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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Mighty God, hear our prayer. Because of Your mercies, give us the wisdom to strive to please You.

Continue to effectually work through our lawmakers to accomplish Your purposes. Lord, strengthen them to catapult the hurdles that threaten true freedom.

Grant that in all our perplexities, we will seek Your truth. Lord, may we hear the thunder of Your justice mingled with the showers of Your grace. Preserve our lawmakers even during turbulent seasons.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

RENEWABLE FUELS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last week, Siouxland Energy, an ethanol plant in Sioux Center, IA, announced that they are halting production due to the unfair small refinery exemptions.

This farmer-owned plant was annually buying 23.4 million bushels of corn from farmers in the area, and it also employed 42,000 people who, today, do not know when they will be able to go back to work. This kind of economic impact is a big deal in rural communities. If it spreads, it is going to create a lot of unemployment and closed ethanol plants in other places around the country. I have heard of production halts announced in other States as well.

In fact, the ethanol industry supports more than 365,000 total jobs, and the biodiesel industry supports more than 65,000 total jobs. We have made great progress through the Renewable Fuel Standard in diversifying our Nation's fuel supply while creating jobs and strengthening local economies.

We have to get this issue settled. I hope we can get an announcement from the EPA very soon about that so we can get these plants open and get these people back to work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the weekend, details emerged about President Trump's conduct with Ukrainian President Zelensky. Specifically, the President's phone calls with the Ukrainian leader were subject of an official whistleblower complaint by a member of the intelligence community. The intelligence community's inspector general, a Trump appointee, has determined that this whistleblower's complaint is credible and a matter of urgent concern, whose subject matter "not only falls within the DNI's jurisdiction, but relates to one of the most significant and important of the DNI's responsibilities to the American people."

By law, a whistleblower complaint labeled in this way must be transmitted to Congress—not shall be transmitted to Congress, must be. The Trump administration has not allowed that to happen. So far, in the face of this dire warning and the Trump administration's effort to cover it up, the Republican-led Senate has remained silent and submissive, shying away from this institution's constitutional duty to conduct oversight.

That is an obligation we have. It is not a yes or no. That is our job. The Republicans are in the majority in the Senate. With that majority comes the power to call hearings, issue subpoenas, and decide what legislation

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



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comes to the floor. The majority in the Senate, therefore, has an obligation to consider and act on the Senate's behalf, particularly when it comes to matters of oversight and matters of separation of powers. Yet, so far, we have no indication that Senate Republicans are planning to act. Most have yet to speak out.

The Republican Senate's "see no evil, hear no evil" attitude is unacceptable and must change. Again, this is an issue of solemn obligation. There is no wiggle room here—none. The obligation of the inspector general is to turn over the whistleblower information now that he has found it credible and urgent. And here, typically, our Senate Republicans and the Senate leader sit supinely in obeisance to Donald Trump's reckless lawbreaking.

This is a democracy, and we have heard nothing from our Republican colleagues about what the President has done, as abhorrent as that is, and the stonewalling of information. What is the President afraid of in this whistleblower report? We don't know; we can only speculate. But we do know there is an obligation for it to come to Congress.

So today I sent the Republican leader, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, a letter calling on him and the Republican chairs of the Senate relevant committees to fulfill their constitutional duties and immediately take the following actions:

One, convene hearings to determine exactly what prompted the whistleblower to file this urgent complaint. At a minimum, these hearings should include testimony from Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire, Acting Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and President Trump's private attorney, Rudy Giuliani, among others.

Two, issue a subpoena to compel the delivery of the whistleblower complaint to Congress as required—required—by law.

Three, request the White House to release the transcript of President Trump's conversation with Ukrainian President Zelensky during which President Trump reportedly pressured the Government of Ukraine to investigate Vice President Biden and his family.

Four, identify the administration officials who directed that \$341 million of security assistance to Ukraine be delayed, and request that all records related to this decision be turned over to Congress.

Five, insist that the Department of Justice provide any legal opinion or other guidance it has given regarding the administration's obligation to transmit the whistleblower complaint to Congress.

It is the Senate's duty to take this national security matter seriously and investigate now. Senate Republicans have the sole power and the overwhelming responsibility to see that it does. How long must we wait for our

Republican colleagues to rise up to their responsibilities to the Constitution, to separation of powers, and to rule of law when President Trump brazenly violates that law? When are we going to hear the voices? It is unbelievable.

As President Trump erodes the very fabric of this democracy, our Republican colleagues—I believe out of fear—do nothing. That is not a profile in courage. That is not even what Senator after Senator, for generation after generation, regardless of party, has done. But we are obviously in a new era here where, on the Republican side, anything Donald Trump wants to do, he can get away with, whether or not it violates the law, violates our principles, violates the grand traditions of this democratic Republic.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a somewhat related matter, again about President Trump's overreach and lack of respect for any rule of law, Senate Republicans will be forced to vote later this week on the President's emergency declaration, which he is using to steal money from our military to fund a border wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. Again, my Republican colleagues face a choice about whether to have the Senate enforce its role as a check on the executive branch.

By declaring a national emergency, the President has tried to go around the constraints of his office to spend taxpayer dollars the way he wants instead of the way the Congress appropriates. Remember, Congress has explicitly and repeatedly rejected the President's request for border wall funding. Now he is trying to improperly take it from funds elsewhere—in this case, the military.

The Constitution dictates that Congress alone has the power of the purse. Will my Republican colleagues vote to reassert those constitutional powers, or will they buckle to the pressure of partisan loyalty to the President?

And I say to some of my very conservative friends, conservatism says: Let's not have large agglomerations of power. Let the individual have the most freedom to exercise his or her will.

When the President overreaches, what has happened to the true conservatives? They are quiet. They almost hide under their desks. History will not look at it kindly.

Many of my Republican colleagues have military installations, schools, and major projects in their States that would suffer as a result of the President's emergency. The Pentagon last week warned of dire outcomes if this funding is not restored, even warning that lives might be at risk.

Will Senate Republicans vote to defend our troops, their families, their children? Will they vote to defend millions of dollars of important projects in

their States, including medical facilities in North Carolina, a hurricane recovery project in Florida, and a middle school in Kentucky? Well, these questions will be answered this week.

I have seen reports that the Republicans are searching for other ways to restore military funding other than by ending the President's emergency declaration. Make no mistake—Democrats will not assent to backfilling accounts or other backhanded ways of approving taxpayer dollars for the President's border wall. The President said Mexico would pay for it. That is the only thing he said during the campaign. When people yelled "build the wall," it was Mexico that was going to pay for it, not American taxpayers and certainly not our military—not the brave men and women who risk their lives for us and whose families go through such hardship.

The simplest, quickest, and only way of protecting military funding is for my Republican friends to join us in terminating the emergency declaration later this week.

I urge—urge—my Republican colleagues to think about their States and the important military projects that hang in the balance, to think about the precedent it would set for this President and for future Presidents, and above all, to think about the constitutional questions, to just read the Constitution and defend the Article I powers of Congress given to us by the Founders.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week the Senate will consider more of the President's choices to fill important positions in the Federal Government. Too many important seats have continued to gather dust 2.5 years into this Presidency due to systematic Democratic obstruction.

The President deserves his team, and the American people deserve to be governed by the government they actually elected back in 2016. So as long as there continues to be resistance to processing uncontroversial nominees in the typical fashion by voice vote, we will just continue to vote on these impressive men and women.

Leading off this week are nominees to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Deputy Commissioner of Social Security. I hope our colleagues will join in supporting each of them.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate also needs to remain focused on

our important job of funding the Federal Government.

Last week brought an unfortunate spectacle: The vast majority of our Democratic colleagues actually filibustered legislation to fund our national defense—at a dollar figure they had previously agreed to—for the sake of a political fight with the President.

The funding our commanders need to keep pace with China and Russia, the funding our men and women in uniform need for their tools and training, even a pay raise for our servicemembers—all of it was blocked by our Democratic colleagues, blocked by Democrats in order to pick a partisan fight with the White House. That is an interesting statement of priorities, but I remain hopeful that we can get this process back on track.

Back in July, both parties in both Houses of Congress and the White House all agreed to a bipartisan, bicameral roadmap to guide appropriations. We all agreed to rule out poison pill policy riders and not to seek changes in Presidential authorities relative to current law. So I hope we can rediscover that roadmap and make some progress. In the meantime, before the end of the week, we will vote on a continuing resolution to prevent a lapse in funding while the work continues.

SOCIALISM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on a related matter, while Senate Republicans continue to seek bipartisan solutions, the story on the other side of the Capitol has been a little bit different.

Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic House continue to neglect opportunities to find compromises that might actually become law and instead churn out one leftwing messaging bill after another.

Two weeks ago, just days before Iran's coordinated attack on the world's largest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia, House Democrats took it upon themselves to send us several pieces of legislation that would have reduced—reduced—American energy independence.

