

Unsurprisingly, the Iranian regime is reportedly involved in violently suppressing peaceful protests in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and, of course, Iran itself. The mullahs are showing the same fear as the Chinese Communist Party. They are afraid of citizens demanding reform and speaking up for basic freedoms. The United States should stand with the protesters.

The administration should use the tools at its disposal to expose corruption and foreign interference in these nations, impose consequences for violent crackdowns on peaceful protests, and work with the Lebanese and Iraqi leaders who are committed to doing right by their people.

AMENDMENT NO. 1121

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of the Senate, in the managers' package of amendments that was announced last night, amendment No. 1121 was misidentified as a Murkowski amendment. It is actually an amendment by Senator WHITEHOUSE that Senator MURKOWSKI cosponsored.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2755

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2755) to require a report on the plan to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

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

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.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of H.R. 3055, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3055) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Shelby amendment No. 948, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Shelby) amendment No. 950, to make a technical correction.

AMENDMENT NOS. 953, 1023, 1037, 1088, AS MODIFIED, 1099, 1121, 1133, 1143, 1149, 1161, 1163, 1217, 1223, 1224, 951, 1077, 1094, 1129, 1146, 1150, 1234, 1025, 1079, 1081, 1151, 1159, 1160, 1162, 1182, 1193, 1199, 1211, 1215, 1220, 1227, 956, 1002, 1005, 1010, 1061, 1062, 1114, 1130, 1214, AND 1235 EN BLOC TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the order of yesterday, the 45 amendments listed in the order are considered and agreed to en bloc and the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The amendments (Nos. 953, 1023, 1037, 1088 As Modified, 1099, 1121, 1133, 1143, 1149, 1161, 1163, 1217, 1223, 1224, 951, 1077, 1094, 1129, 1146, 1150, 1234, 1025, 1079, 1081, 1151, 1159, 1160, 1162, 1182, 1193, 1199, 1211, 1215, 1220, 1227, 956, 1002, 1005, 1010, 1061, 1062, 1114, 1130, 1214, 1235) to Amendment No. 948 were agreed to en bloc as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 953

(Purpose: To provide for the availability of funds for Agricultural Research Service research facilities to provide public access)

On page 129, line 4, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading may be used to provide public access to a river at a research facility of the Agricultural Research Service.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1023

(Purpose: To amend provisions relating to the rental assistance program of the Rural Housing Service)

On page 155, line 10, insert after “one-year period:” the following: “*Provided further*, that upon request by an owner of a project financed by an existing loan under section 514 or 515 of the Act, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance agreement for a period of 20 years or until the term of such loan has expired, subject to annual appropriations:”.

On page 156, line 4, strike “third proviso” and insert “fourth proviso”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1037

(Purpose: To require a study on the economic and environmental impacts of importing orchids in growing media)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 _____. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report that describes the economic and environmental impacts of importing orchids in growing media.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of—
(A) the economic impact of importing orchids in growing media on a State-by-State basis, with data collected from local growers; and
(B) any incidents of pests detected on orchids imported with growing media; and

(2) an analysis with respect to the additional resources that are necessary to pre-

vent and mitigate the introduction of pests resulting from importing orchids in growing media.

AMENDMENT NO. 1088, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide appropriations for centers of excellence at 1890 Institutions, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 _____. (a) There is appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out section 1673(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926(d)).

(b) The amount made available under the heading “OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY” in title I for necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary shall be reduced by \$3,000,000, which shall be derived by reducing the amount provided under that heading for Departmental Administration by \$3,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1099

(Purpose: To increase the appropriation for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available under the heading “EXTENSION ACTIVITIES” under the heading “NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be increased by \$5,000,000, which shall be used by increasing by that amount the amount specified for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network in the table titled “National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities” in the report accompanying this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer under the heading “OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$5,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1121

(Purpose: To set aside funding for the ocean agriculture working group)

On page 122, line 19, insert “: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be made available to the Office of the Secretary to carry out the duties of the working group established under section 770 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6; 133 Stat. 89)” before the period at the end.

AMENDMENT NO. 1133

(Purpose: To provide funding for the new beginning for Tribal students program, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7 _____. (a) There is appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222e).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$5,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1143

(Purpose: To increase the appropriation for rural decentralized water systems)

On page 164, line 21, strike “\$1,500,000” and insert “\$3,000,000”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1149

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize maintenance and staff needs relating to assistance provided by the Rural Housing Service)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7____. In providing assistance under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) using amounts made available under title III, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prioritize the maintenance needs for rural housing facilities and staff needs, which shall include prioritizing—

(1) oversight of aging rental housing program properties with capital repair needs;

(2) the needs of staff overseeing the Rural Housing Service and field staff conducting housing inspections; and

(3) enforcement against property owners when those owners fail to make necessary repairs.

AMENDMENT NO. 1161

(Purpose: To increase the appropriation for the distance learning and telemedicine program, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under this Act to the Rural Utilities Service under the heading “DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM” for grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas shall be increased by \$1,000,000.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1163

(Purpose: To provide funding for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7____. (a) There is appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

(b) The amount made available under the heading “OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY” in title I for necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary shall be reduced by \$3,000,000, which shall be derived by reducing the amount provided under that heading for Departmental Administration by \$3,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1217

(Purpose: To provide funding for States impacted by Eastern equine encephalitis, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE” in title I shall be increased by \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be for surveillance, testing, prevention, and research relating to Eastern equine encephalitis in impacted States.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture under the heading “OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER” shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1223

(Purpose: To provide funding for the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7____. (a) There is appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$6,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1224

(Purpose: To provide funding for pilot projects to address food insecurity, with an offset)

On page 223, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 7____. (a) There is appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out section 30 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036d).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided under the heading “AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES” under the heading “AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS” in title I shall be reduced by \$2,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 951

(Purpose: To require the Attorney General to report to Congress on, and establish a deadline for, the implementation of the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) details the progress of the implementation of the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-401; 132 Stat. 5336) and the amendments made by that Act; and

(2) establishes a deadline for full implementation of that Act and the amendments made by that Act, which shall be not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 1077

(Purpose: To make \$10,000,000 available for the SelectUSA program)

On page 5, line 19, insert “*Provided further*, That, of the amounts provided under this heading, up to \$10,000,000 shall be available for the SelectUSA program:” after “activities:”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1094

(Purpose: To require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration submit to Congress a report on existing supercomputing capacity and needs of the Administration)

On page 17, line 7, before the period, insert the following: “*Provided further*, That the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration submit to Congress a report on existing supercomputing capacity and needs of the Administration and on the incremental improvement to operational weather forecasts that would result from a significant investment in additional compute capacity”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1129

(Purpose: To require that the Secretary of Commerce use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Bureau of Industry and Security for operations and administration to publish and submit to Congress a report on the findings of the investigation into the effect on national security of imports of automobiles and automotive parts)

At the appropriate place in title I of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than one day after the date of the enactment of this Act, using amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title for the Bureau of Industry and Security for operations and administration, the Secretary of Commerce shall—

(1) publish in the Federal Register the report on the findings of the investigation into the effect on national security of imports of automobiles and automotive parts that the Secretary initiated on May 23, 2018, under section 232(b) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862(b)), as required under paragraph (3)(B) of that section; and

(2) submit to Congress any portion of the report that contains classified information, which may be viewed only by Members of Congress and their staff with appropriate security clearances.

