. It is going to save the Medicare Program \$60 billion.

If the drug companies raise prices faster than inflation, they will have to pay the difference back to Medicare. There will be no more unjustifiable price hikes to please the shareholders at everybody else's expense and, particularly, no more taxpayer subsidies for price gouging on pharmaceuticals in America.

For literally years, I have been hearing the big drug companies say that they didn't want price controls, that price controls would be bad for innovation. Nobody—nobody—wants to freeze innovation, so we went back to the drawing board, and we said: OK. You set your price, but if you do price gouge, if you do hit patients, families, and consumers in an unfair way, the taxpayer is not going to ladle out unlimited subsidies. That is what that provision of our bill does.

Unfortunately, the big pharmaceutical companies would do just about anything to protect the status quo, keep the prices climbing up and up and the profits rolling in.

Their lobbyists are walking the halls here on Capitol Hill. The pharmaceutical company executives are pulling out all the stops from their political headquarters to generate support. Their fear-mongering messages have spread in op-eds attacking our legislation, saying that somehow this bill, a bipartisan bill written by Senator GRASSLEY, the senior Member of the Republican Caucus, is somehow a socialist price control.

I already talked about how it is pretty hard to call it price control if the company gets to set its prices, but it certainly doesn't limit subsidies. Apparently, the pharmaceutical companies will not accept any limits there as well.

Basically, the pharmaceutical lobbyists are calling it inhumane for the Senate Finance Committee to try to fix the broken system and bring down pharmaceutical prices. They basically say that any effort—any effort—to hold down prices is socialism.

One op-ed said that the Medicare drug program would cease “to function as a market entirely” if drug companies lost their constitutional right to limitless—limitless—price increases. Others have even claimed that drug prices are falling nationwide, which millions of seniors can tell you is fiction, based on the trips they take to the pharmacy window.

I have a bottom line, now that the Senate has come back after the summer break. The big pharmaceutical companies have had just about the longest winning streak in Washington. It seems as though they have a couple of lobbyists for practically every Member of Congress. Yet the Finance Committee voted on a bipartisan basis to actually act in the face of price gouging and protect American patients and families.

We cannot let the big pharmaceutical companies win this time. We cannot let them win on that price-gouging penalty in particular. They want it gone. They know this is going to ripple through the American economy because people are going to say: Hey, this is a pretty fair approach. The companies can set their prices, but they don't have a right to unlimited subsidies.

I personally believe—and the head of the Congressional Budget Office touched on this for our committee—this has the potential to be copied in the private sector as well. I think that is a good thing also.

The question for the Senate is going to be this: Are we going to hand pharma essentially the power of a line-item veto, where they can go in and strike one provision—one provision—the provision that does the most to stop drug company price gouging? Whether pharma gets to comb over our proposals to strike down anything that might curtail their price increases or cut into their profits—that is really what they are seeking to do. If pharma can prevent the Senate from taking even the first basic steps to bring down drug prices, then the question is, What is going to come next? Are the drug company and the drug lobbyists going to get their own desks here on the floor of the U.S. Senate? At least then their influence wouldn't just be in the shadows of the Nation's Capitol.

The prices of prescription drugs in America are out of control. All this summer I was having townhall meetings at home. I went to small pharmacies across my State, urban and

rural. Usually, in these meetings, I would ask if somebody in the audience knew somebody who had been affected by high insulin prices. Everybody's hand went up. I asked: How many of you have neighbors who have been affected by high insulin prices? Everybody's hand goes up.

The fact is that insulin prices have gone up thirteenfold in the last few years, and that drug is not 13 times better. It is basically the same drug, basically the same insulin that has been around for decades.

The reason those prices go up and up and up constantly is that the big pharmaceutical companies can get away with it. Now the Senate Finance Committee is saying: You aren't going to get away with it any longer. The days when everybody in Congress would just look the other way and they could charge anything they want will be over.

There was one particularly interesting article written over the course of the summer in which the author, using AARP data, basically said that if Senator GRASSLEY and I and bipartisan members of the Finance Committee had done this 10 years ago, there wouldn't be a crisis with drug prices. His argument—he went through AARP data—was, essentially, drugs that had gone up \$5,000 over a few years would have gone up something like \$500—something much more manageable for American families and patients.