Domestic energy is a driver of American prosperity and one of the big success stories of recent years, but the House Democrats want us to retreat. They send us go-nowhere legislation the Senate will not pass and the President will not sign.

And then, lest a whole week go by without one of these exercises, here is what happened last week: House Democrats began unveiling Speaker PELOSI's handmade plan to have Washington, DC, bureaucrats start micromanaging America's prescription drugs. It is the same old one-size-fits-all, government-controlled philosophy we continue to see from our Democratic colleagues. Forget about choice. Forget about competition. Forget about free enterprise and finding ways to unleash more market forces to help consumers. Just

give Washington bureaucrats more power to clumsily call the shots and manipulate markets from the top down.

Predictably, what this plan amounts to is not an efficient, effective way to help American families but an efficient, effective way to bring even more of the economy under the bureaucracy's thumb and potentially set us on a track toward nationalizing a major industry.

There are millions of Americans who benefit from our Nation's incredible innovations and the R&D breakthroughs on new drug treatments and cures. We really ought not to jeopardize that.

American families deserve more choice, more competition, more affordability. The last thing we need is for the socialist delusions of the Green New Deal and Medicare for All to be copied and pasted into innovations and cures, putting them at risk.

Fortunately, this Republican Senate won't let the Speaker's dangerous proposal hurt the country. We will stay focused on the American people's business, and we will keep hoping our friends across the building put aside the political performances and join us to work on real solutions with a real chance of becoming real laws.

UKRAINE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has long worked on a bipartisan basis in secure settings out of the public spotlight to conduct critically important oversight of classified and sensitive matters. So I have been disappointed to see our colleague, the Democratic leader, choose to politicize the committee's ongoing efforts with respect to a recent whistleblower allegation—the special subject of which is still unknown.

As my friend Senator SCHUMER is aware, Chairman BURR and Vice Chairman WARNER have been working together to get the Acting Director of Intelligence and the intelligence community's inspector general before the committee this week to discuss the matter. As with most matters before the committee, I believe it is extremely important that their work be handled in a secure setting with adequate protections, in a bipartisan fashion, and based on facts rather than leaks to the press.

It is regrettable House Intelligence Committee Chairman SCHIFF and Senator SCHUMER have chosen to politicize the issue, circumventing the established procedures and protocols that exist so the committees can pursue sensitive matters in the appropriate, deliberate, bipartisan manner.

Although we don't know the substance of the allegations, there is speculation that it relates to our relationship with Ukraine. For my part, as I stated earlier this month, I was very glad to see the White House release security assistance funds for Ukraine.

I championed U.S. security assistance to Ukraine over the objections of the Obama administration in 2014 and have consistently believed in the importance of helping our Ukrainian partners defend their territory against Russian aggression. In fact, I had been personally pressing them to release security assistance funding for several months to ensure the United States did not walk back our important commitments to Ukraine.

On two occasions I raised the need to keep our commitment to Ukraine with the Secretary of Defense, expressing my interest in seeing this money be released to help our Ukrainian partners. I raised it with the Secretary of State. My staff also engaged senior officials at the Pentagon, at the State Department, at the National Security Council, and at the Office of Management and Budget. I also worked closely with Senator GRAHAM on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and Chairman SHELBY.

Throughout July, August, and early September, I worked hard to ensure that Ukraine received this much-needed assistance. That is because, going back years, I have urged administrations of both parties to be completely clear-eyed about the dangerous intentions of Putin's Russia and the importance of standing with Ukraine.

I sounded the alarm early and often when President Obama went soft on Putin and missed opportunities to send arms to Ukraine, and during the Trump administration, I have been a strong supporter of its efforts to provide defensive lethal weapons to Ukraine and to Georgia.

As I have said repeatedly, Russia poses a significant threat to U.S. interests. The best way to contest Putin and his hegemonic aspirations is to rebuild our defenses, work closely with our allies and partners, and improve the capacity of those threatened by Moscow to defend themselves.

I am grateful that security assistance has finally been released to help our friends in Ukraine defend themselves. Now the task falls on us to pass a Defense bill and make the necessary investment in modernizing our own military to ensure America's preeminent position in the world and to deter challenge from adversaries like Russia and China.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2486 and H.R. 4378

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2486) to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

A bill (H.R. 4378) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Ms. ERNST assumed the Chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). 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 Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UKRAINE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I just listened to the majority leader come to the floor and tell Members of the Senate that they should close their eyes and box their ears to the current scandal that is engulfing the White House and the Trump administration. I heard the majority leader accuse Democrats of “politicizing” President Trump’s demand that the Government of Ukraine interfere in the 2020 election. That is a laughable charge, and it is not going to silence us on this matter of grave importance.

First of all, I have no idea what it means to politicize something these days. News flash: We are politicians. We practice politics. That is our job. I get told very often that I am politicizing gun violence when I suggest that maybe we should pass laws in order to change the daily trajectory of violence in this country. Yet the very reason we are here is to protect the safety of our constituents and to protect the sanctity of our democracy.

What we are standing up for right now is the rule of law, and I hope, over the course of this week, my Republican colleagues will join us in that basic responsibility that Members of the Senate and House of Representatives have.

We see the rule of law slipping away from us right now. We see our Nation being turned into a banana republic where the President can do anything he wants and turn the organs of state into his permanent political machine—his means of crushing his opponents. Today we see that many of my Republican colleagues are not just letting it happen but facilitating it.

There has to be a line that the President cannot cross. There has to be a moment when we all stand up and say: This has gone too far.

The President has admitted this weekend to asking a foreign leader to open an investigation into one of his political opponents as a means of advancing himself politically. That is not allowed in a democracy. That fundamentally corrupts the foreign policy of our Nation. It makes us all less safe when foreign governments now wonder whether they are going to be enlisted into the political operation of the President of the United States. This has always been a no-go area for Democratic and Republican administrations because we understand the vast power the Presidency has. If the President chooses to use that power and the leverage he has over people in this country and in other countries to do his political bidding, then there is nothing to protect any of us from the executive branch.

The idea that the President can openly admit that he is asking a foreign government to get involved in his political reelection campaign—and believe that he will get away with it—suggests a belief in the impunity surrounding his office. We should all be concerned about that.

At the very least, if my Republican colleagues don’t share my grave alarm at the disclosures of the last 48 hours, then we should at least agree that the whistleblower complaint needs to come before the Congress unredacted. There is no fuzzy penumbra around this law. It is clear as day. If a whistleblower makes a complaint that is deemed urgent in nature, it must be presented to the Congress. The President cannot hold it back; the executive branch cannot make it a secret.

What makes it worse is that the President seems to be playing a game with this whistleblower complaint. He seems to be teasing out little bits of information that are contained in it here and there in order to play to his political advantage. It is even worse than holding back the complaint from us. He is now using pieces of it to try to gain advantage over his political opponents.

At the very least, over the next 24 hours, we need to come to a conclusion that the law needs to be followed. If the President can withhold from us whistleblower complaints that are not

flattering to him—that potentially implicate him—then what is the point of having a whistleblower law? What is the point of having a process to protect people who are uncovering corruption in the administration if the administration can keep those complaints secret?

Let’s just be honest. If this President gets away with it, the next Democratic President can get away with it, and the next Republican President can get away with it. We will have lost all of our power to see into the wrongdoing of an administration. There will be a day when Republicans want to see into potential wrongdoing of an administration of the opposite party, but that will be all gone if we don’t, at the very least, come to the conclusion that we need to see it as the law states.

That is just the beginning because I think—as the President has advertised—that complaint is going to show he did, indeed, try to pressure a foreign government to conduct investigations into one of his political opponents. I think this is a really serious moment for the country. I think it is a really serious moment for the prerogatives of the article I branch.

I understand that my Republican colleagues may not be ready to talk about consequences for the administration for their wrongdoing, but, at the very least, we need to come together and make sure we have all of the information necessary.

By the way, it doesn’t end with the whistleblower complaint because the whistleblower complaint is likely going to raise even more questions that we are going to have to answer. We have a duty to then go out and find additional information.

For many, the President’s admission of guilt may be enough to make a determination about what the next steps are. But for those who aren’t persuaded that there have to be consequences for the President’s admission of corruption, then we should use the organs at our disposal to try to figure out the rest of the details surrounding this incident or series of incidents. What kinds of contacts have the President’s representatives been having with the Ukrainian Government? Has the State Department been involved in trying to do the President’s political bidding in and around Ukraine? How many people in the administration knew about this? Who tried to stop it? Who has been involved in keeping the whistleblower complaint from us? There are so many questions that need to be answered here, and it should be our responsibility to get to the bottom of all of them.