AMENDMENT NO. 1146

(Purpose: To require the Drug Enforcement Administration to continue to establish and utilize data collection and sharing agreements in order to properly estimate rates of overdose deaths and overall public health impact related to certain controlled substances, for the purpose of determining diversion and establishing annual opioid production quotas)

On page 38, line 18, strike “expenses” and insert the following: “expenses: *Provided*, That, using amounts made available under this heading, the Drug Enforcement Administration shall continue to establish and utilize data collection and sharing agreements with other Federal agencies and continue to consider other sources of information to properly assess the estimated rates of overdose deaths and abuse and the overall public health impact regarding covered controlled substances as required under section 306(i) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 826(i)), and shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act regarding the establishment and utilization of such data collection and sharing agreements”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1150

(Purpose: To increase funding for the COPS Office Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces grant program)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount made available under the heading “COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)” under the heading “COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” in this title shall be increased by \$1,000,000, which shall be used by increasing by that amount the amount specified in paragraph (3) under such headings for competitive grants to State law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount made available for necessary expenses for information sharing technology under the heading “JUSTICE

INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)" under the heading "GENERAL ADMINISTRATION" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" in this title shall be decreased by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1234

(Purpose: To require the Attorney General to submit a report on the enforcement of animal welfare laws)

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. 2 _____. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate detailing the efforts of the Department of Justice to combat and enforce animal fighting and animal welfare statutes, which shall include—

(1) a break down of the number of personnel dedicated to animal welfare crimes on a full-time basis, including their respective departmental component;

(2) a list of all cases involving animal welfare crimes that the Department of Justice has prosecuted since 2014;

(3) a list of investigations that were referred to the Department of Justice that have been delayed or declined to be prosecuted by the Department of Justice and the reason for any deferral or declination; and

(4) a qualitative description of how the Department of Justice coordinates the efforts of the Department with other governmental partners to ensure proper enforcement of animal welfare laws.

AMENDMENT NO. 1025

(Purpose: To require a Bureau of Indian Affairs report analyzing the facilities investments required to improve direct service and tribally operated detention and public safety facilities in Indian country)

On page 253, line 2, strike "costs:" and insert the following: "costs: *Provided further*, That not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report describing the facilities investments required to improve the direct service and tribally operated detention and public safety facilities in Indian country that are in poor condition, including associated cost estimates:".

AMENDMENT NO. 1079

(Purpose: To prohibit bogus bonus payments to contractors)

In division C, insert after section 429 the following:

SEC. 430. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or for performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program and unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with 16.401(e)(2) of the FAR.

AMENDMENT NO. 1081

(Purpose: To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress a report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule)

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget

shall submit to Congress and post on the website of the Office of Management and Budget a report on each project funded by an agency that is appropriated funds under this division—

(1) that is more than 5 years behind schedule; or

(2) for which the amount spent on the project is not less than \$1,000,000,000 more than the original cost estimate for the project.

(b) Each report submitted and posted under subsection (a) shall include, for each project included in the report—

(1) a brief description of the project, including—

(A) the purpose of the project;

(B) each location in which the project is carried out;

(C) the year in which the project was initiated;

(D) the Federal share of the total cost of the project; and

(E) each primary contractor, subcontractor, grant recipient, and subgrantee recipient of the project;

(2) an explanation of any change to the original scope of the project, including by the addition or narrowing of the initial requirements of the project;

(3) the original expected date for completion of the project;

(4) the current expected date for completion of the project;

(5) the original cost estimate for the project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(6) the current cost estimate for the project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(7) an explanation for a delay in completion or increase in the original cost estimate for the project; and

(8) the amount of and rationale for any award, incentive fee, or other type of bonus, if any, awarded for the project.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151

(Purpose: To increase funding for the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities on the United States-Mexico Border, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title IV of division C, insert the following:

UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER PROGRAM

SEC. 4 _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, funds made available under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be reduced by \$5,489,000, which shall be reduced from amounts for Operations and Administration as described in the report accompanying this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount made available under the heading "STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by \$5,489,000.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount made available under paragraph (2) under the heading "STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by \$5,489,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1159

(Purpose: To provide for a report on certain programs of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

On page 346, line 14, strike the period and insert "": *Provided*, That, not later than 120

days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes the efforts of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support memory and a range of educational programs relating to the Holocaust, including the collection and usage of historical documentation, such as survivor testimony."

AMENDMENT NO. 1160

(Purpose: To set aside funds for certain Lake Tahoe restoration activities)

On page 230, line 18, insert " , of which \$4,088,000 shall be for activities under section 5(d)(2) of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106-506; 114 Stat. 2353; 130 Stat. 1786)" after "2021".

AMENDMENT NO. 1162

(Purpose: To require a study of law enforcement staffing needs of Indian Tribes)

At the end of title I of division C, add the following:

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING

SEC. 1 _____. The Bureau of Indian Affairs shall conduct a study to identify the law enforcement staffing needs of Indian Tribes, which shall include—

(1) a detailed analysis, by Indian Tribe, of law enforcement hiring impediments and challenges;

(2) a strategy on how to recruit and train law enforcement officers and fill law enforcement vacancies; and

(3) a proposed strategy that could be used to address the impediments and challenges identified in paragraph (1).

AMENDMENT NO. 1182

(Purpose: To increase money appropriated for Geographic Programs, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in title IV of division C, insert the following:

GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS

SEC. 4 _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount made available for Geographic Programs under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by 3 percent, and the amount made available for each Geographic Program described in the report accompanying this Act shall be increased by 3 percent.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the amount authorized to be transferred under the fourth paragraph under the heading "ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II shall be increased by the additional amount made available for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under subsection (a).

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, funds made available under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT" under the heading "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" under title II for operations and administration, as specified in the report accompanying this Act, shall be reduced by an amount equal to the total amount additionally appropriated for Geographic Programs under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 1193

(Purpose: To make available funds for the Smithsonian Latino Center)

On page 338, line 22, after the semicolon insert the following: " *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated herein, not less than \$4,292,000 shall be made available for the

Smithsonian Latino Center and related initiative.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1199

(Purpose: To set aside funds for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program)

On page 238, line 5, strike the period and insert the following “: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,576,000 shall be made available for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program and similarly managed rivers.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1211

(Purpose: To set aside funds for the 400 Years of African-American History Commission)

On page 238, line 5, strike the period and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding sections 7(b), 8, and 9 of the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act (36 U.S.C. note prec. 101; Public Law 115–102), of the amount made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be provided to the 400 Years of African-American History Commission for expenditure on activities authorized by that Act through July 1, 2021.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1215

(Purpose: To require a report on the status of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative)

On page 311, line 2, insert “*Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the Forest Service shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report detailing the status of efforts to accelerate forest ecosystem restoration under the Four Forest Restoration Initiative:” after “7303(f):”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1220

(Purpose: To make available funds for the Women’s History Initiative)

On page 338, line 22, at the appropriate place insert the following: “*Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated herein, not less than \$3,700,000 shall be made available for the Women’s History Initiative.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1227

(Purpose: To provide for a Government Accountability Office study on outdoor recreation)

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

SEC. 1 ____ . GAO STUDY ON OUTDOOR RECREATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means—

- (A) the Department of Agriculture;
- (B) the Department of the Interior;
- (C) the Corps of Engineers;
- (D) the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

(E) the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term “outdoor recreation” means all recreational activities undertaken for pleasure that—

- (A) generally involve some level of intentional physical exertion; and
- (B) occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

(b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that—

- (1) identifies each program carried out by a covered agency that directly impacts the outdoor recreation sector, including each program that affects the management and conservation of, and access to, the land, waters, and natural resources of the United States; and

(2) describes, for each program identified under paragraph (1), the spending level for that program during each of the 20 fiscal years preceding the year in which the report is submitted.

(c) REQUIRED COORDINATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall coordinate with the outdoor recreation industry, nongovernmental organizations, the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, and other interested stakeholders.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (b).

AMENDMENT NO. 956

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide Congress with recommendations and associated costs for future research on rental payment insurance)

At the appropriate place in title II of division D, insert the following:

SEC. 2 ____ . The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall include in the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the President submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for fiscal year 2021, recommendations and any associated costs for future research on insurance models designed to reduce evictions or expand access to rental opportunities for tenants, such as rental payment insurance.

AMENDMENT NO. 1002

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 489, line 17, strike “\$2,761,00,000” and insert “\$2,761,000,000”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1005

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress)

At the appropriate place in title I of division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, as part of ongoing efforts to review regulations regarding the emergency medical equipment carried by passenger airlines, should continue to prioritize the demands of our nation’s growing opioid epidemic and take timely action to issue additional guidance to air carriers to ensure the expeditious inclusion of opioid antagonists in emergency medical kits.

AMENDMENT NO. 1010

(Purpose: To ensure funding for the FAA remote tower pilot program)

On page 383, line 10, insert the following after “Budget” : “*Provided further*, That of the amounts made available for Enterprise, Concept Development, Human Factors, and Demonstration, not less than \$9,500,000 shall be available for the remote tower pilot program as authorized by section 161 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 47104 note)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1061

(Purpose: To require a report on engagement with local interests relating to intelligent transportation systems technologies and smart cities solutions)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and

Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on efforts by the Department of Transportation to engage with local communities, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional transportation commissions on advancing data and intelligent transportation systems technologies and other smart cities solutions.