The Senate Finance Committee is moving to actually stop this price gouging. I don't believe the pharmaceutical industry ought to be able to overrule 19 Senators on the Senate Finance Committee, Democrats and Republicans. Pharma shouldn't be able to gobble up 50 billion Medicare dollars that our legislation would otherwise save as part of the effort to stop the price gouging.

Our legislation gets to the heart of how drug companies have managed to manipulate and abuse the broken healthcare system for far too long. They have done it with a pretty simple formula: Just make sure that the U.S. Senate lets them do anything they want—no constraints on companies at all. Keep the seniors on the hook for huge costs when they are prescribed expensive drugs.

It is not just a crisis in Medicare. A recent study showed that nearly one-third of American adults said that at some point in the last year, they chose not to take medication—medication that was prescribed—because of the cost. In particular, insulin is cited again and again as a prime example, with tragic stories about people who died after self-rationing the insulin they needed to manage their diabetes.

Rising drug costs force the people of this country into impossible choices. You are robbed of your savings if you get your prescriptions filled, and you are robbed of your health if you don't. Obviously, that is unacceptable. It ought to be unacceptable to every

Member of this body, just the way it was unacceptable to the Senate Finance Committee on a bipartisan basis.

I did make clear in the Finance Committee that this was just the beginning. I believe, for example, it is long overdue for Medicare to have the power to bargain with drugmakers directly for lower drug prices. Something like 90 percent of the American people—90 percent of the American people—believe that it is time to lift the restriction on Medicare so that Medicare could bargain to hold down the costs of medicine. We weren't able to get that into the bill, but, at a minimum, the bipartisan legislation the Finance Committee approved should not be picked apart by pharma lobbyists, particularly on the key question of whether they want to stop pharmaceutical price gouging.

On this side, my colleagues and I are going to continue to fight to get this legislation passed by the full Senate. For now, it is up to Leader MCCONNELL to bring our bill to the floor.

My message to every Member of this body is this: The Americans who are battling illnesses and struggling to pay for their medications cannot wait. These are people who are walking an economic tightrope. Every month they balance their food bill against their fuel bill and their fuel bill against their medicine bill. These are Americans who cannot afford to be shunted aside while the Senate favors business as usual for the drugmakers.

Every one of us knows what this crisis is all about and how big it is. Senators were home for weeks this summer. They heard from those in their communities, in grocery stores, in gas stations, in restaurants, and in Dairy Queens—everywhere you go. When a Senator is home, folks come up and tell them a story about how they feel when they get their prescription drug bills, that they have been hit by a wrecking ball. I held townhall meetings all over the State. The issue of prescription drug costs came up at every single one of them.

I am going to close with this. Pharma's winning streak has to end here, and it has to end now. For the Senate to cave and allow pharma to block the price-gouging penalty would be an outrage. It would be a dereliction of duty on the part of the Senate.

I am going to keep up this fight, and I know Chairman GRASSLEY is going to continue to fight for our bipartisan bill, and I urge Senators on both sides of the aisle to stand with us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO CINDY HASIAK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, before we wrap up today, I call my colleagues' attention to a truly dedicated staff member who has served the Senate for decades.

After more than three decades on the job with the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Cindy Hasiak is retiring today from her post as Chamber manager.

A native of Indiana, Cindy first arrived to work in the Capitol back in 1987. She was welcomed with—get this—a chance to work the Iran-Contra hearings. Since then, she has been on the clock for 7 Presidential inaugurations, 32 Presidential addresses and States of the Union, 6 lying-in-state ceremonies, and a great many more normal workdays, or at least what passes for normal here in the Senate.

More than three decades of landmark votes, major debates, and all the daily business that takes place in this Chamber, Cindy has been here helping make it happen.

To be specific, as one of our doorkeepers, and lately the director of doorkeepers, Cindy has literally guarded the Senate floor. Talk about a sensitive job.

Alongside the brave men and women of the Capitol Police, our doorkeepers control and manage access to this historic institution that attracts the attention of the entire world. They check credentials, welcome visitors, keep things running smoothly.