I think this is a really serious moment for this country. I think the minute the President is able to turn the foreign policy of this Nation into a vehicle for his own political advancement is the day that democracy, as we know it, slips away from us. If we aren’t ready to have a bipartisan conversation about consequences and remedies this week, then let’s at least have

some bipartisan consensus in the way that this place used to have all the time, making sure that we have all of the information necessary to move forward.

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

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we have heard some deeply disturbing revelations in recent days about President Trump's efforts to tie congressionally appropriated security funding for Ukraine hostage to its government's willingness to investigate his political opponents here at home. The alleged threat by President Trump to withhold vital security funding from Ukraine came out last week in press reports about a whistleblower complaint from a U.S. intelligence official. These revelations suggest a gross abuse of power unlike anything I have ever seen during my 27 years of working on U.S. foreign policy. They also show Donald Trump once again welcoming a foreign power to influence our elections, this time using the power of the White House.

As of today, the Acting Director of National Intelligence has refused to comply with the law that requires him to share this whistleblower complaint with Congress. Yet that hasn't stopped multiple members of the President's inner circle from all but confirming that the President pushed Ukrainian President Zelensky to open an investigation into former Vice President Joe Biden. They have, together, engaged in a disturbing effort to convince the American people that this sort of behavior is somehow normal.

We first watched the President's personal lawyer admit on CNN that he had raised this issue of investigating Biden on the President's behalf. Then, yesterday, we saw Secretary Pompeo sink to a new low when he defended this behavior on national TV. Then it was the President himself who admitted it to reporters—the President himself. I am not sure what more evidence we need, folks.

Where are my Republican colleagues? Where are those supposed defenders of democracy and freedom? Where are the advocates for a strong relationship with Ukraine? They are silent, shamefully silent.

For more than 2 months, the President held up \$391 million in urgently needed security assistance for Ukraine—assistance that was appropriated by the Senate with broad bipar-

tisan support. Congress didn't pass this funding so that the President could sit on it. We didn't pass this funding so that the President could use it as leverage to get Ukraine to investigate his political opponents. We passed this funding because Ukraine needs our support against relentless Russian aggression and because providing that support is in the interest of our own national security goals.

Many of us were certainly not surprised to see this administration delay assistance to Ukraine given the President's repeated cowering to Moscow on the international stage. Yet, for 2 months, we wondered exactly why this money was being held from Ukraine. Now we know. The President withheld this money all in the hopes that the Ukrainian Government would open a bogus investigation into Vice President Biden's son. How is that not an abuse of power?

I welcome efforts in the House to fully investigate the role of the President's personal lawyer in pressuring a foreign country to investigate the family of a potential political opponent. I urge the Senate to follow suit because a legitimate President would never allow his lawyer to override bipartisan support for Ukraine. A legitimate President would not let his personal lawyer compel foreign powers to interfere in our political process. A legitimate President would not withhold congressionally appropriated funding to Ukraine to advance his reelection prospects. So I am calling for a series of measures today to get to the bottom of this.

First, I call upon the inspector general of the State Department to review the withholding of security assistance for Ukraine. This review must include the extent to which the Department was aware of or was part of the decision to withhold these funds and whether our foreign assistance laws were broken. The inspector general must also examine whether the State Department knew why the administration was withholding these funds and highlight any communications between the White House and the State Department on this matter.

Second, I call upon the State Department to provide all details and records about any support in any form provided from the Department for the President's personal lawyer's efforts in Ukraine. We, likewise, need to know about any briefings the President's personal lawyer provided to Department personnel and his interactions with Ukrainian officials.

Third, I call on the Office of Management and Budget to tell Congress why it sat on Ukraine's security assistance for more than 2 months. It typically takes the OMB just 5 days to review notifications from the implementing agencies. To sit on a notification for more than 2 months is unorthodox, unprecedented, and unacceptable.

Fourth, I call upon the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Appro-

priations, Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence to immediately hold hearings on the President's purported use of security assistance to pressure Ukraine to open an investigation into a political opponent. I urge Chairman RISCH to fulfill his commitments to hold a hearing on Russia and a markup on Russia sanctions soon.

If President Trump had used money to coerce another person to perform some corrupt action on his behalf, we would call it out for what it was—extortion. Are we just going to let the President of the United States extort foreign leaders? Are we going to let him reshape American foreign policy to advance his own personal and political goals? Is this not a gross abuse of Presidential power? If not, then what is? These committees have a responsibility to ask these questions, and they have a constitutional responsibility to do their jobs.

The Senate, as a whole, has an obligation to get to the bottom of this. Do my Republican colleagues really think it is OK to ask a foreign power to pursue unfounded allegations against a political opponent? Is this the new normal? I hope not. This is behavior that we have never seen from an American President. Unfortunately, it is behavior that fits into President Trump's broader pattern of surrendering to his patrons in Moscow.

I wish I could say that extorting Ukraine were the only way Donald Trump corrupted our national security over the course of the summer, but that is just not the case. Last month, President Trump also redirected funding for the European Deterrence Initiative to his ridiculous border wall. Funding for the European Deterrence Initiative helps our allies counter the kind of Russian malign influence that was deployed by Putin against our democracy in 2016.

It is well known by now that President Trump was lying when he said that Mexico would pay for the wall. To this day, he refuses to own up to this lie, so much so that he is willing to siphon dollars away from our military and abandon our most vital democratic allies in Europe to pursue a medieval vanity project. It is yet another example of his selling out our national security to curry favor with his political base.

Over the past few weeks, my office has heard from several European Embassies that are now stuck holding the bill for Trump's wall. While you won't hear it from them publicly because they, too, fear a backlash from this President, they are offended and angry about this decision. It is simply astounding. We are talking about the allies that Americans fought and died for in order to defend democracy, worked so hard to rebuild after World War II, and continued to protect during the Cold War.

I am sure the Kremlin couldn't be happier. To Putin, this must be a

stroke of genius. Trump is killing two birds with one stone by redirecting these funds. He is dividing us from our European allies in the face of Russian aggression and dividing the American people with his politics of hate. I have said it before, and I will say it again: Investing in Donald Trump's candidacy was the best decision Putin ever made. His patron at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue will stop at nothing to repay the debt. It might indeed be the only debt businessman Donald Trump has ever worked so hard to repay.

My friends, we have witnessed a real summer of love between Trump and Putin. Consider the G7 meeting in France last month. So clearly was the United States not the leading voice at the table. So tragically have we lost the confidence of our closest allies, and so predictably did our President once again make an appeal on behalf of his patron in Moscow by repeatedly calling for the expansion of the G7 to include Russia.

Sometimes I wonder: Does President Trump actually think that Russia is a democracy? Does he think that the Russian people live in freedom? Does he see Russia as an advanced economy? Does he believe Russia shares America's interests?

I have to say that little surprises me these days, but even I was taken aback to see him blame President Obama for Russia's behavior—on foreign soil, no less.

There is only one country responsible for Russia's removal from the G8 in 2014, and that is Russia. The Russian Federation was suspended from the G8 by its fellow countries because of its invasion and illegal occupation of Crimea, which is the territory of the sovereign nation Ukraine. Five years later, more than 10,000 Ukrainian patriots are dead. That is why Russia does not belong in the G8.

What has the Kremlin done since 2014 that could possibly justify an expansion of the G7? Has it suspended its illegal occupation? Has it behaved like a responsible member of the international community? Has it respected the sovereignty of other nations? The answers are no, no, and no.

Let's review Russia's behavior since 2014.

First—and on the top of mind for many of us—was Russia's sweeping and systematic interference in our 2016 Presidential election on behalf of then-Candidate Donald Trump, as is documented in the special counsel's sobering report. Spreading propaganda, manipulating social media, and spying on American election infrastructure is not the behavior of a G7 country.

Second was the Kremlin's chemical weapons attack on British soil—a blatant assassination attempt against a Putin opponent and his daughter. One British citizen was killed, and others required medical attention. This is not an isolated case. Just last month, a Russian citizen was gunned down in a park in Berlin at the suspected hand of the Russian authorities.

This is not the behavior of a G7 country.

Third is the Kremlin's complicity in Bashar al-Assad's war crimes in Syria. An untold number of Syrian civilians have been killed by Russian airstrikes launched in support of Assad. Those responsible should be tried in The Hague on war crimes charges. This is not the behavior of a G7 country.

Fourth, in recent weeks, Russian forces have ramped up their pressure on the country of Georgia. More than 11 years after Russia's invasion, the Georgian people suffer under its ongoing aggression. That is not the behavior of a G7 country.

Fifth is the recent Russian crackdown on demonstrators exercising their basic political rights. Throughout the summer, Putin oversaw the brutal beatings of children, women, and men and subjected everyday Russian citizens to arbitrary arrest and detention. What was their ask? What was their plea? That they be able to register their own local candidates for their own local elections.

The Kremlin's ongoing and too often violent oppression of the Russian people is not the behavior of a G7 country. No country in the G7 acts this way. This behavior is destabilizing, it is aggressive, it is authoritarian, and it does not belong at the table of democracies.