AMENDMENT NO. 1062

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to terminate the ITS program advisory committee)

At the appropriate place in title II of Division D, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to terminate the Intelligent Transportation System Program Advisory Committee established under section 5305(h) of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 512 note; Public Law 109–59).

AMENDMENT NO. 1114

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 482, line 10, strike the period and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this paragraph, not less than \$1,000,000 shall be available to support utilization, outreach, and capacity building with tribes and tribal housing organization for the Tribal HUD-VASH program.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1130

(Purpose: To provide a sense of Congress relating to preserving manufactured home communities)

At the appropriate place in title II of division D, insert the following:

SEC. 2 ____ . It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) more than 17,000,000 people live in manufactured homes and benefit from high-quality affordable homes which provide stability;

(2) owners of manufactured homes have disproportionately low-income households, and in 2013, the median annual household income for living in manufactured housing was \$28,400;

(3) approximately 75 percent of manufactured home households earn less than \$50,000 per year;

(4) more than 10 percent of veterans in the United States live in manufactured homes;

(5) in late 1990, manufactured housing represented ⅓ of the new affordable housing produced in the United States and remains a significant source of unsubsidized affordable housing in the United States;

(6) in 2015, the average cost per square foot for a new manufactured home was 48 dollars, less than half of the cost per square foot for a new-site built, structure-only home, which was \$101;

(7) in 2009, 43 percent of all new homes that sold for less than \$150,000 were manufactured homes;

(8) manufactured homes account for 23 percent of new home sales under \$200,000;

(9) more than 50,000 manufactured home communities, also referred to as “mobile home parks”, exist throughout the United States;

(10) more than 2,900,000 manufactured homes are placed in manufactured home communities;

(11) manufactured home communities provide critical affordable housing, but receive very little Federal, State, or local funds to subsidize the cost of manufactured homes;

(12) manufactured home owners in such communities may own the home, but they do not own the land under the home, which leaves the home owners vulnerable to rent increases, arbitrary rule enforcement, and in the case of a manufactured home community owner converting the land to some other use, community closure;

(13) an eviction or closure of a manufactured home community is very disruptive to a resident who may be unable to pay the thousands of dollars it takes to move the manufactured home or find a new location for the manufactured home;

(14) in an effort to preserve a crucial source of affordable housing within the past two decades, a national network of housing providers has helped residents purchase and own the land under the manufactured home community, and manage the manufactured home community;

(15) nationwide, there are more than 1,000 stable, permanent ownership cooperatives or nonprofit-owned developments in more than a dozen States;

(16) members of manufactured home communities continue to own such homes individually, own an equal share of the land beneath the entire manufactured home community, participate in the governing of the community, and elect a board of directors who make major decisions within the manufactured home community by a democratic vote;

(17) in New Hampshire, more than 30 percent of manufactured home communities are owned by residents;

(18) resident-owned cooperatives and nonprofit owned communities have also flourished in Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington, Oregon, and Minnesota;

(19) nationwide, only 2 percent of all manufactured home communities are resident or nonprofit-owned;

(20) when the owner of a manufactured home community or his or her heirs sell the community to the highest bidder, it can result in displacement for dozens and sometimes hundreds of families; and

(21) Congress should endeavor to protect residents of manufactured home communities by encouraging the owners of those properties to sell them to nonprofit organizations or to the residents themselves to own cooperatively.

AMENDMENT NO. 1214

(Purpose: To provide for a veterans pilot training competitive grant program)

At the appropriate place under the heading "OPERATIONS" under the heading "FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION" in title I of division D, insert the following: "Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be used for a veterans pilot training competitive grant program."

AMENDMENT NO. 1235

(Purpose: To provide additional funding for the family unification program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development)

At the appropriate place in paragraph (2) under the heading "TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE" under the heading "PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING" in title II of division D, insert the following: "the family unification program under section 8(x) of the Act,".

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The majority whip is recognized.

H.R. 3055

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last weekend, I had the privilege of attend-

ing the welcome-home ceremony for 112 members of the South Dakota National Guard. These men and women, who serve in the 147th Forward Support Company or the Bravo Battery of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, were deployed to Europe as part of Atlantic Resolve, a partnership with our allies in Eastern and Central Europe developed in response to Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014.

The Atlantic Resolve allows U.S. and allied forces to build strong working relationships and to hone their ability to conduct operations. Members of Bravo Battery and the 147th Forward Support Company spent most of the year in Europe working with partner forces. They participated in two multinational exercises and brought artillery to Germany and Hungary.

These soldiers finally got home last weekend, but they didn't leave Atlantic Resolve without South Dakota support. Other members of the 147th Forward Support Company and Alpha Battery of the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion head for Europe in September. Other South Dakota-based military members—airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base—also deployed abroad recently.

Four B-1 bombers from the 34th and 37th Bomb Squadrons at Ellsworth made a flying trip to Saudi Arabia late this month to support the U.S. military presence there. The bombers flew directly from South Dakota to Saudi Arabia, refueling six times in midair, once again demonstrating the incredible capability of this aircraft and of our Ellsworth airmen.

Atlantic Resolve, the B-1 mission, the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi during a raid conducted by U.S. troops—they are all a reminder of the vital work that our military members are doing.

A lot of military missions don't make a big splash in the news. We don't hear a lot about everything that our men and women are doing on a daily basis. We don't hear details of all the operations: the joint exercises with our allies, the countless training evolutions, the never-ending aircraft and vehicle maintenance, the hours watching radar systems for contacts, the endless logistical work to support troops in the field, the painstaking weeks and months of intelligence gathering for a single mission.

Every hour of every day, members of the U.S. military are on duty working to keep the peace and to ensure the security of our Nation. As Members of Congress, we have no greater obligation than to ensure that our troops have the resources they need. We owe it to the men and women who get up each day willing to lay down their lives for us, and we owe it to every man, woman, and child we represent because the safety of our country depends upon the strength of our military.

Ensuring that our troops have the resources they need obviously means ensuring that they have adequate fund-

ing, but it also means getting that funding to them in a timely fashion. It means passing regular order appropriations bills instead of forcing our military to rely on temporary funding measures that leave the military in doubt about funding levels and unable to start important new projects.

Getting military funding approved in a timely manner is a priority for me and for a lot of my colleagues here in the Senate. Chairman SHELBY, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, worked hard this year to ensure that we could bring the Defense appropriations bill to the floor in a timely fashion, but Senate Democrats have so far blocked Senate consideration of this important legislation. Their refusal to allow the Senate to move forward on funding has left the military in limbo, unable to fully fund 2020 priorities and to move ahead on key projects for the future.

Later today, Democrats will have another chance to move forward with the Defense appropriations bill and to get our military the resources that it needs. I am hoping that they will have a change of heart and decide that funding our military is more important than the partisan games they have been playing. Our military members are waiting on that funding. Their ability to do their jobs is being jeopardized by Democrats' continued blockade of Defense appropriations.

We live in peace and safety every single day because of the men and women of the U.S. military. It is not a new sentiment, but it bears repeating because it is too easy to forget that we would not be enjoying the freedoms and benefits that we enjoy without the constant vigilance of our men and women in uniform. The least—the very least—that we can do in return is to make sure that they have every resource they need to do their jobs and to come home safely.

I strongly urge my Democratic colleagues to vote yes on moving forward with the Defense appropriations bill later today and to send a loud and clear message to the American military that we are going to ensure here in the Congress that you have the resources, the training, the weapons systems, the equipment, and everything that you need to keep Americans safe each and every single day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1143 CORRECTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, for the information of the Senate, in the managers' package of amendments that was just agreed to, amendment No. 1143 was misidentified as a Capito

amendment. It is actually an amendment by Senator JONES that Senator CAPITO cosponsored.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of my amendment with the Senator from Alabama, Mr. JONES, to this domestic spending package.

Our amendment will permanently block an impending \$1.2 billion cut to Federal investments and Federal transportation. Without our legislative action to block this cut, public transit agencies across the country will suffer a 12-percent across-the-board cut. These cuts will be devastating to all of our communities.