Here on the floor, they keep us safe. Up in the Galleries, they welcome visitors and give citizens a chance to watch democracy in action. So it is undoubtedly the case that the Senate has been stronger for Cindy's attentive service, but even after 32 years, we would be foolish to think we could keep her forever.

After more than her share of long days, longer weeks, and late nights that relegated entertaining and family time to the back burner, Cindy has certainly earned the chance to spend less time supervising all of us here and more time with her loved ones.

I know my colleagues join me in wishing Cindy good health and happiness as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement. She will leave with our deepest gratitude for a job well done. I might add that given the fact Cindy is from Indiana, it is appropriate that we have the Senator from Indiana as the Chair.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1200, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1200) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 1200) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17 AS "PATRIOT WEEK"

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed, to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 311, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 311) expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as "Patriot Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 311) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 312, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 312) designating the week beginning September 8, 2019, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues Senators COLLINS, KING, BROWN, MARKEY, MUR-

PHY, MENENDEZ, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, HASSAN, JONES, VAN HOLLEN, CASEY, BALDWIN, HARRIS, MURRAY, ROSEN, and KAIN to recognize the week beginning September 8, 2019, as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week. Direct support professionals are an invaluable part of our Nation's healthcare system, caring for the most vulnerable Americans, including the chronically ill, seniors, and those living with a disability. Direct support professionals include, among others, those whose titles include home caregiver, personal care assistant, home care worker, or home health aide. These varying titles speaks to the broad areas of support that are integral to the work of direct support professionals. With the assistance of direct support professionals, these individuals can perform daily activities that many people take for granted, such as eating, bathing, dressing, and leaving the house. The work of direct support professionals ensures that these individuals can be active participants in their communities.

Let me share with you the experience of Marian Mulbah-Poquee, a direct support professional who was recognized this year for her incredible work and dedication when she was given Maryland's Direct Support Professional of the Year Award by the American Network of Community Options and Resources, ANCOR. Marian has been described as "a tireless advocate for her ladies," providing the women she serves with the space and choice to lead full and independent lives.

Marian supports her clients by teaching them skills that enable them to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible. For example, Marian teaches her clients safety skills, gardening, and basic home care so they can spend more time living independently. Marian also encourages her clients to actively participate in civic life. This was best exemplified by a trip her clients took to Annapolis last year for Developmental Disability Day. Marian supported her clients as they met with and engaged their local representatives to discuss issues that affect the disability community in Maryland. Marian's commitment to simultaneously supporting and empowering her clients to actively participate in the public sphere speaks to the very core of what defines direct support professionals.

Marian's story describes a career that is fulfilling, but one that oftentimes is not easy for Direct support professionals like her. The hours are often long, and the wages are low. The job can be physically laborious, as well as emotionally draining. The reward for direct support professionals, however, is that they are able to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and help fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act by making it possible for these Americans to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible.

In our country, we are incredibly fortunate to have millions of service-oriented individuals who are willing to rise to the task of becoming a direct support professional. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of DSPs is projected to grow by an average of 41 percent from 2016 to 2026, compared to a 7 percent average growth rate for all occupations during that period. The demand will only continue to increase over time; the Baby Boomer generation will result in the doubling of the population of adults ages 65 and older by 2050. The increased demand for direct support professionals has created shortages in some areas, which can place strains on patients and their families or result in medical issues that could have been avoided.

Unfortunately, direct support professionals are often forced to leave the jobs they love due to low wages and excessive, difficult work hours. Many direct support professionals rely on public benefits, and some must work multiple jobs in order to provide for themselves and their families. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we work to ensure that these hardworking individuals have the income and emotional support they need and deserve.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senators COLLINS, KING, BROWN, MARKEY, MURPHY, MENENDEZ, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, HASSAN, JONES, VAN HOLLEN, CASEY, BALDWIN, HARRIS, MURRAY, ROSEN, and KAINE in expressing our appreciation for the critically important work of our country's direct support professionals, in thanking them for

their commitment and dedication, and in supporting the resolution designating the week beginning September 8, 2019, as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 312) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, September 16; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, until

5 p.m. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Rakolta nomination and that the closure motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:21 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 16, 2019, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 12, 2019:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

THOMAS PETER FEDDO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR INVESTMENT SECURITY.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

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.