It is truly a disgrace that any American President would so easily discount all of what I have just described to win favor with his patron and pal.

Of course, these aren't the only gifts bestowed by President Trump during this summer of love.

Let's not forget how the President has delayed sanctions on Turkey over its purchase of the Russian S-400 system. Congress passed these sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA, in response to Russia's attack on our elections in 2016. We have these sanctions for a reason. They advance America's national security interests. They starve the Russian defense sector of much needed international business. By not imposing them, this President is both failing to hold Russia accountable and sending a dangerous message to other countries that they can buy Russian weapon systems without consequence. From the moment we passed CAATSA, this administration has resisted every step of the way.

So let's imagine, for a moment, what a legitimate American President, a President who is not a Putin puppet, would do in this situation. How would that person protect our country?

First, a legitimate President would not endanger the relationship with a key ally in order to gain political advantage at home. They would show solidarity with our democratic allies by providing all appropriated security assistance to Ukraine and funding for European efforts to counter Russian aggression.

Second, I am sure they would not welcome Russia back into the G7.

Third, they would impose CAATSA sanctions on Turkey and send a clear message to the world that the United States is serious about imposing pressure on the Russian defense industry.

So let me close. The United States of America must always stand on the side of democracy, human rights, freedom, and the rule of law. That is why we must secure our elections from the threat of foreign interference at home and defend democracies in the face of Russian aggression abroad.

That is why we must demand that security funding appropriated by Congress is actually delivered and that the sanctions we craft to counter our adversaries are imposed.

That is why we cannot be silent when an American President extorts foreign countries into influencing our elections or welcomes an authoritarian strongman's return to the G7.

I implore my colleagues to use the powers of Article I of the Constitution. We have to get to the bottom of these very issues and preserve the critical checks and balances we have in our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, Rob Portman, John Thune, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Richard Burr, James M. Inhofe, Lindsey Graham, Rick Scott, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Deb Fischer.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 294 Ex.]

YEAS—82

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

NAYS—6

Brown	Gillibrand	Merkley
Casey	Markey	Paul

NOT VOTING—12

Bennet	Isakson	Tillis
Booker	Risch	Toomey
Graham	Roberts	Warren
Harris	Sanders	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 82, the nays are 6.

The motion is agreed to.

The senior Senator from Tennessee.

KEN BURNS' "COUNTRY MUSIC"

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Ken Burns told me last year that his 8-part, 16-hour "Country Music" film, which concludes on PBS this week, could be more popular than his Civil War film. After watching the first episodes, I suspect he might be right. His new film plumbs the depths of the American soul, using the one tool—music—that is the most likely to touch the largest number of us.

As a U.S. Senator from Tennessee, I will confess my bias. The first 2 hours of "Country Music" a week ago Sunday were about the recordings of hillbilly music in 1927 at the birthplace of country music in Bristol, where the Tennessee-Virginia State line runs down the middle of Main Street. Two years ago, the Senator from Virginia, Mr. KAINE, and I, played a little concert—I on the keyboard and he on the harmonica—at the end of that Main Street, at a fiddler's festival that they had. The rest of the Ken Burns episode winds through a community called

Boogertown in Eastern Tennessee, in the Smoky Mountains, where Dolly Parton was born, to the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and to Beale Street in Memphis.

We like to say that the whole world sings with Tennessee, but country music is more than Tennessee music. It is more than Appalachian music. It is more than the music of poor white Americans. It comes from the heart.

As Burns' and Duncan's storytelling reminds us, every one of us has a heart. There is no better evidence of this than paying less than \$20 to sit at a table at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville. There you listen to three songwriters tell the stories behind their songs and play them for a small audience who doesn't even whisper during their performances.

I sat at the Bluebird on a Saturday in 2013, listening to a young songwriter, Jessi Alexander, sing her song, "I Drive Your Truck." One of her cowriters, Connie Harrington, had heard the story on NPR. It was the story of Jared Monti, an American soldier killed in Afghanistan trying to save another soldier. He won a Congressional Medal of Honor for that. To remember his son, his father, Paul, drives Jared's Dodge Ram truck because, the father says, "I am alone, in the truck, with him." When Jessi Alexander finished singing, everyone in the Bluebird was weeping. I said to the person next to me, "That has to be the song of the year," and it was.

Last week, I attended the Annual Nashville Songwriter Awards show. I looked through the program listing all of the previous songs of the year. In 2012, it was Dolly Parton's farewell song to Porter Wagoner, "I Will Always Love You." Dolly Parton is a great songwriter too. In 2003, it was "Three Wooden Crosses." In 1972, it was "Old Dogs, Children, and Watermelon Wine," by Tom T. Hall. Then, in 1969, it was "Okie from Muskogee," by Merle Haggard. "Three chords and the truth" is how songwriter Harlan Howard defines country music.

Ken Burns has become America's storyteller, a skill much more difficult than it would seem. He tackles the subjects that divide us, like the Civil War and Vietnam, and he presents them in a form that allows us to travel through those wrenching experiences, gathering the information we need to form our own opinions.

One could argue that Ken Burns is our most effective teacher of U.S. history, a subject woefully undertaught in our schools. The lowest scores on high school Advanced Placement tests are not in math and science. They are in American history. So I am glad to know that there is more of Ken Burns' work to come.

According to a New Yorker article in 2017, during the next decade Burns plans to produce films about the Mayo Clinic, Muhammad Ali, Ernest Hemingway, the American Revolution, Lyndon B. Johnson, Barack Obama, Winston

Churchill, the American criminal justice system, and African-American history from the Civil War to the Great Migration.

Producing these films must cost a lot of money, but, in my view, every penny that the Public Broadcasting System and private contributors have spent has been worth it. If I had the money, I would ask Burns how much time he will spend raising funds to pay for these next films and I would give him the amount of money that it would take so that he could spend that time producing an extra three or four more films before he hangs it up. Since I don't have the money, maybe someone else will do that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be printed in the RECORD an op-ed that was in the New York Times, "Country Music Is More Diverse Than You Think," by Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan.

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

[From the New York Times, Sept. 13, 2019]

COUNTRY MUSIC IS MORE DIVERSE THAN YOU THINK

COMMON STEREOTYPES OVERLOOK THE ROLES THAT BLACKS AND WOMEN HAVE PLAYED IN SHAPING A UNIQUELY AMERICAN GENRE

(By Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan)

This spring the rapper Lil Nas X, who is black, released "Old Town Road," a twang-inflected song that rocketed to the top of the country music charts—even though Billboard temporarily removed it from the list, saying it wasn't sufficiently "country."

A few months later, when the Country Music Association announced that three women—Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire and Carrie Underwood—would host its annual awards show, some people criticized the choice as political correctness, as if "real" country music was restricted to good old boys.

Both controversies reflect the stereotypes that chronically surround country music. They overlook its diverse roots, its porous boundaries and the central role that women and people of color have played in its history.

Such narrow views would astonish the two foundational acts of the genre—Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family—who contributed to country music's early commercial success in the 1920s. They knew firsthand that what has made American music so uniquely American has been its constant mixing of styles and influences.

It all began when the fiddle, which came from Europe, met the banjo, which came from Africa—bringing together ballads and hymns from the British Isles with the syncopations and sensibilities of enslaved blacks. That mix, that "rub," which occurred principally in the South, set off a chain reaction that has reverberated in our music ever since.

The earliest country recordings were known as "hillbilly" music, just as African-American recordings were categorized as "race" music. The names echoed a prevailing prejudice that each genre (and its artists and its fans) was somehow beneath consideration from society's upper rungs—and that each one was unrelated to the other.

In truth, as the two of us learned during the eight years we spent exploring the music and its history, they were always intertwined. The music constantly crossed the racial divide that a segregated nation tried to enforce.

Before his career took off, Rodgers worked as a water boy in Mississippi for the mostly black crews laying railroad track. The men he met, and their music, shaped his own emerging style—the songs he made popular as an adult were essentially the blues, to which he added a distinctive yodel. In 1930, at the height of his popularity, he recorded with Louis Armstrong, the protean jazz artist.

When A.P. Carter collected songs for the Carter Family, he brought along Lesley Riddle, a black slide guitar player, to help him remember the melodies. Riddle also taught the Carters a hymn from his church, “When the World’s on Fire,” which they recorded. They then used the same melody for another song, “Little Darling, Pal of Mine.” Years later Woody Guthrie, a fan of the Carters, borrowed the melody for his classic “This Land Is Your Land.” That one song’s journey encapsulates the real, interconnected story of American music.

Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass, was mentored by an African-American fiddle player. Hank Williams, the great honky-tonk singer, credited Tee-Tot Payne, a black street musician in Alabama, for “all the music training I ever had.” Bob Wills created Western swing by adapting jazz’s big-band sound to fiddles and steel guitars.