Transit funds in my home State in Arizona are critically important to our quickly growing communities. Maricopa County was the fastest growing county in the United States last year, and cities such as Flagstaff and Tucson are also attracting more jobs and more families. Our State continues to have to meet the demands of our expanding cities and towns, and that is true from Phoenix to Flagstaff and all throughout the State.

Our amendment would block more than \$15.4 million in cuts to Arizona transit agencies. These cuts could result in drastically reduced services, including those for low-income individuals and individuals with disabilities, and reduce funds necessary to modernize bus and rail fleets, as well as slow construction of news stations and shelters.

A broad coalition of over 30 associations—including the American Public Transportation Association, the Associated General Contractors of America, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—support our efforts and this amendment to block these cuts.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of a letter from the 32 national associations urging Congress to support our amendment.

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

OCTOBER 22, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD C. SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. SUSAN M. COLLINS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JACK REED,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHELBY, VICE CHAIRMAN LEAHY, CHAIRMAN COLLINS, AND RANKING MEMBER REED: We greatly appreciate your

bipartisan efforts to advance S. 2520, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act, 2020. Although S. 2520 includes many critical investments for public transportation, it reduces total funding for public transportation by \$457 million compared to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 enacted levels. As you continue working together on the bill, we strongly urge you to increase investment in public transportation and permanently block the impending \$1.2 billion across-the-board cut to transit formula funds.

Infrastructure investment is critical for our nation's economic growth and now is the time to invest more, not less, in public transportation. Increased investment will provide the necessary resources to begin to address the more than \$90 billion state-of-good-repair backlog in our nation's transit systems and meet the mobility demands of growing communities.

In addition, we urge you to include a provision in the bill permanently blocking the impending 12 percent across-the-board cut to each public transit agency throughout the country. We greatly appreciate your leadership in ensuring that the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-59, Division A) included a provision temporarily preventing this cut, but further and immediate action is needed to ensure that this harmful provision does not take effect in FY 2020.

Americans ride public transportation 10 billion times a year, and every trip meets a need or provides an opportunity. It gets people to work, their doctors, local businesses, and schools. It is a lifeline that connects communities. We urge you to support increased investment in public transportation for critical projects in small, medium, and large communities across the nation.

In summary, as you continue working together on the Senate THUD Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to increase investment in public transportation and permanently block the impending \$1.2 billion across-the-board cut to transit formula funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Public Transportation Association, Amalgamated Transit Union; American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; American Concrete Pipe Association; American Council of Engineering Companies; American Planning Association; American Road & Transportation Builders Association; American Society of Civil Engineers; Associated General Contractors of America; Association of Equipment Manufacturers; Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations; The Bus Coalition; Community Transportation Association of America; Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute; The Intelligent Transportation Society of America; International Union of Operating Engineers; National Asphalt Pavement Association.

National Association of City Transportation Officials; National Association of Counties; National Association of Regional Councils; National League of Cities; National Precast Concrete Association; National Ready Mixed Concrete Association; Natural Resources Defense Council; National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association; Portland Cement Association; Railway Supply Institute; Transport Workers Union; Transportation for America; Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO; United States Chamber of Commerce; The United States Conference of Mayors.

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to join Senator JONES from Alabama and me in supporting this important bipartisan amendment.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today we come to an inflection point in the appropriations process this year. Leader MCCONNELL has scheduled a vote on the Defense appropriations bill, which comes with a certain irony. A bill that is supposed to provide resources for our troops and their families actually steals money from them and puts it toward a border wall that President Trump promised Mexico would pay for.

Democrats will not vote to proceed to a bill that steals money from our troops and their families. Republicans know it is a nonstarter. Yet Leader MCCONNELL has scheduled a show vote this afternoon to demonstrate something that everyone already knows: There is nowhere close to the necessary votes in the Senate for President Trump's border wall and, of course, there is not in the House. So this is just a show vote.

Leader MCCONNELL, a few weeks ago, got on the floor and railed against show votes. He said: I only want to put things on the floor that are going to pass. But we all know this ain't passing. I understand memories in politics can be short, but the exercise we will go through today is absurd, even by those low standards.

Senate Republicans, by pursuing a partisan process, by doing President Trump's bidding on the wall—they know he is wrong, most of them. They are just so afraid of him they just say "Yes, sir" whenever he proposes an absurd idea. They repeat the same failed strategy that led to the longest shutdown in our Nation's history. I warned Leader MCCONNELL and our Republican friends that if they continue down this path, they will lead us straight to another government shutdown, and their party and President Trump will shoulder the responsibility. The last time, they had to retreat from that position after the longest shutdown in history with their tails between their legs. Isn't history teaching them anything? We know it will not teach President Trump much, but we would hope the Republicans in the Senate would have more sense.

Instead of standing up and defending their own position that they want the money for the wall—however indefensible in my judgment—Senate Republicans have resorted to bogus attacks against Democrats. Senate Republicans accuse Democrats of delaying a pay raise for our troops, even though, first, the pay raise is strongly bipartisan, and, more important, the standing law of the land dictates it will go into effect regardless of whether we pass the Defense appropriations.

Our Republican friends are so desperate to divert attention from their

holding up these bills for President Trump's wall that they come up with completely false arguments, such as the statement that if we don't pass this, the troops will not get a pay raise.

Yesterday, Leader MCCONNELL and President Trump repeated a slightly less specific but even more outrageous charge, claiming that Democrats are not supporting the fight against ISIS due to the disagreement on appropriations. Hello. Who was it who abandoned our Kurdish friends who led the fight against ISIS? Not the Democrats in the Senate, not even the Republicans in the Senate—it was President Trump.

President Trump's reckless decision to greenlight President Erdogan's invasion of northern Syria left hundreds of hardened ISIS fighters out of jail and, according to most experts, set a course for a likely resurgence of ISIS. But instead of blaming President Trump—although some of them did early on—they are trying to switch the blame. It is a typical tactic that Leader MCCONNELL is using with more and more regularity, but like his previous attempts, it fails.

We were briefed yesterday by senior administration officials, and they acknowledged the fallout in the wake of the President's decision and the need to pick up the pieces of what was their strategy to defeat ISIS.

The majority leader and I have been working together on legislation requiring specific plans and reports from the administration on the ISIS threat. I hope it will receive some action on the floor soon. Let's cut the nonsense that Democrats don't support the troops or the fight against ISIS. It is not true. It is laughable, and it ain't going to stick. So instead of this bunk, Leader MCCONNELL and my Republican friends, roll up your sleeves and work with us to get something done.

Democrats and Republicans have been working through a package of appropriations bills, as is clear in the bills we are voting on. Where there is agreement, we can move forward. This week has shown the Senate can efficiently work through these bills, and we have a bipartisan buy-in. That is how Democrats want to proceed on the remainder of the bills.

Republican friends, work with us as you did on these four bills to come up with bipartisan bills, and we can get them done.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, on impeachment, at least a dozen witnesses have testified in Congress as part of the House's impeachment inquiry. The facts that are already in the public record are troubling and require further investigation.

The Founders greatly feared foreign interference in our elections. Here, we have a President who allegedly used the powers of his office to pressure or coerce a foreign leader to investigate a domestic political rival. The matter at hand is serious; both parties must treat it as such. But already some of our Re-

publican colleagues have tried to kick up as much dust as possible to distract or detract from the facts of the case because they know the reality will be damaging to the President if these facts prove to be true.

Last week, roughly 40 Republicans stormed the secure facility in the Capitol in a fit of staged protest, even though one-third of them were already allowed to participate in the hearings that were taking place.

In the Senate, my colleague Senator GRAHAM, a veteran of the House impeachment process, put together a resolution of trumped-up charges that the House process was unfair, all of which have been thoroughly debunked as misleading or baseless. Again, it is an attempt by our Republican friends to do Donald Trump's bidding no matter how false, reckless, or harmful that bidding is.

Meanwhile, the White House and its allies in the Congress and the media have leveled shameful attacks against the witnesses in the House inquiry, questioning the loyalties of a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and Purple Heart recipient and calling the whistleblower a treasonous spy. That is despicable.

Worse still, reports suggest that Republicans on the House committee and members of their staffs are conducting a vicious campaign to deliberately disclose or cause to be disclosed the identity of the whistleblower, placing that courageous individual's safety and that of his or her family in jeopardy.

We are supposed to be engaging with the facts of the case on the merits. We have a solemn constitutional duty to do so. Even the President himself has said he would "rather go into the details of the case rather than the process."

My Republican friends in Congress should stick to the facts, quit the partisan theatrics, quit the politics of blame, and quit trying to harm the very serious patriots whose lives and safety might be in danger. This is a time to put country over party and examine the facts—only the facts.

PENSIONS

Madam President, finally, on pensions, this week, Murray Energy, which employed over 5,000 people, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, putting thousands of hard-working Americans at risk of losing their pensions. Forty percent of Murray's employees are represented by either the United Mine Workers or the Seafarers International Union. Murray faces over \$8 billion in pension obligations, of which over \$2 billion are unfunded and under threat. This is only the latest example of the danger facing millions of Americans with pensions from construction, mining, truck driving, bakeries, and other industries.

These workers did nothing wrong. They saved up little by little, week by week, expecting to retire with security and dignity, but their pension plans are sadly now at risk of becoming insol-

vent because of circumstances totally outside of their control.

The time has come for Congress to bring relief to these working families. Members on both sides of the aisle have been working on legislation that would provide relief to these underfunded pensions. Just 2 months ago, the House passed the Butch Lewis Act, which I proudly support and which would provide immediate relief to critical and declining pension plans, but Leader MCCONNELL has inexplicably refused to take action on this bipartisan legislation—another tombstone in his legislative graveyard.

Leader MCCONNELL and the Republican majority are turning their backs on hard-working middle-class Americans who need their pensions. They could be robbed of them through no fault of their own. I hope the news this week magnifies the consequences of Republican inaction.

President Trump has claimed to be a champion for American workers, but under his Presidency, working Americans have slipped further and further behind. Now, for millions of hard-working Americans, a secure retirement is also at risk. If the President were truly a champion for working Americans, now is the time for him to show some leadership by urging Leader MCCONNELL and his Republicans in the Senate to work with Democrats to protect these pension plans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I have a number of things I want to talk about today. On Monday of this week, we lost a fine lady in Kay Hagan. It is very difficult for me to put into words my admiration for the Senator from North Carolina, but the fact is, Kay was the kind of person who, the first time you met her, had the ability to calm the situation down.

When she was running in 2008, I went to North Carolina, and she had an event at a farm. I think it was a hog operation, if my memory serves me correctly. I had a chance to meet her for the first time. She was somebody who you knew, if she were able to get into this body, would be successful.

Well, in 2008, she won that election. She came here, and she made a difference. She made a difference for working families, small businesses, and family farm agriculture.

I just want to express my condolences to her husband Chip, her kids and grandkids, and let them know she was very loved by all in this body.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, I also want to rise today and speak on behalf of the thousands of Montanans who have pre-existing conditions or struggle with the cost of prescription drugs.

Even with the Affordable Care Act's protections, many of these folks struggle to afford their medical bills, their copays at the pharmacy counter and

the local doctors' offices. Instead of working to fix these problems, this administration—the Trump administration—has issued a rule that brings us back to the dark ages by letting insurance companies discriminate against working families across Montana and this country.

The Affordable Care Act guaranteed health coverage for all Americans. It required health insurance companies to issue policies to folks regardless of whether they had preexisting conditions. The Trump administration is chipping away at these laws, and they are tossing these protections out the window so that big insurance can make big bucks.

Health insurance companies across this country are flooding the market with junk plans. They are called junk plans because they are cheap insurance that are junk. When you think you have health insurance and you get sick, it is not there.

Trust me, I know firsthand how this works. When I was 9 years old, I lost three fingers in a meat grinder, and my folks thought they had insurance. They didn't because they had bought a junk plan. They ended up paying every dime for the surgeries related to my left hand out of their pockets—money they didn't have.

These plans tell folks they have insurance, but, truthfully, they don't. They have less coverage, and they don't even cover the most essential health benefits.

Need prescription drugs? You can get them, but it's going to cost you. Maternity care? Sorry, the plan doesn't cover that. Mental health? You would not get that coverage in your wildest dreams. These insurers will tell you that you are getting a great deal, but the truth of the matter is your pocketbook is going to pay the price. God forbid if you ever get in a situation where you need to use it.

What we see is insurance companies lining their pockets and selling plans that do nothing. And the majority leader is working to make it easier for them to do it, all by blocking reasonable, bipartisan bills to improve the ACA and make healthcare more affordable to working families and small businesses around this country.

The Senate was established by our Founders as the greatest deliberative body in the world to be a check and balance on the Office of the Presidency, the executive branch. That simply is not occurring right now.

I mean take a look at the tariff situation. The President puts on tariffs in a knee-jerk reaction, doesn't bring any of our allies along. We are seeing small businesses and family farm agriculture literally being put to the point of being put out of business, and this body lets him do it. A couple of weeks ago, the President said: You know what, we are pulling our troops out of northern Syria, and to hell with our allies.

The Kurds, who have been fighting with us, fighting as partners for the

last 15 years, well, too bad. Done nothing. No checks and balances.

The President asked for other countries to come in and influence our elections, and it seems like the Senate is just fine with that. The greatest country in the world is going to let other countries determine who is elected to our elected offices in this country, whether it be the Presidency, the Senate, or any of us.

Now, we can't even pass a budget. We continue to kick the can down the road. We do have a vote on the Defense bill, which by the way, this body is going to allow the President, if the majority leader has his way, to take any amount of money they want out of that Defense bill and put it into a wall—a wall that costs \$25 million to \$35 million a mile—and we are not even talking about expenses down the road for upkeep.

So we just deal with continuing resolutions—more uncertainty, more uncertainty for families, more uncertainty for business. So right now, we are standing by letting funding for our schools, our roads, our hospitals run out, leaving families across this country—especially in rural America and States like Montana—without resources to be able to do the job.

And that is exactly the case for community health centers in this country. These facilities provide lifesaving care to nearly one-tenth of people in Montana, running 65 healthcare clinics across our State. They don't even know if they are going to have funding come November 21st when the continuing resolution we passed expires.

How can we expect these places to stay open, let alone recruit and retain staff, when they don't even know if they are going to be around in another month? What do I say to folks when their own community health clinics like Hardin, or Libby, or Haver—these communities rely on these health clinics to keep their communities healthy. And quite frankly, because we can't sit down and negotiate and come up with long-term funding agreements, they potentially are going to be out of business.

But the uncertainty for families doesn't start there. The number of kids who don't have insurance has gone up since this administration started its war on healthcare. Kids in Montana are getting the worst of it. The number of kids in my State without insurance went up 25 percent between 2016 and 2018.

Let me say that again. The number of kids in the State of Montana without insurance went up 25 percent between 2016 and 2018. That is the fifth highest percentage jump in the United States. There are places worse. The kids being hit hardest are the kids that are in the most vulnerable groups. They are in Indian Country, which continues to have the highest uninsured rate in this country. These young folks are our future leaders. They are our next generation. We are not doing our job. We are failing them.

This coordinated sabotage of our healthcare system by this administration and this body is unacceptable, and our children deserve better. I am not going to sit here and tell you that the Affordable Care Act was perfect. I said from day one that we needed to work together to make improvements and build upon the successes that were in that bill.

The ACA allowed States like Montana to pass Medicaid Expansion. That insured more than 90,000 Montanans in the process and helped greatly toward keeping our small hospitals open.

It helped millions of Montanans with preexisting conditions rest easy at night knowing that they were not going to be kicked off their plans because of that preexisting condition or hit an annual cap on care. All of that is gone. Americans have spoken clearly. They want more access to affordability, not less. When my colleagues on the other side of the aisle attempted to repeal the ACA a couple of years ago, folks all across this country stood up and said: No.

But here we are again, watching the majority and the Trump administration pushing plans to rip away affordable health insurance from hard-working Americans. I would encourage my colleagues to join together in working and find a bipartisan solution to improve our healthcare system. We need to reduce health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs. We need to crack down on skyrocketing prescription drugs, and we need to expand insurance to more Americans. We need to make sure that when people put their hard-earned money on the line to buy an insurance policy, that it is not junk.