In Memphis in the 1950s, when rhythm and blues and gospel and hillbilly music began swirling together in the eddies of the Mississippi, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and others pioneered rockabilly, a precursor to rock ‘n’ roll.

The cross-fertilization went in both directions. Charley Pride—the first postwar black artist to have a No. 1 country hit, and the first artist of any color to win the Country Music Association’s male vocalist award two years in a row—was discovered in a bar in Montana, singing Hank Williams’s “Love-sick Blues.” He had grown up listening to the “Grand Ole Opry” show on the radio.

When the rhythm and blues star Ray Charles was given creative control of an album for the first time, he chose to record a selection of country songs. “You take country music, you take black music,” Charles said, and “you got the same goddamn thing exactly.” The album was a sales sensation.

“There’s a truth in the music,” the jazz musician and composer Wynton Marsalis told us, that “the musicians accepted at a time when the culture did not accept. And it’s too bad that we, as a culture, have not been able to address that truth. The art tells more of the tale of us coming together.”

Likewise, the history of country music is filled with strong and talented women in ways the common stereotype seems (or chooses) to overlook. From Patsy Montana to Patsy Cline, Kitty Wells to Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris to Rosanne Cash to Reba McEntire, women have created some of country music’s most enduring art.

In 1926, A.P. Carter and his wife, Sara, had been turned down by a record label on the theory that a woman singing lead could never be popular. Instead, the Carters added Sara’s cousin Maybelle to the group and went on to make history, centered on Sara’s remarkable voice and Maybelle’s innovative guitar playing, “the Carter scratch,” which has influenced generations of guitarists.

Jimmie Rodgers relied on his sister-in-law, Elsie McWilliams, as the writer of more than a third of his songs. (He couldn’t read musical notations, so she came to his recording sessions to teach her new compositions to him in person.)

In 1966, the same year that the National Organization for Women was founded and the phrase “women’s liberation” was first used, Loretta Lynn wrote and recorded “Don’t

Come Home A Drinkin’ (With Lovin’ on Your Mind),” a statement that dealt with spousal abuse and alcoholism and a woman’s right to her own body, with a bluntness no other musical genre dared make at the time. Her label later held back her song “The Pill” because it seemed too controversial; when it was released, some stations refused to play it—until her fans made it a Top-5 country hit and crossed it over to the pop charts.

“If you write the truth and you’re writing about your life,” Ms. Lynn told us, “it’s going to be country.”

At its best, country music has never been confined to one simple category or convenient stereotype. It sprang from many roots and then sprouted many new branches through the 20th century, creating a complicated chorus of American voices joining together to tell a complicated American story, one song at a time.

Country deals with the most basic, universal human emotions and experiences—love and loss, hardship and dreams, failure and the hope of redemption—and turns them into songs. The songwriter Harlan Howard once defined country music as “three chords and the truth.” Three chords imply simplicity. But the truth part is always much more complex. And more profound.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

HONORING CAPTAIN VINCENT LIBERTO, JR.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mandeville police officer Captain Vincent “Vinnie” Liberto, Jr., who was killed in the line of duty last week. Captain Liberto will be remembered for his life of service to the community and country.

After graduating from Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he ultimately served 10 years as sergeant.

Captain Liberto had a combined 30 years of law enforcement service, 5 with the Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Department and 25 years with the Mandeville Police Department, where he was recognized as officer of the year.

The captain had a brilliant mind for law enforcement. He graduated from the FBI National Academy and ran the Mandeville Police Department’s Criminal Investigations Division, where he worked as a polygraphist and was responsible for the Department’s enforcement functions.

Those who knew him best describe him as a gentle giant, polite, upbeat, reasonable, and fairminded—all qualities that make a great police officer.

In his yard flies the Marine Corps flag, and mounted on the front door are twin wreaths, one for the marines and one for the police.

Captain Liberto is survived by his wife, Tracey, and seven children. He was 58 years old.

His passion for service was so strong that he inspired several of his children to follow in their dad’s footsteps by entering the military and law enforcement. That is the definition of setting a great example for children.

Captain Liberto’s death is a painful reminder that our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to

keep our community safe. He died during a gunfire exchange when a routine traffic stop turned into a tragedy. The other officer, Ben Cato, was also injured but thankfully has returned to work.

Like Captain Liberto and Officer Cato, our law enforcement officers report to work every day knowing that they might not come home at night. They do it for us all, and for that we should always be grateful.

I ask those who are listening to say a prayer for Tracey, their kids, and the officers of the Mandeville Police Department, and for their entire community that is grieving the loss of one of their own.

Vincent Liberto made Louisiana a better place and our country a better place, and he will be sorely missed.

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

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

CHINA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I don’t know of any topic that is more important for our country than the relationship between the United States and China.

I am a big fan of history. I love to read about history. I think one of the best ways to understand the future is to understand the past. It strikes me that, at some point in the future, someone will write a book about the 21st century, and I think that book will have mention of a number of the things that consumed our time in political debate. I believe the central issue globally that will define the 21st century is the relationship between the United States and China, in which direction it heads.

Let me say at the outset that China is destined to be what it already is becoming: a rich, important, and powerful nation. That in and of itself should not be threatening. It is a reality. It is one that I think holds promise, to the extent that a rich and powerful China is a responsible stakeholder in the affairs of the world.

I think there is another truth, and that is, what is developing today is an incredibly serious imbalance between the United States and China on trade and commerce, increasingly on diplomacy, and potentially—eventually—militarily and geopolitical.

So when I come today to speak about China, it is not simply in the context of our current trade tensions, which is a part of a much broader issue. The fact of the matter is that this is the way we should view it because this is the way the Communist Party of China views it. The truth is that they view our trade tensions as an inevitable blip in their long-term plan to supplant the

United States of America as the world's dominant political, military, and economic power.

Now, it is understandable why many Americans would feel uneasy at the prospect of being supplanted by China. First of all, they have seen so many of our industries that once thrived in our towns and cities weakened or leave altogether, and they have read about the grotesque violation of human rights and dignity of people and China's Communist Party's persecution of Christians, Muslims, and other religious minorities.

The sad fact is that we have come to this realization far too late in this city. For many years, many of the policy elites across the political spectrum turned a blind eye to this growing threat. There was this notion that, once China became rich and prosperous, they would become like us. It is as if somehow economic prosperity, in the sense and in the way China is achieving it, automatically leads to supporting values such as the ones that we hold dear. But the fact is that we can no longer ignore the reality that this is not the direction that China is headed, and it has implications for our country and the world.

Our country, our workers, and families can no longer afford elected officials in this city who turn a blind eye to the seriousness of this challenge. At this point, given all the information before us and the trends that have clearly emerged, ignorance on this matter is no longer an excuse, and, frankly, the Communist Party of China is no longer hiding its ambition about what this is all about.

I am not asking you to believe my words on this. I just ask that you believe them, that you take their words seriously. That is why I come here to point to a speech last week by Huang Qifan, who is a former Central Committee member and recently retired as the vice chair of the National People's Congress Financial and Economic Affairs Committee. He showed us, by the way, what passes as modernization within the Chinese Communist Party.

In the speech he gave, he didn't speak in the typical Communist jargon. He doesn't invoke abstract theories or laws of history or in any way hold back. He speaks with a frankness that we should actually be grateful for because it enlightens us and hopefully propels us to take action. To Huang, as he makes very clear, the trade war that is ongoing is a fight to the death, an inevitable outcome in a fight between two systems.

Paraphrasing Mao Zedong, he urged Chinese businesspeople to shed their illusions and prepare for struggle. China is the rising power. The United States is the aging hegemon, and China's rise will be sustained.

Huang declared, "At this time, the socialist road with Chinese characteristics is obviously more competitive. . . . than the U.S. economic system." Such confident words are not just his;

they emanate from the very top. Just after gaining power, their current President, apparently for life, Xi Jinping, told the party it is "inevitable that the superiority of our socialist system will be increasingly apparent."

The United States, according to Huang in his speech, cannot make partners and cannot make space for others in the world. Rather, we are stuck. We are stuck in a situation in which China must fight the United States either economically or militarily to find its place in the world.

Throughout his speech, by the way, he points to various events in the U.S. and the Western world that is evidence of the claims that he makes. He points to the financial crisis, to the ballooning deficits, and to what he terms political instability. In very clear language, he says that these are problems that "capitalism can't avoid"—that is his quote—but the Chinese system can through central guidance. "This is our institutional advantage," he argues.

Embedded in his speech, there are two themes. The first is a confidence in the inevitability of China's rise and its conflict with the United States. Closely related to it is a second theme, and that is an appeal to the rest of the world to follow in the Chinese authoritarian model, or, as they call it, socialism with Chinese characteristics. In their telling, it is clearly a superior model to ours.