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Mr. President, now, on a lighter subject. Back in my early years on the farm, I would come in on Wednesday night and there would be baseball night in Canada. I got to watch the Montreal Expos for a couple of decades play some pretty darned good baseball. They didn't win, but they were very entertaining.

That franchise moved to Washington, DC, I think in 2006, the same year I got elected to the United States Senate. So consequently, I got to watch the Nats and be entertained by them again—occasionally, even in person.

Last night, they did the impossible. After being 19 and 31, I believe around the 23rd, 24th of May of this year, they ripped off a hundred games and won the World Series. I just want to congratulate them on that feat and look forward to a repeat next season.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from New Hampshire.

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend and former colleague, Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina. There have been several eloquent tributes to

Kay. I am sure we will hear many more in the days to come. They all note her profound grace, her fighting spirit, her charm, and of course, I agree with all of those remarks.

I want to especially extend my very sincere condolences to her husband, Chip; to her children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie; and to her father Joe.

The news of her death on Monday was deeply felt here in the Senate. Kay and I were in the same class of freshmen Senators. We came in, in 2008, and as the only two women in that class, we became fast friends. But of course, it wasn't hard to make friends with Kay Hagan. She never met a stranger. She had contagious optimism and joy, and she drew everyone in with her smile and kindness.

Kay was first in the Senate, not as a Senator, but as an intern, where she had the job of operating the elevators. Of course, those were the days when women Senators were few, and they were often appointed to fill temporary vacancies. So I am sure it was a very powerful moment when Kay took the elevator here in the Capitol for the first time as a United States Senator, only the second woman from her State, North Carolina, to do that.

Kay and I often compared notes about our new roles as Senators. We talked about our families and the challenges of commuting to and from DC. I remember Kay showing me and the other women in the Senate pictures of her daughters' weddings and beaming with excitement. She was so tremendously proud of her children and so appreciated the support she received from them and from Chip during her campaigns for public office.

Of course, in addition to her character, Kay had boundless energy. Growing up, she studied ballet, and she aspired to be a professional dancer. And I remember she told me about her "magic bag" that she took with her everywhere, so she could exercise in the morning. It carried a yoga mat and everything else she needed to exercise. She recommended that I get one, and of course, I was never quite energetic enough to do that.

In addition to yoga, Kay loved early morning runs, Pilates, and swimming. It was that swimming that brought Kay some early "notoriety." I use that term in quotes because Kay wanted to use the Senator's swimming pool in the mornings, but when she first got here, there was a sign on the door that said it was for men only. What we learned, after Kay did a little bit of investigating, was it was because some of the male Senators were not interested in wearing appropriate swimming attire when they swam.

Well, Kay put a quick stop to that, and it wasn't long before all of the men were wearing swim trunks, and Kay was swimming laps in the pool with them.

That was Kay. She was incredibly kind, but she was also tough. When she was falsely accused of being an atheist

during her first Senate race, Kay didn't miss a beat. She responded immediately with an ad that set the record straight. She demonstrated to her supporters and to her detractors alike what she was made of.

I have fond memories of our calls when we were both up for reelection in 2014. Kay would call and buck me up. I remember she called me after her last debate to say she was finished. She didn't have to do any more debates. Since I was still looking at having to do two of them, she was very encouraging to me.

With Kay, the glass was always half full. When she arrived in the Senate, it didn't take long for her to make her mark on the issues of greatest importance to North Carolina and the Nation. She applied her skills as a pragmatic legislator, which were honed in the North Carolina Senate, and she got to work on the pressing issues of the day.

She fought tirelessly for jobs and the economic well-being of her constituents. She was a champion of small businesses, for expanding rural broadband, for developing regional infrastructure. She helped pass the historic reforms to Wall Street following the financial crisis because she served on the Banking Committee.

We worked together, along with the rest of the members of the class of 2008, to try and improve the Affordable Care Act as it was being drafted. Kay took a tough vote in favor of the ACA, but she did it because she knew it was going to help her constituents get insurance coverage and healthcare and that it would provide protections for millions of Americans.

Kay and I served together on the Armed Services Committee in the Senate. She fought for our servicemembers, for their families, and for improving the defense of our nation. Kay's husband, father, and brother all served their country in uniform. The challenges that servicemembers and military families face were always top of mind for Kay.

In my office here in the Capitol, there is a photo of me and Kay. It is on our first trip to Afghanistan. We had only been in the Senate about 5 months at that point. We were smiling from ear to ear, even though it was over 100 degrees, we were wearing body armor, and we were in a helicopter with the doors open heading to a Forward Operating Base.

We were smiling because we were so excited and because it was always so fun to travel with Kay. There wasn't a better partner than Kay for these trips. She was diligent. She was inquisitive. She always held herself with grace and kindness and resolve. That was her trademark.

Serving her country and her beloved home State in the United States Senate was a profound honor for Kay, as it is for all of us. I feel fortunate to have known and worked alongside her. She will be dearly missed, not just by all of

us in the Senate, but by so many of her constituents whom she represented in North Carolina.

I want to again extend my deepest condolences to the Hagan family and to the State of North Carolina.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I just want to follow on the comments by my good friend Senator SHAHEEN with regard to Kay Hagan. We came to the Senate together with Senator SHAHEEN. We were all in that class of 2008. It was a big class. We traveled extensively with Kay Hagan. We got to know her very well.

It was really good to hear—I talked to her husband Chip on the phone. We call him Chip; he is Charles. He told me that up to the very last, she was extremely busy. They were traveling around North Carolina. They were doing things. She actually had a very special visit with Vice President Biden before she passed away.

Our heart goes out to the whole family—to the three children. We very much miss her and will miss her a lot. We missed her a lot in the Senate. We are going to miss her.

I will put in a more extensive statement about Kay Hagan.

AMENDMENT NO. 1209

Mr. President, I rise to oppose the Lee amendment and efforts to undermine the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This amendment would prohibit the Department of Interior from using land and water conservation funds to acquire Federal lands and waters.

The underlying bill actually increases funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by \$30 million, and it does so with deep bipartisan support from a majority of Senators. The crucial point here is that this bill passed the Appropriations Committee 31 to 0, so this is a broadly supported program and a broadly supported bill. I urge the Senate to send another strong message today to support the LWCF.

There are many bipartisan land-acquisition priorities that are funded by this bill. They include things like funds to improve access to the Aravaipa Canyon in Arizona; preserve wildlife habitat in the Everglades Headwaters and St. Marks Refuges in Florida, I would let the Presiding Officer know. There is also money to protect the Palo Alto Battlefield in Texas and other historic battlefield sites, as well as funds to expand the El Malpais National Monument in my home State of New Mexico. These are just a few of the projects that our constituents back home are expecting the Department to fund. They would all be stopped in their tracks if this amendment were adopted.

We need LWCF to establish better access for Americans to their own public lands. This program works with private landowners and willing sellers to continue to protect special places for generations to come. I know a bipartisan

majority of this body understands that, and I ask my colleagues to stand with me to defeat this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of the Jones amendment No. 1141, cosponsored by Senator MCSALLY of Arizona. I want to thank the Senator from Alabama for filing this important amendment to preserve transit funding at the levels authorized by Congress under the FAST Act. Without this amendment, transit agencies across the country will face a 12-percent cut. A cut of this magnitude would be devastating, particularly for smaller agencies that rely on Federal funding to meet their annual operating expenses and to carry out necessary maintenance. Without this funding, communities would be forced to scale back capital projects and bus acquisitions, and reduce services, eliminating a major mobility option for many of our constituents, including seniors and persons with disabilities.

At a time when the transit industry faces a \$90 billion state of good repair backlog, we should be increasing transit investments in order to preserve these critical transportation systems. These cuts would reverse the progress we have made over the last 2 years due to the budget agreement that allowed for desperately needed investments in infrastructure. We must prevent any degradation of funding for our transit systems and instead help these agencies modernize their fleets.

This amendment is supported by over 63 associations, including the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the list of the supporting organizations be printed in the RECORD.

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

American Public Transportation Association, Amalgamated Transit Union, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Planning Association, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, The Bus Coalition, Community Transportation Association of America, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, The Intelligent Transportation Society of America, International Union of Operating Engineers, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of City Transportation Officials, National Association of Counties, National Association of Regional Councils, National League of Cities, National Precast Concrete Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association, Portland Cement Association, Railway Supply Institute.

Transport Workers Union, Transportation for America, Transportation Trades Depart-

ment, AFL-CIO, United States Chamber of Commerce, The United States Conference of Mayors, American Road & Transportation Builders Association (co-chair), Associated General Contractors of America (co-chair), Transport Workers Union, American Coal Ash Association, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Subcontractors Association, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Traffic Safety Services Association, Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association, Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association, Associated Equipment Distributors, Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, International Slurry Surfacing Association, International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, International Union of Operating Engineers, Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, Laborers' International Union of North America, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of Surety Bond Producers, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Steel Bridge Alliance, National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, National Utility Contractors Association, Portland Cement Association, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, The Road Information Program, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me and Senator COLLINS in supporting this amendment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff members who actually made this Transportation, Housing and Urban Development—T-HUD—bill possible. They did extraordinary work. We all recognize that it is their efforts that make these difficult and complicated legislative initiatives possible. On the majority staff, I thank Clare Doherty, Jason Woolwine, Rajat Mathur, Gus Maples, Courtney Young, and LaShawnda Smith. On my staff, I particularly want to thank Dabney Hegg, Christina Monroe, Jessi Axe, and Elisabeth Coats.

I think I speak for all of my colleagues when I salute all the staff members who make this legislation possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 1209

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, there is no doubt that we are blessed with beautiful, useful, and productive lands in our Nation. And there is no doubt that some of them should be preserved as what they are, which happen to be national treasures. But, unfortunately, the Federal Government owns far too much land. It owns far more of these Federal public lands than it should own and far more of these lands than it can possibly take care of.

Let's take a look at this map, for example. This shows in red the land that is owned by the Federal Government in parts of the United States. The Federal Government owns most of the land. This is certainly the case in my home State of Utah, where the Federal Gov-

ernment owns two-thirds of the land. Notice, by the way, that in every State east of Colorado, the Federal Government owns less than 15 percent of the land—in most States, significantly less. In every State west of Colorado, the Federal Government owns more than 15 percent of the land, and in many cases, a whole lot more than 15 percent.

The sheer volume of land that it owns is nothing short of staggering. In fact, the Federal Government owns 640 million acres of land. This is a total larger than the entireties of France, Spain, Germany, Poland, Italy, the United Kingdom, Austria, Switzerland, and the Netherlands combined. That is how much land the Federal Government owns just in America.

With such a vast estate, it is no wonder that there is currently a \$19.38 billion maintenance backlog on those lands. Of that backlog, \$11.92 billion is on lands owned and managed by just the National Park Service. In fact, there are National Park Service backlogs in every single State in the country, as this map demonstrates.

I see here that the question is not whether a particular State has a National Park Service backlog within its State; the question is, How much? In some States, it is very severe. In some States, it is significant but not yet severe. But there is a National Park Service maintenance backlog in every single State.

Many of my colleagues—especially those from the Midwest, as this map shows—don't have a whole lot of Federal land in their States. They have a whole lot less Federal land to maintain, and therefore they have less of a maintenance backlog. They should thank their lucky stars for that. That is a position to be envied.

On one end of the spectrum, there is a \$1.3 billion backlog on National Park Service properties in Delaware. The backlog for the parks in Rhode Island is just under \$1 million. But at the other end of the spectrum, California alone has a whopping \$1.8 billion maintenance backlog just on its national parks alone. That is in just one State. What does that mean? That means the damage from wildfires, ill-kept roads and trails, and neglected facilities have actually kept citizens from accessing our national treasures—national treasures like Yosemite and Yellowstone, our National Mall and the Grand Canyon. Visitors who come from far and wide to see them are either unable to see them at all, or perhaps they make it, but they don't have a good experience when they do. All the while, Washington continues to purchase ever more land, so the maintenance backlog continues to grow.

This must not continue. This staggering, stunning maintenance backlog on the Federal land that we own—the Federal land that is more than all of the long list of European countries I mentioned just a minute ago—can't continue. If we continue on this path, we will only do greater disservice to

our citizens and to the lands themselves.

That is why I have introduced an amendment that would stop the Federal Government's use of taxpayer dollars to acquire more lands in the next year. Specifically, it would prevent the money currently going to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Range Improvement Funds, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service from being used to acquire new lands that the Federal Government cannot properly care for.

It is important, when describing a piece of legislation—in this case, an amendment to another piece of legislation—to explain both what it does and what it does not do. Let me be very clear in telling you what this amendment does not do. This amendment would not reduce the dollar amount being given to any of these programs—not one of them, not by one dollar. It would simply reauthorize the money to ensure that it is being used to care for the lands we already own and lands that need to be cared for so desperately.

While some of my colleagues may disagree with me and may believe that we should continue growing the Federal estate, I ask that, at least for this year, we think of our current lands and our existing national parks and that we think of those States where there are a lot of them and States where the maintenance backlog is especially staggering. These lands won't be national treasures for everyone if we don't, can't, or simply won't properly care for them.

If we continue in this pattern of neglect, there will be treasures for no one. If we continue with this pattern of neglect, we will continue to inflict significant environmental harm that, in addition to being stunning in and of itself, may, in some cases, be difficult or impossible to reverse.

If you support the environment, if you want to protect the environment and the natural wonders and beauties with which this land has been blessed, if you want to protect our national treasures, then you should vote for this amendment.

Voting against this amendment means you are willing to have the glutinous Federal Government continue to acquire more land, even while it refuses to and professes itself to be utterly incapable of maintaining the land it has.

For now, at the very least, we ought to ensure that these lands are safe and accessible for generations to come. Our lands, our citizens, and our environment deserve nothing less.

AMENDMENT NO. 1209 TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

(Purpose: To prohibit the expenditure of certain amounts from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisition.)

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1209.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE] proposes an amendment numbered 1209 to amendment No. 948.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of October 28, 2019, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be 2 minutes of debate between each vote in this series and that all votes after the first be 10 minutes in length.

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1209 TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

The question is on agreeing to the Lee amendment No. 1209.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 29, nays 64, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 339 Leg.]

YEAS—29

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Enzi	Moran	Tillis
Ernst	Paul	Toomey
Fischer	Risch	Wicker
Grassley	Romney	

NAYS—64

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Hoeven	Schumer
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Jones	Shaheen
Capito	Kaine	Shelby
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Udall
Cortez Masto	McSally	Van Hollen
Cotton	Menendez	Warner
Cramer	Merkley	Whitehouse
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murphy	Young
Durbin	Murray	
Feinstein	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Isakson	Warren
Booker	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The amendment (No. 1209) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

AMENDMENT NO. 1141, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 948

Mr. JONES. Madam President, under the previous order, I call up amendment No. 1141, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama [Mr. JONES], for himself and Ms. MCSALLY, proposes an amendment numbered 1141 to amendment No. 948.

Mr. JONES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the implementation of the "Rostenkowski Test" with respect to the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund)

At the appropriate place in title I of division E, insert the following:

SEC. 1. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to adjust apportionments or withhold funds from apportionments pursuant to section 9503(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Mr. JONES. Madam President, I rise in support of the amendment offered by myself and my friend from Arizona, Senator MCSALLY.

This amendment would permanently block an impending \$1.2 billion in cuts to the Federal public transportation investment. These cuts will affect every one of our States—every one—including 7 million in my home State of Alabama.

Without this legislation to block what is known as the "Rostenkowski Test," every public transit agency will suffer a 12-percent across-the-board cut to transit formula grants this year. For many transit agencies, particularly these smaller transit agencies that serve rural States such as mine, these cuts could be devastating. These cuts would reduce services that are so important to the community, for instance, services for low-income people and services to those who have disabilities.

These cuts would reduce funds for important bus and rail efforts to modernize our transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 1 minute.

Mr. JONES. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I rise in strong support of my amendment with Senator JONES from Alabama. As he said, this is a very important amendment to block \$1.2 billion in cuts to these transit agencies that are impacting every single one of our States. Across Arizona, this is millions

of dollars, a 12-percent cut in every State, and we are going to stop that from happening here today.

As Senator JONES mentioned, this is impacting people of low income, of disabilities, and in rural communities across the board. A broad coalition of over 30 associations—including the American Public Transportation Association, Associated General Contractors of America, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—support our efforts today to block these cuts.