The time has come for America and our allies, who value freedom and liberty and free enterprise, democracy, human rights, and the dignity of all people—the time has come for us to eagerly confront this assertion. Unfortunately, there are too many in the Western world and in the free world that refuse to see the challenges, indeed, the threat that is posed by the Communist Party and China's vision of the world in the future.

Rather than discuss the technical threat posed by an entity like Huawei, I want to articulate the threat in China's Communist Party's words, the threat in their own words, as Qifan said last week: "Our currency will become the world currency."

Understand the implications of this stated goal. China's aim is to use economic power to displace the United States of America and the role it has played in the world since the end of the Second World War. China's message to the world is that its industries, its workers, and its politics will be more productive than ours. The Chinese Communist Party says to foreign countries, to investors, and to businesses that the long-term play to keep their economies growing is by partnering with them, not partnering with us.

Some may say, What is the big deal about that? Let's just take care of our own problems. Here is the big deal. Here is what it would mean for Americans in real terms. If the world heads in the direction they advocate, it would mean lower wages for you, it would mean homes and mortgages that

are unaffordable, and it would mean a world where what you can say and do abroad but also at home is increasingly dictated by the Chinese Communist Party and its benefactors in the United States and elsewhere.

If you don't believe me, just realize that already major motion pictures produced in Hollywood are censored—censored, even as they are played in the United States because those movies will not have access to Chinese movie theaters. We have already seen multiple American companies have to apologize, take content off the internet, and change T-shirts that they sell at stores because they offend the Communist Party of China and are going to be cut off from selling to that market. It is already happening. It will happen at a much more accelerated pace.

By the way, we have also seen news outlets in some places have to cut back and censor what they say. We have had a television program in a major American network take out content from a program for fear of being censored in the vast Chinese market. Beyond that, the new companies, the new technologies, the improved standards of living, which the United States has always relied on to prove the superiority of our way of life, will also no longer exist.

Indeed, some of these predictions are already happening. The economic growth, the prosperity, and the stability that marks Americans' shared memory of the last century appear to be increasingly absent from this one. Simply put, the Chinese Communist Party believes that the 20th century, which was termed the American Century, was an anomaly, and they believe that they alone have mastered the scientific laws of history, so democracy must stand aside and give way.

We should clearly understand that the Communist Party of China's mission, a mission they term "national rejuvenation" of Chinese power and China's prominent place on the world stage, means supplanting our values and our way of life. As Xi Jinping explained 2 years ago, this goal is the original aspiration and mission of the party.

What is our model? Well, it is incumbent upon us as Americans and as leaders and our democratic allies around the world to make the case that our model is the superior. It is incumbent upon us to make the case on behalf of our model just as aggressively as an authoritarian China is making their case for socialism with Chinese characteristics. Our leadership must also be one that respects human dignity, that defends our interests and religious liberty, democracy and human rights, and the rule of law, which means consistently sticking up for nations committed to these same ideals and standing with people who are fighting for these and being crushed by totalitarianism anywhere in the world.

By the way, in the 20th century and the 21st century, American leadership

brought peace. After the carnage of the first half of the last century, the United States has led the world to avoid open great power conflict, and it meant historically little bloodshed and deep international stability compared to previous eras.

The international system that America helped craft and lead comes with a promise of multilateral security, and that is why we must remain wholly committed to protecting our allies. We spared no cost to help them rebuild to defend themselves and to protect the dignity of their citizens. The Chinese Communist Party, on the other hand, cannot conceive of a world that is not driven by status and hierarchy. They are not partners, and they view no one as partners. They view them as vassal states. So this progress, even to someone like Huang Qifan, is a hidden plot to suppress others.

Such cynicism, by the way, reveals more about the Chinese Communist Party than it does about us or the failure of American efforts to offer a helping hand to China in exchange for modernization. To the Chinese Communist Party, power serves no purpose but to strengthen the party's rule and to spread its influence around the world.

And for them, those who deviate from the party's expectations deserve to be sent to forced labor camps where they toil on the party's behalf and where mass surveillance is a necessary safeguard against deviants whose only crime is to want a private civic life.

As part of making the case for our model, we must continue to make the case as to why China is an untrustworthy partner in any endeavor, whether it is a nation-state project, in an industrial capacity, or financial integration. They have a neocolonial project, the Belt and Road Initiative, which follows a very consistent playbook: Approach nations with promises of lucrative state projects, exploit corruption, bleed those nations dry, and then hijack their domestic infrastructure. In Sri Lanka, what it meant was the de facto takeover of wide swathes of their political system after a project sputtered and Beijing seized the port.

Beijing is ultimately an untrustworthy partner in international commitments. We have seen this repeatedly in the Asia-Pacific where they have flagrantly violated international agreements and obligations in Hong Kong and Taiwan. We see it right off the coast of Vietnam and the Philippines, where Beijing is literally building artificial islands to substantiate ludicrous territorial claims.

Chinese leaders have long claimed to never seek hegemony, and yet the bullying of their neighbors, they justify it, and they justify it on the grounds that China deserves respect because of its power and position. Doing business in China is not just like here or anywhere else. It is not business between two private companies. It means doing business with companies backed by, sponsored by, and protected by the Chinese Communist Party.

Their economy is purposely opaque, and Chinese companies, many of which are state-owned or state-directed, are tools used by the Chinese Communist Party to further their mercantilist goals.

The telecommunications company that we have heard of so often, Huawei, is just one example. Nations that have naively partnered with Huawei on 5G have exposed vital technological infrastructure to Beijing's surveillance state, a partnership that Beijing has shown it will readily exploit.

The bottom line is that China, no matter what, will continue to play a prominent role in the future of our world; and frankly, we should welcome a growing, thriving China, but one that plays by the rules.

Today's China, governed by the Chinese Communist Party, is not playing by any rules. It is a predatory state in nature, and it actively seeks to supplant not just the United States but a world order committed to democracy, human rights, and the dignity of all.

Since their induction into the World Trade Organization in 2001, China has shown itself to be anything but a responsible global partner. This is a dangerous recipe for conflict, and that is what China's leaders are preparing for. Xi put the party on notice in 2013, saying that China "must diligently prepare for a long period of cooperation and of conflict" with capitalist democracies.

If anything, the intervening years have strengthened this conviction. Huang told business leaders that Americans "want your life." He calls it an illusion that "some small amount of money" would resolve the trade war.

"We do not want to fight but are not afraid to fight," Huang concluded, once again quoting Mao.

China clearly sees this moment—these decades, really—as their opportunity to supplant America from its global leadership role. Conflict, armed or otherwise, is an inevitable byproduct of that progression.

America, as Huang noted, has been the "world's leader for decades," and we have used that power to build an international system that prioritizes fundamental human rights, open democratic governance, and liberal economies, all the things that the Communist Party of China believes represents weakness.

So we must be absolutely clear as to what that means. If China becomes the world's dominant economic power, they will become the world's dominant military power; they will become the world's dominant financial power; and they will become the world's dominant cultural power. Given their critique—and I would say disdain—of our system, we can expect that a future such as that will look much different than the reality we live in now.

If China supplants America in the West, the world that our children will inherit will be nothing like the one we grew up in and know. Instead of ex-

ploiting China's brand of authoritarianism country by country, as they do now, China will be positioned to reorient the entire globe, the application of the party's governance at home applied on a global scale to the way countries interact with one another.

Let me close with the prophetic words of a Chinese dissident, Wei Jingsheng. In his testimony before Congress in the year 2000, against and in opposition to China's ascension to the WTO, he said:

If the United States will not fight the world's largest tyranny politically, then inevitably it will have to fight it economically, and eventually, militarily. Therefore, the only way to preserve peace and freedom begins by comprehending democracy's greatest enemy, and countering it effectively.

Blissful ignorance is no longer an option. We cannot overlook the obvious signs in favor of near-term economic gains. The world has reached a crossroads, one in which our inability to act will usher in a Chinese century, and that will have disastrous consequences.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions for the Cella, Jorjani, and Black nominations ripen at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24; I further ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the Black nomination, that the Senate resume consideration of the McGuire nomination, and that at 3:30 p.m., all postcloture time on the McGuire, Cella, Jorjani, and Black nominations be considered expired; finally, I ask unanimous consent that if any of the nominations are confirmed, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. RUBIO. 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOTOWN

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 60th anniversary of Motown and remarkable life of Berry Gordy, Jr., a man who achieved one of the most significant musical accomplishments of the 20th century. Motown is the sound that changed America; it broke barriers between people and united fans of every race and creed.

Mr. Gordy was born in 1929 to a middle-class family on the east side of Detroit. At first, Mr. Gordy pursued his dreams to become a professional boxer and boxed until 1950 when he was drafted to serve his country in the Korean war. After returning from Korea in 1953, Mr. Gordy began to pursue his passion for music by opening a record store, and then went on to work at the Ford Lincoln-Mercury Plant.

In 1959, Gordy founded Tamla Records that would go on to become Motown after he received an \$800 loan and moved to 2648 W. Grand Blvd, also known as Hitsville U.S.A. Due to Detroit being known as the Motor City, Mr. Gordy, in tribute to what he felt was a city of warm, soulful people and Detroit being his hometown, decided the perfect name for his company and new label would be "Motown."

Smokey Robinson and Berry Gordy formed an early partnership and co-wrote Motown Records' first smash-hit "Shop Around," recorded by The Miracles, who would go on to be Motown's first million-record selling record. Soon, other acts would follow, including legendary artists such as the Supremes, the Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and the Temptations, all discovered by Mr. Gordy.

In the 1960s alone, Motown Records had over 75 records in the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100. In the 1970s, Motown moved to California and continued to create hits with a Detroit sound by groups such as the Jackson 5 and the Commodores. With so many music legends, Motown has often been considered one of the greatest labels of all time.

In 1998, Mr. Gordy was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as founder and helmsman of the Motown music empire.

In addition to music, Mr. Gordy produced films such as the Oscar-nominated, "Lady Day Sings the Blues" and "Mahogany," both starring Motown icon Diana Ross. In 2013, Mr. Gordy went on to write and produce "Motown: the Musical," to tell his story and the story of Motown Records. "Motown: the Musical" went on to play 738 Broadway performances, and have massively successful national tours and international productions.

Mr. Gordy founded an American music institution that exemplifies the unity that must exist in our country and created a sound that still moves the Motor City today. Motown's music

has become a genre all its own and has grown to be beloved all over the world. Motown music helped break barriers, and it is my hope that the legacy of Barry Gordy, Jr., and Motown will inspire the next generation of leaders to follow their passion and change the world.●

RECOGNIZING MELAO BAKERY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I highlight a small business that displays the unique entrepreneurial spirit found throughout our country. It is my privilege to recognize a Florida small business that demonstrates consistent hard work, a commitment to excellent customer service, and a desire to give back to the Florida community. Today, it is my honor to name Melao Bakery as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2009, Melao Bakery is a family-owned and operated restaurant run by Eduardo Colon and Denisse Torres. Originally from Puerto Rico, Eduardo and Denisse have created a place where families can enjoy traditional Puerto Rican cuisine in Kissimmee, FL, a city many Puerto Ricans call home. Melao has grown from a small bakery in central Florida with seven employees into a full-menu restaurant employing more than 150 people at its two locations in Kissimmee and Orlando. Melao Bakery is known for its commitment to exemplary customer service and for providing an authentic, traditional experience for its customers.

Eduardo and Denisse arrived in Florida 17 years ago from Vega Baja, PR. In Vega Baja, the couple owned a bakery but made the decision to move to Florida, with their 1-year-old son, in search of new opportunities. When Eduardo and Denisse settled in Kissimmee, they did not move to open the bakery immediately; Eduardo studied to pass truck driving exams, and through hard work, he was able to establish his own heavy transport company.

Melao Bakery not only provides delicious pastries and cuisine, but it also serves as a meeting place for local Hispanics. They have since expanded their vision through the acquisition of the shopping center where Melao Bakery is located. Eduardo and Denisse's business has been honored for maintaining a strong sense of Hispanic heritage by the grassroots organization, the Libre Initiative. In 2012, Melao Bakery was also recognized by the Kissimmee Chamber of Commerce as the first Hispanic business to win its annual Small Business of the Year award. In 2014, Melao Bakery was presented with the Governor's Business Ambassador Award for its leadership in creating employment opportunities in central Florida. Additionally, Melao Bakery has won awards for the quality of its food, such as Best Latin Restaurant in the Osceola community.

Eduardo and Denisse have made significant efforts to better the lives of those in their community, both in Florida and in Puerto Rico. After Hurricane Irma hit Puerto Rico in 2017, Eduardo and Denisse donated dozens of generators to help survivors get their businesses back up and running. Their dedication to preserving the culture and heritage of Puerto Rico in central Florida has created a loyal customer base and has made Melao Bakery a community staple. Melao Bakery is a shining example of how dignified work can lead to grassroots engagement and successful business expansion. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, I am proud to highlight Melao Bakery for their dedication to Florida's Hispanic community.●

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVISION ARIZONA

• Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I recognize the 40th anniversary of Univision Arizona. As one of Arizona's leading television networks, Univision Arizona has been on the front lines of delivering important news to our State, earning nationwide recognition by winning 23 Emmy Awards this year. Throughout its 40-year history, Univision Arizona has evolved and adapted to the needs of its viewers by crafting engaging content and shedding light on important stories that deserve to be heard.

As the leading source of Spanish-language media and news in our State, Univision Arizona serves 1.6 million Arizonans through two television stations, four radio stations, and other digital and social platforms. With the fast-changing pace of news and technology, Univision Arizona has grown into an innovative news source, while maintaining and staying true to its original mission.

Univision Arizona serve all Arizonans, especially the Hispanic community, which has richly contributed to our State. I am proud to recognize Univision Arizona's 40th anniversary milestone, while celebrating the contributions of Arizona's Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month. Univision Arizona's mission, its dedicated reporters and staff, and the stories they share are truly representative of the profound and powerful role the Hispanic community plays in our State.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 20, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1689. An act to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 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, without amendment:

S. 239. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of Christia McAuliffe.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 550. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

H.R. 1396. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden, to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor all of the women who contributed to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

H.R. 1830. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

H.R. 2290. An act to require the Federal financial regulators to issue guidance encouraging financial institutions to work with consumers and businesses affected by a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2613. An act to require the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to carry out a study on the use of emerging technologies within the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3589. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

H.R. 3619. An act to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to provide the Appraisal Subcommittee with the authority to modify annual registry fees for appraisal management companies, to maintain a registry of trainees and charge a lower trainee registry fee, and to allow grants to States to assist appraiser and potential appraiser compliance with the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3625. An act to establish a whistleblower program at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, September 23, 2019, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1689. An act to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 550. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1830. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2290. An act to require the Federal financial regulators to issue guidance encouraging financial institutions to work with consumers and businesses affected by a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2613. An act to require the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to carry out a study on the use of emerging technologies within the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3589. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3619. An act to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to provide the Appraisal Subcommittee with the authority to modify annual registry fees for appraisal management companies, to maintain a registry of trainees and charge a lower trainee registry fee, and to allow grants to States to assist appraiser and potential appraiser compliance with the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3625. An act to establish a whistleblower program at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2486. An act to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

H.R. 4378. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1396. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden, to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor all of the women who contributed to the success of the

National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 23, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1689. An act to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 734. A bill to leverage Federal Government procurement power to encourage increased cybersecurity for Internet of Things devices, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-112).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments and an amendment to the title:

S. 2183. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze certain legislation in order to prevent duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives (Rept. No. 116-113).

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. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2529. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to modify provisions relating to whistleblower incentives and protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2530. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a School Safety Clearinghouse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 322. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as Rail Safety Week in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week to

reduce rail-related accidents, fatalities, and injuries; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 323. A resolution designating September 2019 as “National Kinship Care Month”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 208

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 208, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) 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. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight”.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 737

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 737, a bill to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 892, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

S. 903

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 948, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 1060

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to deter foreign interference in United States elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment.

S. 1191

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1222

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1222, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide hospital care and medical services to veterans in the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, and to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing regional offices, suboffices, contact units, or other subordinate offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Freely Associated States to provide such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1268

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1268, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that hospitals receive adequate payment for the acquisition of hematopoietic stem cells under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1602

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1602, a bill to amend the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 to establish a research, development, and demonstration program for grid-scale energy storage systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1723

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

S. 1791

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1821

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1821, a bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to amend chap-

ter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to limit the fees charged and collected from applicants for naturalization and related benefits based on poverty, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage States to disregard parental income and assets when determining Medicaid eligibility for disabled children.

S. 2074

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2074, a bill to amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V, such as buprenorphine, for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) 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 re-

search in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2102

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2102, a bill to provide funding for programs and activities under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

S. 2158

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to improve certain programs of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to heritable disorders.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) 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 name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2288

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2288, a bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for electricity and natural gas suppliers, and for other purposes.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball.

S. 2372

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

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2434, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2479

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2479, a bill to provide clarification regarding the common or usual name for bison and compliance with section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2489

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2489, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2491

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2491, a bill to terminate certain rules issued by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce relating to endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the Medicare and disability insurance benefits waiting periods for disabled individuals.

S. 2502

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2502, a bill to ban the Federal procurement of certain drones and other unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 59

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 59, a resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

S. RES. 215

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 215, a resolution calling for greater religious and political freedoms in Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) 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.

S. RES. 303

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 303, a resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its kwan-li-so political prison labor camp system, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 304

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 304, a resolution designating September 2019 as "National Workforce Development Month".

S. RES. 309

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 309, a resolution designating September 2019 as "National Voting Rights Month".

S. RES. 313

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, a resolution designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week".

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, supra.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 322—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28, 2019, AS RAIL SAFETY WEEK IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE RAIL-RELATED ACCIDENTS, FATALITIES, AND INJURIES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 322

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by the national education safety nonprofit Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks, and to highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing accidents constituted approxi-

mately 96 percent of all rail related fatalities during 2018;

Whereas since 2005, the number of public crossings has declined by 8 percent, while the number of gates at such crossings has increased by 26 percent;

Whereas, in 2018, 51 percent of all grade crossing collisions and 64 percent of all fatal grade crossing collisions occurred at gated crossings;

Whereas, in 2018, there were a total of 841 rail-related fatalities and 8,177 rail-related injuries in the United States;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics show that 2,216 highway-grade crossing crashes occurred during 2018, resulting in 263 persons killed and another 840 persons injured throughout the United States;

Whereas trespassing incidents on railroad property resulted in 571 persons killed and another 479 injured across the Nation in 2018;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver, the foremost public information and education program on rail safety, administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and prevention of trespassing;

Whereas during Rail Safety Week, from September 22 through 28, 2019, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to observe added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas, the United States and Canada will observe Rail Safety Week concurrently; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing crashes and pedestrian and railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of Rail Safety Week;

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week; and

(B) efforts to reduce rail-related accidents, fatalities, and injuries; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities; and

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks.

SENATE RESOLUTION 323—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS "NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH"

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 323

Whereas in September 2019, "National Kinship Care Month" is observed;

Whereas nationally, 2,700,000 children are living in kinship care with grandparents, other relatives, and family friends;

Whereas nationally, nearly 1/3 of all foster care placements are in kinship foster care, with 140,000 children placed with grandparents, other relatives, and family friends;

Whereas more than 2,560,000 kinship children live in informal kinship care outside of the foster care system;

Whereas the percentage of children who are in kinship foster care has increased by almost 10 percent since 2006;

Whereas the number of children placed in foster care continues to increase due in part to the opioid crisis and child welfare agencies are increasingly reliant on families who take in kin;

Whereas while kinship care is the most common term for relative caregivers of children, they are sometimes also referred to as kin caregivers or grandfamilies;

Whereas kinship caregivers residing in urban, rural, and suburban households in every State and territory of the United States have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for children during times in which parents are unable to do so;

Whereas kinship caregivers provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable households for vulnerable children;

Whereas kinship care homes offer a refuge for traumatized children;

Whereas kinship care enables a child to maintain family relationships and cultural heritage and remain in the community of the child;

Whereas the wisdom and compassion of kinship caregivers is a source of self-reliance and strength for countless children and for the entire United States;

Whereas children in kinship care experience improved placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavioral problems relative to other children in foster care;

Whereas kinship caregivers face daunting challenges to keep children from entering foster care;

Whereas because of parental substance use disorders and other adverse childhood experiences, children in kinship care frequently have trauma-related conditions;

Whereas many kinship caregivers give up their retirement years to assume parenting duties for children;

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the many kinship caregivers who throughout the history of the United States have provided loving homes for children;

Whereas the first President of the United States, George Washington, and his wife Martha were themselves kinship caregivers, as were many other great people of the United States;

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize the many kinship care families in which a child is raised by grandparents, other relatives, and family friends;

Whereas National Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to urge people in every State to join in recognizing and celebrating kinship caregiving families and the tradition of families in the United States helping kin;

Whereas in 2018, Congress provided for kinship navigator programs and services in the Family First Prevention Services Act enacted under title VII of division E of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 64) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 348);

Whereas in 2018, Congress provided for the formation of the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to examine supports for grandparents and other kinship caregivers in the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (Public Law 115-196; 132 Stat. 1511); and

Whereas more remains to be done to support kinship caregiving and to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2019 as “National Kinship Care Month”;

(2) encourages Congress, States, local governments, and community organizations to continue to work to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families and to support the communities working together to lift them up; and

(3) honors the commitment and dedication of kinship caregivers and the advocates and allies who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to kinship caregiving families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 940. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. LEE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 940. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. LEE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 7, strike lines 12 through 25 and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; 22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.) for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.), to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructure, global health activities, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate both to address the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and conduct activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2019

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4285, 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. 4285) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 4285) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EBOLA ERADICATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the order of August 1, 2019, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 102, S. 1340.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1340) to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ebola Eradication Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) *The current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which began in August 2018 in eastern Congo, is the second largest in history and has resulted in over 1,600 cases and 1,000 deaths.*

(2) *Despite the use of preventive tools and new therapeutics, insecurity and community resistance to response efforts remain major obstacles to ending the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to spread.*

(3) *Hospitals, health clinics, and Ebola clinics have been repeatedly attacked by armed actors.*

(4) *On February 28, 2019, Doctors Without Borders suspended its work in Ebola epicenters after two treatment centers were attacked.*

(5) *On April 19, 2019, Dr. Richard Valery Mouzoko Kiboung, an epidemiologist from Cameroon deployed by the World Health Organization to eastern Congo to help stop the outbreak, was killed in an attack on Butembo University Hospital.*

(6) *Healthcare workers responding to Ebola have expressed concerns about their ability to continue working on the response given the complex security situation.*

(7) *If the outbreak is not brought under control, it risks spreading across the border to neighboring countries and endangering millions of people.*

(8) *The Administration released a November 29, 2018, Presidential Memorandum implementing aid restrictions to most countries on Tier III of the 2018 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report that fully restricted non-humanitarian, non-trade related aid to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*

(9) *Paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 110(d) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(4) and (5)) authorize the continuation of assistance in Tier III countries if such assistance is determined to be in the national interest of the United States.*

(10) *Section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.*

7107(d)(5)(B)) states, “The President shall exercise the [waiver] authority under paragraph (4) when necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children.”.

(11) The President has not exercised the waiver authority provided for in section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking in Victims Protection Act of 2000 in relation to health, education, or community outreach activities essential to the success of the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(12) It is in the national interest of the United States to help control and end the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before it spreads.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including multi-sectoral, non-humanitarian, and non-trade related foreign assistance, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other vulnerable countries to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018. Subject to the availability of appropriations, such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate with both the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) describing the actions the Administrator has taken and plans to take under section 3(a) to end the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(2) proposing any additional legal authorities required to improve the response to the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. RUBIO. I further ask unanimous consent that the Menendez-Lee amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; 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 amendment (No. 940) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the authority to provide assistance)

On page 7, strike lines 12 through 25 and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; 22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.) for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.), to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat

the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructure, global health activities, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate both to address the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and conduct activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

The committee-reported amendment, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1340), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1340

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ebola Eradication Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which began in August 2018 in eastern Congo, is the second largest in history and has resulted in over 1,600 cases and 1,000 deaths.

(2) Despite the use of preventive tools and new therapeutics, insecurity and community resistance to response efforts remain major obstacles to ending the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to spread.

(3) Hospitals, health clinics, and Ebola clinics have been repeatedly attacked by armed actors.

(4) On February 28, 2019, Doctors Without Borders suspended its work in Ebola epicenters after two treatment centers were attacked.

(5) On April 19, 2019, Dr. Richard Valery Mouzoko Kiboung, an epidemiologist from Cameroon deployed by the World Health Organization to eastern Congo to help stop the outbreak, was killed in an attack on Butembo University Hospital.

(6) Healthcare workers responding to Ebola have expressed concerns about their ability to continue working on the response given the complex security situation.

(7) If the outbreak is not brought under control, it risks spreading across the border to neighboring countries and endangering millions of people.

(8) The Administration released a November 29, 2018, Presidential Memorandum implementing aid restrictions to most countries on Tier III of the 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report that fully restricted non-humanitarian, non-trade related aid to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(9) Paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 110(d) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(4) and (5)) authorize the continuation of assistance in Tier III countries if such assistance is determined to be in the national interest of the United States.

(10) Section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(5)(B)) states, “The President shall exercise the [waiver] authority under paragraph (4) when necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children.”.

(11) The President has not exercised the waiver authority provided for in section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking in Victims Protection Act of 2000 in relation to health, education, or community outreach activities essential to the success of the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(12) It is in the national interest of the United States to help control and end the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before it spreads.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; 22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.) for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.), to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructure, global health activities, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate both to address the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and conduct activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) describing the actions the Administrator has taken and plans to take under section 3(a) to end the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(2) proposing any additional legal authorities required to improve the response to the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 323, 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. 323) designating September 2019 as “National Kinship Care Month”.

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

Mr. RUBIO. 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. 323) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 24; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their

use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Cella nomination under the previous order; and finally, I ask that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Black nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. RUBIO. 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 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September, 24, 2019, at 10 a.m.