I urge our colleagues to please join us and vote for our amendment.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 340 Leg.]

YEAS—82

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

NAYS—11

Blackburn	Lee	Sasse
Braun	Paul	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Perdue	Toomey
Lankford	Romney	

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Isakson	Warren
Booker	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The amendment (No. 1141), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 950 WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 950 was withdrawn.

Amendment No. 948, as amended, is agreed to.

The cloture motion on H.R. 3055 is withdrawn.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I see my friend, the senior Senator from Alabama, on the floor. I want to offer my praise for him because we are going to vote on final passage of the fiscal year 2020 Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill, the Agriculture appropriations bill, the Interior appropriations bill, and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. I urge all Members to vote aye.

These are good, bipartisan bills. They show that despite whatever political atmosphere we operate in, the Appropriations Committee can put partisan politics aside and do our work on behalf of the American people.

These bills make responsible investments that build on what we were able to accomplish in fiscal year 2019 while strongly rejecting the shortsighted cuts the Trump administration proposed. They back up our commitment to invest in rural communities and farms, law enforcement, and the environment.

We have reached this point because we worked together quietly during evenings and weekends to get it done. I want to thank the chairs and the ranking members of the subcommittees for their work: Senators HOEVEN and MERKLEY, Senators MURKOWSKI and UDALL, Senators COLLINS and REED, and Senators MORAN and SHAHEEN.

I have often said that Senators are merely constitutional impediments to their staff, and Senator SHELBY and I are lucky to have such a staff. They have worked very long days and nights.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of the staff, both Republicans and Democrats, who deserve our thanks.

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

VICE CHAIRMAN LEAHY LIST FOR H.R. 3055 (MINIBUS #2) STAFF FOR THE RECORD

Charles Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, Jay Tilton, Hannah Chauvin, Olivia Matthews, Dianne Nellor, Jean Toal Eisen, Rachael Taylor, Dabney Hegg, Adrienne Wojciechowski, Bob Ross, Teri Curtin, Jennifer Eskra, Blaise Sheridan, Elisabeth Coats, Ryan Hunt, Melissa Zimmermann, Faisal Amin, Jessi Axe, Christina Monroe, Shannon Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, David Adkins, Margaret Pritchard, Morgan Ulmer, Hamilton Bloom, Emy Lesofski, Clare Doherty, Patrick Carroll, Elizabeth Dent, Anna Lanier Fischer, Amber Beck, Allen Cutler, Matt Womble, Sydney Crawford, Lucas Agnew, Nona McCoy, Gus Maples,

Rajat Mathur, LaShawnda Smith, Jason Woolwine, Courtney Young, Valerie Hutton, Elmer Barnes, Penny Myles, Karin Thames, Bob Putnam, Jenny Winkler, Christy Greene, George Castro

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor, and I urge an aye vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 341 Leg.]

YEAS—84

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

NAYS—9

Blackburn	Johnson	Sasse
Braun	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Paul	Toomey

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Isakson	Warren
Booker	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 9.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill, as amended, is passed.

The bill (H.R. 3055), as amended, was passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, DEFENSE, STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020—Motion to Proceed

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration on the motion to proceed on H.R. 2740.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ACT

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I would like to speak briefly about an issue important to me, about an issue important to many Americans, and I would like to speak briefly about Senator DURBIN's recent request for a hearing concerning the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act.

The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act is a bill that many Senators have worked for, for nearly a decade, and it has long been a top priority of mine. I have introduced this bill in every single Congress, ever since I was first elected to the Senate back in 2010.

During that time, it has been a subject of widespread debate and discussion. There has been a period of time in which a lot of people have learned a lot about this area. The debate and the discussion has occurred both on the Hill and off the Hill throughout the United States.

Other Members, including Senator SCHUMER, have sought to pass the bill, as I am doing. Whether that passage occurs by unanimous consent or through some other form matters less to me than that we get it passed, but we do need to get it passed. This year, we have come closer to making this important and bipartisan reform a reality, closer than we have ever come before at any point over the nearly decade that this has gotten a lot of attention.

In early July, the House of Representatives passed the bill on the Suspension Calendar by a wide bipartisan supermajority vote of 365 to 65. Around that time, I negotiated an agreement with Senator GRASSLEY to help advance the bill by adding provisions drawn from the Durbin-Grassley H-1B reform bill.

Senator GRASSLEY has for many years, openly and publicly, made it known that he had concerns with the

bill. I was therefore very pleased that we were able to sit down and work out an agreement to address those concerns, while keeping the bill narrow and focused on the immediate problem that it is trying to solve. That is eliminating the country of origin discrimination in our employment green card system. I thank Senator GRASSLEY for working with me on that.

The process by which I have tried to advance this bill through Congress has been open, transparent, and straightforward. I have sought and continue to seek unanimous consent to pass the bill on the floor. If any Member has raised concern about the bill, I have been willing to work with them quickly and in good faith to address their concerns.

That is why, after reaching an agreement with Senator GRASSLEY, I also worked with other Members to resolve their concerns. For much of the past few months, I simply didn't know who, if anyone else on the Democratic side of the aisle, might have had concerns with the bill. We were told that there might be holds on the Democratic hotline, but we were not told who exactly might be holding the bill, and no one approached me with objections.

I certainly had no reason to think that Senator DURBIN would have concerns with the bill. As I have explained before, he was a leading cosponsor of the bill in a previous Congress. What is more, the only substantial difference between the bill he supported and the bill I put forward in this Congress is the addition of the amendment that I negotiated with Senator GRASSLEY, which is drawn almost entirely from provisions of the Durbin-Grassley H-1B reform bill.

In September, I learned that Senator DURBIN did in fact have concerns about the bill in this Congress. As I have with other Members and as I have expressed the willingness to do with other Members, I am ready and willing to work with Senator DURBIN in good faith to quickly and reasonably resolve any objection he may have, while preserving the bipartisan support that this bill has long enjoyed and that it deserves to enjoy.

As I have said before, I don't believe that any further factual development concerning this bill is necessary. Indeed at this point, I believe a hearing can serve no purpose other than to delay speedy action on this important reform and jeopardize our ability to act before the end of the year.

For that reason, I do not support Senator DURBIN's calls for a public hearing. Every day that we delay action on this bill is another day that suffering experienced by immigrants stuck in the green-card backlog continues and indeed intensifies. That is precisely why I will continue to work to pass this bill at the earliest possible date.

The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act arguably has wider and more bipartisan support than any

other immigration bill that has been considered in this body in recent years. The reason for that is that it is focused on a single, serious, solvable problem that I think we can all agree needs to be solved.

Whatever other reforms you think might need to be made to our immigration system, with good reason, we can all agree that America should not treat immigrants differently based on their country of origin. There is no reason for this bill to become yet another casualty to the polarized, partisan divisions that plague immigration policy.

I look forward to working with Senator DURBIN to resolve the concerns he may have about this bill. I reiterate that, once again, this is a narrowly focused bill, one that focuses on a simple but long-standing problem, a problem that subjects some immigrants to needlessly lengthy delays for no reason other than their country of origin. This is from a bygone era that we shouldn't be perpetuating in this country.

We need to fix the problem. The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act would do that, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me. We are almost there, but we need to get it over the finish line.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Georgia.

H.R. 2740

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the vote we are going to have in just a few minutes to appropriate our first appropriations bill for this fiscal year, which, by the way, we are already in the first month of our new fiscal year.

We are under a continuing resolution, which we have talked about ad nauseam in this body and how damaging that is to our military and how expensive it is over the long run. I had breakfast with one of our Secretaries in the DOD today, and he told me that just in the Navy alone, a continuing resolution this year would cost the Navy almost \$5 billion. That is \$50 billion just in one service over the next decade. We can do better than this.

I want to praise Senator SHELBY and Senator LEAHY, the ranking member and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. They have done their job. The subcommittee chairman and ranking members have done their jobs. We are ready to vote on these bills, and it comes down to just an obstructionist issue about funding the wall versus funding our military.

Just last weekend, President Trump announced that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, had been taken off the battlefield by his own hand, I might say. This is a win not just for our country but for the world in this fight against terrorism.

As we now know, the world has gotten to be very dangerous—maybe the most dangerous in my lifetime—with five threats across five domains. We are worried now about places like China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran,