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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You look down from Heaven upon humanity's children, seeking for those to use for Your glory. May our lawmakers live with such faithfulness that they will be Your redemptive instruments at a time when truth seems a rare commodity.

May You find delight in those who by faith trust You to make the crooked places straight and the rough places smooth. Lead our Senators to a fresh dedication in their service to You and humanity. Grant that justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 30 seconds.

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

### NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, veterans, meaning our veterans of war or veterans in uniform who have not been in a war environment, have a big impact on the American economy. There are 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses in the United States that

account for more than \$1.1 trillion in revenue. In Iowa, there are 26,119 veteran-owned businesses that employ 51,801 people and bring in \$10.9 million.

Iowa is working hard to attract veterans and help them start and expand their businesses. I honor these hard-working entrepreneurs who have served our country by joining my colleagues in recognizing this week, the week of November 4, as National Veterans Small Business Week.

I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this week, the Senate will continue its work in the personnel business and confirm more of the President's outstanding nominees to the Federal judiciary.

Since our Democratic colleagues chose last week to filibuster defense funding and block the Senate from even considering legislation to fund our Armed Forces, we will turn our focus to confirmations while we wait for progress from them on appropriations.

Leading off the week, the Senate will have the opportunity to confirm another standout Kentuckian to the Federal bench, this time to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Judge David Tapp has just about done it all since he first became a State judge nearly 15 years ago. He has heard cases at multiple levels of the State's judiciary, ruling on a wide

range of issues. As a volunteer drug court judge, Judge Tapp has earned national praise for promoting long-term recovery in the courtroom. He has also developed a sterling reputation for fairness throughout Kentucky and around the country.

Now David will bring a lifetime of public service and achievement to the Court of Federal Claims, where I am confident he will continue making us all proud. I look forward to voting to confirm him later today and hope our colleagues will join me.

### DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter, last week the Nation saw several pivotal moments that shed light on the current state of the Democratic Party. Here in the Senate, as I mentioned, Democrats chose to filibuster funding for our national defense for the second time in 2 months. This funding was agreed to in the bipartisan, bicameral deal that Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader signed onto just a few months ago, but now they have walked away from the agreement they signed and filibustered funding for our military commanders.

Yesterday, we saw the Iranian regime celebrate—celebrate—the 40th anniversary of the taking of the American Embassy and the beginning of the Iranian hostage crisis. The familiar slogan, “Death to America,” was on full display. It was especially sobering to watch this display and remember that our own U.S. military commanders do not have the certainty they need for strategic planning because Democrats here in Washington found it politically advantageous to block it.

Over in the House, Speaker PELOSI continues to stall the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. USMCA would bring tens of billions in new commerce and create 176,000 new American jobs, but House Democrats would rather pursue

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



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political theater. So American workers and farmers are still waiting.

However, while our Democratic colleagues block these bipartisan priorities, at least they are not shy about what they do support. We have seen what Democrats prioritize. We remember the Green New Deal, an effort to grab unprecedented control over American families' daily lives. Designing, building, or furnishing a home or business? Democrats want Washington to dictate how you do that. Commuting, traveling for vacation, mowing your lawn? They would like you to do that without gasoline or jet fuel sooner rather than later. Make a living producing, refining, or delivering affordable American energy? They want you to find another line of work whether you like it or not. That is the Green New Deal.

There is also the matter of Medicare for None. That is the scheme that would take the program that millions of American seniors rely on, throw away everything except the label, and paste that onto a new, one-size-fits-all, Washington-run insurance plan that would be mandatory for every American. Medicare, gone. Private plans and the popular Medicare Advantage Program, gone. Every health insurance plan that Americans get on the job, which over 180 million people depend on, gone.

This is literally what several of the leading Democratic Presidential contenders have endorsed—a new nationwide experiment in socialism. And every single American—man, woman, and child—would be the subject of this experiment, whether that is what we want for our families or not. From this mandatory one-size-fits-all insurance plan to new price controls that would limit lifesaving cures, our Democratic colleagues are rallying around policies that would leave American families paying more to wait longer for worse care. That is their prescription—paying more to wait longer for worse care.

Then, if these plans weren't bad enough on the merits, there is the small issue of the crushing new tax burden you would have to pile onto the U.S. economy in order to make some effort to pay for all of this. One leading Democrat released a breathtaking proposal last week that illustrates the road they would like to head down. This candidate's Medicare for None plan on its own, notwithstanding all the other socialist plans—just the healthcare plan—would cost \$52 trillion over the first 10 years alone. That is the candidate's own estimate—\$52 trillion over 10 years.

Even after cannibalizing everything the government currently spends on healthcare, the plan's author admits there would still be a staggering \$20-plus trillion left over to finance. Other experts say it would be more. For some perspective, if you add up every cent that is deposited in every commercial bank across the United States of America, that is about \$13 trillion. So you

could literally seize—seize—every dollar that Americans have deposited in banks and you would have nowhere near enough money to pay for even the first decade of this crazy experiment. Democrats are confident they can produce this huge sum of money through historic tax increases on job creators and on the American people. It would be an enormous—enormous—new tax burden dumped on the U.S. economy that would kill jobs, depress workers' wages, and make America less competitive literally for generations to come.

At the exact time when Republican tax reform has made the United States more competitive and boosted prosperity here at home, Democrats want to take us backward and make our Nation a less attractive place to create jobs.

Here is what Larry Summers, a former Treasury Secretary under President Clinton, wrote about this far-left plan in the Washington Post:

[It] will discourage hiring, particularly of low-skilled workers. . . . There is . . . the real risk of an economic contraction following a sharp market decline.

That is Larry Summers, the Clinton Treasury Secretary. Particularly, it would discourage hiring, particularly of low-skilled workers, and a sharp market decline. So in order to take away employer-sponsored insurance from 180 million Americans, Democrats want to kill American jobs and bring the economy to a screeching halt.

Look, I would implore my friends across the aisle to put aside this destructive socialism and join us in the current work that needs doing right now for the American people. We have a landmark trade agreement that needs passing. We have U.S. Armed Forces that need funding. We are just waiting on our Democratic colleagues to show up.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

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

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

#### DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, let me begin by echoing what the leader said earlier about the importance of passing the Defense appropriations bill.

I just came from a meeting with members of our Defense Department where we talked about how important it is that the appropriations process moves forward. The Defense authorization bill, the broader bill that sets the priorities for military spending, is also stalled out here. That is something that both sides have agreed to for 58 years. It sets out how we are going to make sure that we take care of our men and women in uniform and that they have the equipment, the weaponry, and the training they need to do their jobs and to keep America safe. The authorization bill is stalled right now. That is the priority bill.

The appropriations bill, the part that funds all of that—that, too, has been blocked last week, most recently by the Senate Democrats, who filibustered the Defense appropriations bill.

So both the authorization bill and the funding bill are now both stalled out here in the Senate because of obstruction and delays by the Senate Democrats. That is unfortunate for the men and women in uniform in this country because in that Defense appropriations bill is the largest pay increase in a decade for our men and women in uniform, not to mention all of the important priorities that are funded when it comes to the weapons systems and the most sophisticated technology that is necessary, again, to keep Americans safe both here at home and around the world.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for our Democratic colleagues to come to their senses and conclude that taking care of America's military is job No. 1. If we don't get national security right, the rest is conversation. It really is. All these other things that we talk about are secondary and pale in comparison to making sure that we are taking the steps necessary to protect Americans, as I said, both here at home and around the world.

The Defense appropriations bill funds all of those priorities, all those things that are important, from pay and benefits for our men and women in uniform to, again, all the things that are necessary for them when it comes to training, equipment, and weaponry to do their jobs and to do them well, to continue to keep Americans safe both here at home and around the world, and to be able to project American power where necessary in a world that is increasingly dangerous.

I would just urge the Democrats here in the Senate to allow this appropriations process to move forward. Give us a vote. Let's vote on it. Let's get the military funded. Every day that goes by where it is not funded is lost time, and there are resources that can't be put into those important priorities

that are so essential to America's national security interests.

We have a filibuster being conducted by the Senate Democrats. It needs to be stopped. We need to move forward with the Defense appropriations bill, and I hope the Senate Democrats will come to the conclusion that this is the right thing to do, not only for the Senate but, more importantly, for our country.

#### FILTER BUBBLE TRANSPARENCY ACT

Madam President, the internet has brought Americans a host of benefits: a wealth of information at our fingertips, unparalleled convenience, new opportunities for education and commerce, and innumerable new methods of communication. But I don't need to tell anyone that along with the countless benefits of the internet have come a number of concerns.

One thing that is on the mind of many consumers is privacy. As the internet gradually permeates every area of our lives, internet companies become the repository for an ever-increasing amount of our personal data and our personal information, from what we ate for dinner last night to the temperature we like to keep in our house.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I spent a lot of time focused on data privacy issues. This past June, I convened a hearing entitled "Optimizing for Engagement: Understanding the Use of Persuasive Technology on Internet Platforms."

At that hearing, we heard from a variety of experts about the ways companies use consumers' personal data to determine what individuals see online. As I said at the time, one reason I decided to hold the hearing was to inform legislation I was developing that would require internet platforms to give consumers the option to engage without having the experience shaped by algorithms that are driven by their user-specific data.

Last Thursday, I introduced that legislation, called the Filter Bubble Transparency Act, here in the Senate. I am proud to have a number of bipartisan cosponsors on this bill. Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator MORAN, Senator BLACKBURN, and Senator WARNER have all cosponsored this legislation, and I am grateful for their support.

The Filter Bubble Transparency Act is designed to address one aspect of the privacy problem, the issues that arise from internet companies' use of consumers' personal information to shape what consumers see on their platforms. Many people are unaware that much of the content they see on the internet is determined by sophisticated algorithms and artificial intelligence that draw on data about each consumer's online activity.

For example, a recent Pew Research Center study found that 53 percent of U.S. adults don't understand how

Facebook News Feed works. Many of us know that Netflix is curating information and recommendations specifically for us based on the movies and the shows that we watch. They use past behavior to project what future behavior is going to be, and they take all that information and they aggregate it. Then, they use that to recommend certain things that we might want to see.

A lot of us are aware that Amazon is delivering product recommendations based on our purchase history. In other words, when you buy things online, you see the ads for the types of things that you buy online. But the reality is that internet companies have moved far beyond just recommending TV shows or just recommending things that you might want to purchase. Increasingly, every aspect of our online experience is personalized based on the vast amount of information that companies collect about us—from our age and occupation to how many times we visit certain websites.

The data used by these companies to make predictions about us comes from a wide range of sources—from smart devices like Alexa, Google Assistant, Ring doorbells, and Nest devices; scanned emails and documents; data acquired from third parties, like banks, credit card processors, and health data services, among many other sources. This data is used to make statistical predictions about how we are going to behave in the future.

This statistical prediction-making is happening on a massive scale. For example, Facebook has stated that it uses for its News Feed can make 6 million predictions per second. Billions of people are being fed content on internet platforms that is basically selected for them by algorithms trying to make predictions about what will keep each user engaged on the platform. Clearly, the powerful mechanisms behind these platforms, meant to enhance engagement, also have the ability, or at least the potential, to influence the thoughts and behaviors, literally, of billions of people.

That is why there is widespread unease about the power of these platforms and why it is important for the public to better understand how these platforms use the information they collect to make predictions about our behavior.

As I said, a significant cause for concern is that most people are not always aware that the information they see is being filtered. We are trapped in what one observer has termed the "filter bubble," our own private world of filtered search results and tailored content, without even knowing that we are there.

There are real concerns that the ever-increasing use of filters to shape our internet experience contributes to political polarization, social isolation, and addiction, as well as permitting companies to manipulate user behavior.

My bill, the Filter Bubble Transparency Act, takes aim at these concerns by requiring major internet platforms to notify consumers that the information they are seeing has been selected for them using filters based on their personal data. It would also require these sites to give consumers the option of seeing unfiltered results.

Twitter provides a good example of what the Filter Bubble Transparency Act will do. Twitter gives consumers an option to view an unfiltered timeline through the use of a prominently displayed icon that is easy to access throughout a user's time on that particular platform. Consumers have the option of viewing the timeline that Twitter has curated for them, which pushes the posts that Twitter thinks they want to see to the top of their feed or viewing an unfiltered timeline that features all posts in a chronological order.

That is the kind of option that my bill would give the consumers on other types of social media platforms. Consumers will be able to choose whether to see an unfiltered social media feed or search results or whether to view the curated or personalized content that the site chooses for them. It would be an option. We believe this gives consumers more choice and more control. They would be able to easily switch back and forth between the two options whenever they wanted. After all, consumers may want to see the filter-driven content in some cases. I mean, I would certainly prefer to see Netflix recommendations that are tailored to my viewing history, and if you have 1,000 tweets to read, it can be useful to see the ones that you are most likely to be interested in at the top of that feed. But consumers should also have the option to escape from that filter bubble and to see information that has not been selected specifically for them.

I strongly support a light-touch approach to internet regulation that allows the free market to flourish. The internet would not have grown the way that it has had it been weighed down with heavy-handed government regulations. In order for free markets to work effectively, consumers need as much information as possible, including a better understanding of how internet platforms use artificial intelligence and complex filters to shape the information that those users see and receive.

My bill would provide transparency and consumer control without jeopardizing the opportunity and innovation that we have come to expect from the tech industry. As internet companies collect and make use of more and more of our personal information, it is important that consumers know how their data is being used. At an even more basic level, it is important for consumers to know that their data is being used to curate the content they see.

That is exactly what the Filter Bubble Transparency Act would do—allow

consumers online to know, one, that their information is being filtered and that they are seeing content that is being curated for them by that particular social media platform, and, two, give them an option to see unfiltered and uncurated content that would just come to them in normal chronological order.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation. I think it is an important first step in making sure that consumers know more about their information as it is being collected and how it is being used by internet companies. I will continue to work as we try to deal with this broader debate on data privacy, which is so important in the online world in which we live.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### LEGISLATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I return to the floor again this week to discuss Congress's progress on important legislation—or, rather, the lack of it—since the obsession with impeaching the President began.

When the House decided to proceed full steam ahead on impeachment, they promised that it wouldn't interfere with our ability to get other important work done for our constituents. While it has been less than a week since the House formally authorized their impeachment inquiry, the crusade to impeach the President and remove him started nearly 3 years ago.

For example, on January 20, which was actually Inauguration Day, 2017, at 12:19 p.m. the Washington Post ran the story with the headline "The Campaign to Impeach President Trump Has Begun." That was on Inauguration Day in 2017. Nineteen minutes into his Presidency, the writing wasn't only on the wall. It was on the front page of the Washington Post.

Our Democratic friends are on a kamikaze mission to get President Trump out of office less than a year before the next election, and, in the process, they are preventing Congress from solving the big problems facing the American people.

The latest casualty of this impeachment-at-all-costs strategy is a bill I introduced with my Democratic colleague from Connecticut, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act. This legislation would lower the cost of Americans' prescription medication and save more than a half billion dollars in taxpayer money.

Here, in the Senate, it counts the Democratic whip, Senator DURBIN from Illinois, as well as the Assistant Demo-

cratic Leader, Senator MURRAY from Washington State, as cosponsors. With that kind of lineup, you would think this would be a no-brainer. Unfortunately, drug pricing legislation isn't the only consensus effort that has gotten caught up in impeachment mania.

For a quarter of a century, the Violence Against Women Act has provided resources to assist women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Unsurprisingly, this program has consistently maintained broad bipartisan support. There is agreement that we must do more to provide services and protection for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, but it is safe to say that there are disagreements on how best to accomplish that goal.

Those differences in opinion came to a head in February of this year. We were fresh off the heels of the longest government shutdown in history and working to fund the government through the remainder of the year, but our Democratic colleagues threw a curve ball when they insisted that we should not include a temporary extension of the Violence Against Women Act, which had expired in September of 2018.

Even amid the political jockeying we have been seeing in this Congress, this was a shocking omission. Republicans were in favor of a short-term reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act to provide time and space for bipartisan negotiations for a long-term reauthorization. Surprisingly, our Democratic colleagues in the House blocked this reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. So it expired.

Fortunately, though, our friends on the Appropriations Committee have continued to fully fund these programs, but the authorizing statute has expired because of this gamesmanship. Despite continued bipartisan negotiations led by the Senator from Iowa, Ms. ERNST, over the last 8 months, we haven't been able to come up with a consensus agreement to reauthorize the program on a long-term basis.

This has been an 8-month negotiation. This isn't all that complicated. We should be able to do it in the space of an afternoon, but, clearly, there is no desire to get this resolved.

Reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act is a top priority for Members on both sides of the aisle, and I hope we will work harder to make it happen rather than to use this important law to play partisan political games. Sadly, the Violence Against Women Act is not the only program to get caught up in the political crosshairs.

The Debbie Smith Act, another traditionally bipartisan bill here in the Senate, expired at the end of September because of the refusal of the House to take up the Senate-passed version and to send it to the President.

The Debbie Smith Act, you will recall, provides funding to State and

local crime labs to test DNA evidence and reduce the rape kit backlog. The Senate unanimously passed the bill in May to reauthorize this program, but the House simply refused to act. At a roundtable I held in Houston, a few months ago, I heard from rape victims and their advocates about how troubling and, frankly, how insulting all of this was.

After months, the House has now finally relented and voted to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act, after the pressure on them became unbearable. I am glad they changed their minds, and I am hopeful we can get this bill to the President's desk soon. Although I would have welcomed less drama this time around, the Debbie Smith Act reauthorization will hopefully be an example of what Congress can accomplish when you put partisan political fights aside and work for our constituents; in other words, do the job we were elected to do when our constituents sent us here.

It is really disappointing that some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather relitigate the 2016 election—again, less than a year before the next election—rather than do the work of the American people. This obsession with impeachment mania has consumed our Democratic colleagues and is preventing us from getting work done on a nonpartisan basis. That is what our constituents want us to do.

Texans are worried about high prescription costs, worried about the state of our roads and bridges, and worried about our national security. In the case of the Democratic leader, I would be willing to wager that New Yorkers are worried about many of these issues too. So it is time to stop the partisan games. They don't result in pay raises for our troops, which have now been voted against two times by our Democratic colleagues. They don't advance victims' rights and give justice to survivors like the reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act and the Violence Against Women Act would do. They don't increase the public's trust in our institutions of government and assure them that we really have their best interests at heart. Definitely, these games don't help make Americans' lives better.

We have heard our Democratic colleagues say ad nauseam that impeachment will not interfere with their ability to legislate, but the evidence suggests otherwise. What Americans want is action. What Americans want is for us to do our job. We can give them what they want by allowing legislation we know has a chance of becoming law, such as my drug pricing bill, the Debbie Smith Act, and the Violence Against Women Act, to come to the floor, get passed, and sent to the President. That would be doing our jobs, and I believe that is what our constituents want from each of us—not this single-minded obsession with impeachment that started the day the President was

sworn into office, less than 1 year before the next election.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, before I begin my remarks today, I do want to thank the senior Senator from Texas for his remarks on the Violence Against Women Act and the Debbie Smith Act. I think it is vitally important that both of these acts are reauthorized this year and the sooner the better so our advocates can get their work done. Thank you very much for those remarks.

#### DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, last week we saw our Democratic colleagues once again playing politics ahead of the defense of our great Nation. They are putting their actions ahead of the support that we need to give to those who defend our Nation. For the second time this year, as has already been stated today, Senate Democrats have blocked funding for our servicemembers. The kicker, folks, is that the vote they blocked was one that would have simply allowed us to debate the issue. It sounds unbelievable even while saying it now, folks, but it is the sad reality of where we are today.

What message does it send to our men and women in uniform when every single Senator of the Democratic Party votes against providing the funding our troops need for training, for new defense programs critical to our national defense strategy, for the largest military pay raise in 10 years—which our troops more than deserve after nearly two decades of fighting for their country.

When I was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in the early days of the war on terror, the most important thing was not only to ensure my soldiers and I had the right training and equipment to carry out our missions but knowing, without a doubt, that the American people and the policymakers of government who sent us to war stood behind us and supported us every step of the way. It was placing faith in our country's leadership to make the sound decisions to effectively employ military force and to have the will, the resolve, and the tenacity to make tough decisions without regard to politics.

The decision of the Democrats last week to not even open debate on what our troops need to fight and win is so sorely disappointing. What will it take in order to get our servicemembers at home and abroad the resources they need? Will we really deprive our troops of critical training opportunities to hone their readiness in the most dangerous strategic environment since the end of the Cold War?

Will we actively aid our enemies by failing to fund those things which we have identified as critical to maintaining an edge against our adversaries? It is absolutely unacceptable that Democrats would even entertain these possibilities.

If they want to have a debate, then let's have a debate, but to say they support the troops and then obstruct the ability to discuss in this Chamber what our servicemembers need doesn't even add up.

That is why I am on the floor today to call upon all of my colleagues who sank the prospects of defense funding to come down and do the job that all of us were sworn to do when we took our oath of office. It is time to give our troops what they need to do their jobs, and it is time to stop running this government through wasteful continuing resolutions in an increasingly dangerous world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2486

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we need to pass the FUTURE Act to help students in historically Black colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, and we need to do that now.

I am here to advocate on behalf of Maryland's four HBCUs that face a funding cliff due to congressional inaction. Without the immediate passage of the FUTURE Act, Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore face a collective \$4.2 million funding shortfall now that the Higher Education Act's authorization for mandatory funding for these institutions lapsed October 1 of this year.

This clean, bipartisan, and paid-for 2-year authorization gives breathing room to continue to negotiate the full reauthorization of the Higher Education Act without holding these historically underfunded institutions hostage.

Our HBCUs and MSIs know they can count on this mandatory funding each year to strengthen their course offerings and in-demand STEM programs, make infrastructure improvements, and provide academic counseling and student support services to first-generation and historically underrepresented students.

Throwing the budgets of these institutions into chaos directly harms their ability to serve their students and communities. Institutions would have to make decisions about potentially reducing levels of academic services, delaying needed infrastructure investments, and make longstanding staffing decisions. These decisions are being made all across the country at schools of each of our States. Collectively, the MSIs risk losing out on \$255 million in mandatory funding. This is an unnecessary obstacle our HBCUs and MSIs do

not need to face. We have a paid-for available for us today to address this issue.

We can get this done now. The House is prepared to accept this 2-year extension, which gives us a chance to negotiate a complete reauthorization of the Higher Education Act but does not hold these institutions hostage with the mandatory funding that is provided by law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 212, H.R. 2486; that the Murray amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I thank the distinguished Senator from Maryland for giving me this opportunity to present the right way to help historically Black colleges and universities, and I intend to do that when he is finished speaking about this and explain what we can do together.

Unfortunately, the bill he proposes is a shortcut the House took, which has no way to pass the Senate. It is based upon a budget gimmick and uses a method of funding that many Senators object to. It creates a new funding cliff within 23 months, and it is unnecessary because the Secretary of Education has written all of the heads of historically Black colleges and universities to say that there are sufficient funds until next September so there is no funding problem.

This gives me an opportunity—which I will do in a just a moment—to suggest the right way to do it. The right way to do it is to do permanent funding of historically Black colleges and universities in a package of bills I have introduced. That package includes other legislation—which I will discuss when my time comes—which include simplifying the FAFSA.

It is a bill Senator JONES and I have introduced which will help 20 million families, including almost every student at a historically Black college or minority-serving institution. The bill package also includes grants for prisoners and short-term Pell grants, and it simplifies the student aid letters.

This package is ready. It includes short-term Pell grants, as I mentioned. This package has been put together by a number of Democratic and Republican Senators. It is ready to pass the Senate and ready for the President to sign it. It permanently funds Black colleges and universities instead of this shortcut.

In a moment, I will talk more about that, but in the meantime, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I greatly respect the chairman of the committee. I know of his sincerity in dealing with higher education and education in our country, but the issue is pretty simple. Without the continuation of mandatory funding as provided by current law, historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions cannot rely upon the funding source the chairman is talking about. There are going to be tough decisions that have to be made on infrastructure improvements, tough decisions on staffing, and there is no need for it.

We all agree that mandatory funding should continue. I am all for permanent extension. This UC will give us the 2-year window to make sure we pass the Higher Education Act reauthorization to fund that.

The issues the chairman is going to talk about are all matters that are under discussion and debate that have to be worked out between the members of his committee, the floor, and reconciliation between the House and the Senate. In the meantime, historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions will suffer.

I fully support what the chairman is trying to do getting matters accomplished, but if I understand the unanimous consent he will be asking for, it doesn't deal with all the issues that need to be dealt with. We have to fully address the challenges students face with college access, affordability, accountability, and campus safety. The chairman's bill does not meet that test and limits what we could do in the future to meaningfully address the cost of attending and succeeding in colleges. The bill continues to let the realities of getting a college degree—the challenges of childcare, housing, food, textbooks—go unaddressed for our country's growing diversity of students, including student veterans, students with disabilities, students of color, and students of low-income families or those who are the first in their families to attend college.

I agree with the chairman. Let's bring the Higher Education Act forward and debate it but don't hold these institutions that have historically been discriminated against hostage to a program we all agree needs to be continued.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, why would we hold hostage bipartisan legislation that would simplify the FAFSA from 108 questions to 18 to 30—the Federal aid that 20 million families fill out every year in this country—unnecessarily? Why are we holding that hostage? Why are we holding hostage the legislation introduced by Senator PORTMAN and Senator KAINE and co-sponsored by CARDIN, GILLIBRAND, HASSAN, KLOBUCHAR, STABENOW, BALDWIN, BROWN—these are all Democrats—here is a Republican, CAPITO, COONS, ERNST, JONES, MORAN, SHAHEEN, SINEMA, SMITH, WICKER, and BRAUN.

This is legislation we all agree on—or at least that many agree on—on short-term Pell grants. Then we have Senators GRASSLEY, SMITH, CASSIDY, ERNST, HASSAN, JONES, KLOBUCHAR, MANCHIN, and RUBIO, who would like to simplify the Federal aid letters so you don't get a letter in the mail, if you are living in Maryland or Tennessee, and think you have a grant you don't have to pay back, when in fact it is a loan you do have to pay back.

We also agree on increasing the maximum Pell grant. We also agree on how to pay for it. We also agree on permanent funding for the historically Black colleges and institutions in a way that the Budget Committee can easily approve, and it can pass the Senate.

If we can agree on all that and it all helps students at historically Black colleges and minority-serving institutions, then why don't we pass it? Why don't we do that? Why do we come up with a short-term, gimmick-supported, House-passed bill that sets up a new cliff? Why don't we take a permanent funding, with a Budget Committee-approved way of paying for it, and do some other things that we have been working on for 5 years in a bipartisan way? This is not an Alexander proposal. This is a package of proposals by 29 Senators—17 Democrats and 12 Republicans. It is ready to pass the Senate; it is ready to be worked on with the House of Representatives; and it is ready to be signed by the President of the United States.

Let me add to this. The Secretary of Education, and people seem to ignore this, has written all the presidents of the historically Black colleges and said there is enough money in the bank to pay for all their funding until next September. So we have nearly a year to do this the right way instead of the wrong way. We are not on vacation. I know everybody is talking about impeachment, but we have lots of students around this country who would like to have a simpler way to go to college. We have lots of historically Black institutions and minority-serving institutions that would like to have a permanent method of funding. We have lots of employers and potential employees who want a short-term Pell grant.

Simplifying FAFSA would actually add, according to the Congressional Budget Office, 250,000 Pell grants, and it would increase the number of Americans who are eligible for the maximum Pell grant. All that is ready to go. All that is ready to go so why don't we do that instead?

I thank the Senator from Maryland for giving me an opportunity and a reason to bring up my package of bills with permanent funding of the historically Black colleges and universities paid for, not by a gimmick, but by a Budget Committee-approved method that President Trump and President Obama both had in their budgets.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2557

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health,

Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2557—that is my bill—and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill providing permanent funding for historically Black colleges and universities and other matters be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object and for the reasons I have already stated, there will be ample time to bring up the permanent reauthorization of the funding for historically Black colleges and universities and minority institutions. That is why the unanimous consent for which I asked was for 2 years.

My party doesn't control the activities on the floor of the Senate. This reauthorization bill is going to take some time on the floor. We are going to have to deal with amendments, and we are going to have to reconcile the differences between the House and the Senate. There is no other category of expenditures that is mandatory of this nature to underserved and historically discriminated institutions that is being held hostage as we debate a broader bill. I think this is a truly unique circumstance and should not be held hostage.

We need to have a way of debating the issues to make sure that in a reauthorization that occurs only every so often within the Higher Education Act that we deal with the current gaps we have for diversity—for students with disabilities, for students of color, for students from low-income families, and for those who are the first in their families to attend college.

For those reasons, I object to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, we have been working for 5 years, for example, on simplifying the Federal aid form that students fill out to go to college—5 years. We have bipartisan support for it in the Senate and in the House. We have families who, in my State, will be discouraged from going to college because of this complex form.

Why don't we pass it? It is important to fund historically Black colleges; that is true. They have funding for another year. So why don't we add to that the simplifying of the FAFSA form, which, I would imagine, 95 percent of the students in historically Black colleges have to fill out every year? In addition to that, they have this verification process that they go through during which somebody catches them telling the IRS one thing and the Department of Education another so that they jerk their aid. They think that is important.

I have the president of a community college in Memphis who tells me he loses 1,500 students a year because of the burdensome nature of the application.

Former Governor Bill Haslam, of Tennessee—our State—has the highest percentage of students who fill out the FAFSA, which is the Federal aid form for grants and loans. He says the single biggest impediment toward there being free tuition for 2 years of college in our State is the complex FAFSA.

I don't think it is unreasonable to say, while we help students at historically Black colleges, that we help those same students by simplifying their FAFSAs. Why don't we give them the short-term Pell grant that Senator KAINE and Senator PORTMAN and a dozen other Senators, including the Senator from Maryland, have introduced? Why don't we increase the size of the Pell grant in a way that we agree in a bipartisan way?

In other words, we don't have to discuss something until we find something we can't agree on. Why don't we take the things we do agree on, which are considered in the package that the Senator just objected to, and pass them?

There are 29 Senators—more Democrats than Republicans—who have formed these bills. If we can add to that other pieces of legislation, let's do it. Yet let's take the permanent funding for historically Black colleges—the simplification of the FAFSA, the short-term Pell grants, and the Pell grants for prisoners—and pass that.

As I said, we are not on vacation. We should be able to do this in the next few weeks or in the next few months. I mean, how long does it take just to pass something we already agree on? It shouldn't take us very long.

I am disappointed that the Senator has objected. I hope to keep coming to the floor and asking for the Senate to approve it. More importantly, I hope to keep working with the distinguished Senator from Washington State on our Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. We have often been able to work these matters out even when they are contentious and offered to the Senate a bipartisan package. I hope we can do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JEFF BURTON

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate MG Jeff Burton, a man of remarkable achievement and character, on a career dedicated to public service. After 7 years of serving as the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, Major General Burton leaves behind a distinguished legacy.

The Utah National Guard provides military forces that are ready to assist both State and Federal authorities in times of emergency and in times of war. It is comprised of 7,300 soldiers and airmen from the Utah Army National Guard and the Utah Air National Guard.

As adjutant general, Major General Burton oversaw the training and military preparation of soldiers and airmen throughout the State. He is a principled and dedicated leader who has set a high standard of conduct for the men and women under his command.

Major General Burton and his wife, Charn, have always cared for and supported Guard members and their families, particularly in the tragic times of loss. Their devotion to the servicemen and servicewomen of Utah cannot be overstated.

Major General Burton's life of service extends beyond his time as adjutant general. He was an assistant professor at both Brigham Young University and Utah Valley University, where he taught military science.

He was awarded the Bronze Star for his exceptionally meritorious service as the commander of the 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which his unit played a significant role in the initial ground war. Under his leadership, his unit also helped to rebuild the country after its having been devastated by conflict.

Our great State of Utah owes Major General Burton a debt of gratitude for his decades of service. We wish the honorable general all the best in his next chapter.

Thank you, Major General Burton, for your service to our State and to our Nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last week, the House of Representatives voted in favor of a set of procedures to govern its impeachment inquiry, laying out a formal process to examine the facts in a deliberate and fairminded process.

Our Republican colleagues keep changing their arguments as to why they are opposed to what the House is doing. First, there needed to be a vote. There was a vote. Second, make it public. Now it is public. Third, there is no quid pro quo. Now there is a quid pro quo, they even admit.

So now they are saying it is not impeachable. The shifting stands of the Republicans' argument in the House and Senate, which seems to shift all the time, indicates they don't seem to have a real interest in following the facts to where they lead but rather just defending Trump, regardless of the facts. That is a huge mistake for the Republic and for the Senate and how we should conduct ourselves.

So let me elaborate. For weeks, congressional Republicans criticized House Democrats for not scheduling a vote. As soon as the vote was taken, the same Republicans criticized the process once again.

Republicans criticized House Democrats for conducting classified hearings, even though the material discussed concerns our national security and Republicans readily participated in those hearings. Then once the House voted on the plan for open hearings, predictably, the same Republicans kept criticizing the process, coming up with a new argument: The idea that there was no "quid pro quo," which the President himself stated, although he was contradicted by Mr. Mulvaney, and that seemed to be the linchpin of their defense of the President in the last few days and weeks.

But now, all of the sudden, knowing maybe what is coming out, all of the sudden, our Republican colleagues are saying: Yes, there was a quid pro quo, but it doesn't matter. It is not impeachable. Some of them even think it is not even wrong, which is absolutely absurd.

So instead of the shifting sands of defenses of the President on a near daily basis, my Republican friends should let all the facts come out and make their judgments based on the facts. Instead of changing their argument every third day when faced with new facts, they should remain dispassionate and say we are going to look at the facts, instead of just jumping to find a new defense of the President no matter what the facts.

If you are defending the President because there is no quid pro quo and there is quid pro quo, maybe you should be saying: Maybe something is going on here. But, no, a new argument pops up.

The investigation is not yet complete. Jumping to conclusions before all the facts come out is misguided. It is unbecoming of a Senator's role as judge and juror of a potential impeachment case.

Now, last night, the President held a political rally in Kentucky with several Republican elected officials, including the junior Senator from Kentucky who publicly and explicitly urged the media to expose the identity of the Federal whistleblower. The President, of course, quickly praised the Senator's idea.

I cannot stress just how wrong this is. We have Federal whistleblower laws designed to protect the identity and safety of patriotic Americans who come forward to stand up for the Constitution. There are Members on the other side of the aisle, including senior Members and chairs of committees, who spent their entire careers defending whistleblowers and the laws that protect them and their families.

So where are they now? I was pleased to hear that my colleague, Senator THUNE, spoke out and said that whistleblowers must be protected. I believe

that Senator GRASSLEY is saying the same. They are both right. But there should be bipartisan outrage at the public attempts by the President and a Member of this body to expose the identity of a Federal whistleblower. You do not get to determine when our whistleblower laws apply or do not or whether you like what the whistleblower said or you do not. They are laws. This whistleblower, whose complaint was deemed “credible” and an “urgent matter” by a Trump appointee, is protected by these statutes. Every single Member of this body should stand up and say that it is wrong to disclose his or her identity.

Our rhetoric can sometimes be overheated, but I am appalled by these developments. There is no other word for it. We are in a moment of history when the Republicans, over only a few weeks, have shifted from saying that no laws were broken to saying that laws were broken, but it is not impeachable, to outright advocating that laws be broken.

Where is the internal gyroscope, the clock of decency and honor on the other side? They are twisting themselves in contradictory pretzels to defend this President who is going to bounds that we have rarely seen in this body with any party with any President.

I don't understand what sort of effect President Trump has on people of integrity and some degree of strength, who just fold whenever he says something, twist their arguments, change their arguments, do 180-degree hairpins about their arguments, all because they are afraid of telling the truth to power, the truth to this President who never likes to hear it.

#### GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. President, on guns, on August 5, days after mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton, President Trump declared that “we cannot let those killed in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, die in vain.” He said, “Republicans and Democrats must come together and get strong background checks.”

Those were the words of President Trump. A few weeks later, Leader MCCONNELL promised that a debate on background checks would be “front and center” in the Senate after the summer work period. These were Leader MCCONNELL's words. He said, “What we can't do is fail to pass something,” he said.

Well, it has been 3 months since those statements. Leader MCCONNELL's Senate has not only failed to pass them, it has not even debated some of them. And then on Friday, the Washington Post released a story that all but confirms the worst fear of families torn apart by guns violence—the headline of the Washington Post: “Trump abandons proposing ideas to curb gun violence, after saying he would, following mass shootings.”

According to the Washington Post, the President has abandoned his brief flirtation with supporting expanded

background checks because his advisers believe it will hurt his chances of reelection, “a reversal from the summer when the President insisted he would offer policies to curb firearm deaths.”

Maybe it is not surprising with this President—it isn't unfortunately; he goes back on his word day after day—but it is profoundly disappointing. Democrats, despite our skepticism, tried to work in good faith with our Republican colleagues to respond to the tragedies in El Paso and Dayton. Many of my colleagues, Senator MURPHY and Senator MANCHIN and others, worked with Republican Senators and ferried back and forth to the White House to find a proposal that could become law that would save American lives. We gave the White House every chance to get to “yes.”

But despite those efforts, Leader MCCONNELL has not moved even one gun safety bill to the floor, and President Trump is opposing votes on any—any—potential compromise, just like on infrastructure, just like on immigration reform, just like on a myriad of other issues, President Trump would rather do nothing to help the American people because it would upset political allies like the NRA.

He will make bold and sometimes surprising promises in the heat of the moment. When there was a huge pressure to do something about background checks because of the shootings across the country, he said he would, but then this man who tries to portray himself as a tough guy backs off when lobbyists say he can't do it. That doesn't show strength. It shows weakness and shows a lack of candor and honesty to the American people. It shows he is using the American people for his own political purposes, which he does over and over again.

Only time will tell how many lives it will take before President Trump and the congressional Republicans come to their senses and work with us to finally do something about the epidemic of gun violence in America.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Now, climate—yesterday, the Trump administration formally sent a notice to the UN that the United States will withdraw from the Paris Agreement in 2020. In the long list of dangerous policy decisions that President Trump has advanced over the years, this ranks as one of the very, very worst.

Future generations will look back on this decision as a dramatic step backward in the fight to address climate change. Future generations would note this date and how it hurt our planet, our economy, and our national security in the decades that followed.

President Trump has been an enemy of climate science in ways that no other President has been. Before becoming President, he called climate change a hoax, and unfortunately, his Presidency has treated it like one. He has stuffed his administration to the brim with lobbyists for Big Oil and Big

Coal; he has crippled the Federal Government's ability to research climate change. He rolled back emission standards and used fake science to underreport the effects of climate change.

Instead of protecting the interests of the people, President Trump has catered shamelessly to the interests of oil companies and corporate polluters. History will look harshly on President Trump's failure to lead the United States through our planet's climate crisis, and they will equally look on the Republican Senators who have just stood mute as he has done this.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the U.S. relationship with Turkey and certain actions that the U.S. must consider in order to protect our national security interests and those of our true allies in the region.

Today, more than ever, we need strong allies and partners in Europe. As the Trump administration does nearly everything in its power to erode our alliances and denigrate our closest friends, we find increasingly emboldened regimes in Russia and China. The U.S. cannot stand up to them alone. Throughout the Cold War, our diplomats worked assiduously to build strong bonds with allies, knowing that having close partners was better than having enemies on the world stage.

Our strongest allies should be those in NATO, those that have made a treaty commitment to mutual defense, those who share our values, those who work in concert with us to face the threat from countries like Russia and Iran with common cause. Unfortunately, Turkey under Erdogan embodies none of those things. Today, I would like to lay out a fact pattern that so many of my colleagues have come to see in recent weeks, that Turkey under Erdogan should not, Turkey under Erdogan cannot be seen as an ally.

How many more times do we need to see Turkey betray the values upon which NATO was established? How many more times do we need to see President Erdogan visit Moscow, Sochi, or any other Russian city to kiss Putin's ring? How many more journalists need to be locked up by Erdogan before we stop calling Turkey a democracy?

Enough is enough. Over my 27 years in the House and the Senate, I have followed developments in the Eastern Mediterranean quite closely. Turkey's



invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was a shocking attempt to redraw borders in Europe in the wake of World War II. To this day, Turkey's invasion of northern Cyprus must be seen for what it is: an illegal occupation that must end. Turkey's action over those days in 1974 were not the actions of a democratic country. They were not the actions of a reliable ally. They were not the actions of a responsible actor on the world stage.

But the events of 1974 would only presage Turkey's aggressive posture in the eastern Mediterranean in the years to come. To this day, Turkey under Erdogan continues to aggressively bully international energy companies, including U.S. companies, and the Republic of Cyprus. Their sin? Conducting completely legitimate exploration in the Cypriot Exclusive Economic Zone. This is not territory under dispute or an issue for debate. Turkey's hostility towards these companies is the kind of gunboat diplomacy that belongs to eras past and has no place in today's world.

Examples abound where Turkey continues to operate in bad faith when it comes to Cyprus. It could abide by UN Security Council resolutions to transfer the fenced area of Varosha, Farmagusta to the administration of the United Nations.

These calls to return this area to its original inhabitants, whom Turkey ejected during the 1974 invasion, have gone unheeded. Instead, several Turkish Ministers have recently visited and threatened to move forward with commercial development—a true affront to those forced from their land more than 40 years ago, as well as to the U.N. Security Council resolution.

In the eastern Mediterranean, for years Turkey has also aggressively violated the airspace of neighboring Greece, also a NATO ally. These dangerous maneuvers have threatened the lives and safety of Greek pilots, as well as civilians living on the islands below. Greece wants a good neighbor in Turkey and has sought to find common ground upon a constructive relationship. But with these airspace violations, Turkey has shown its true colors, and the international community must come to terms with this.

We have seen Turkey's belligerence abroad manifest itself even here in the United States. Who can forget when President Erdogan's bodyguards attacked U.S. citizens in a Washington park peacefully demonstrating, as is their constitutional right? And as momentum builds following the passage of the Armenian genocide resolution in the House of Representatives, Turkey and its lobbyists are working overtime to block it in the Senate because they know that if this resolution, which both I, Senator CRUZ, and bipartisan Members on both sides have sponsored, were to come to the floor for a vote, it would pass resoundingly and send a clarion message that recognizes the truth. The Armenian genocide happened, it was a monstrous act, and

those who deny it are complicit in a terrible lie. Genocide is genocide. The Senate should not bow to this pressure. It cannot bow to this pressure. Let's pass this resolution today.

Erdogan's behavior abroad has roots inside of Turkey, where the democratic process has significantly eroded and religious freedom is under sustained pressure. In particular, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church—and its community—faces dire consequences as the spiritual head of the world's second largest Christian church. His church properties have been confiscated, and President Erdogan restricts his religious freedom. This is wrong, and his All Holiness deserves our attention and our ongoing support. For those who speak about religious freedom in this Chamber—and I admire the many who have—as well as on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, this is also an issue of religious freedom.

Of course, Erdogan's repression of his own citizens does not stop with restricting religious freedom. Following its emergency decree after a failed coup attempt, Turkish authorities engaged in a draconian crackdown and roundup of citizens across the country. The U.N. reports that close to 160,000 people were arrested in an 18-month period, including over 100 women who were pregnant or had just given birth, often on grounds of nothing more than that they were associated with their husbands, many of whom were suspects on trumped-up charges.

As we examine Turkey's increasingly destructive role in the world, we must never turn a blind eye from those Turkish citizens who want a more democratic future for themselves and their families.

In July, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed my Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act with a strong bipartisan vote. We are working for full passage in the Senate, and I understand the House Foreign Affairs Committee will mark up the legislation soon.

I traveled to Greece and Cyprus in the spring and told leaders in both places that this was not—not an anti-Turkey bill and that we all wanted Turkey to be a constructive and democratic partner in the region. At the time, this vision seemed a long ways off, but now, given Erdogan's recent choices, it has become virtually impossible. Let's review events since my visit to the region in the spring of this year.

First, Erdogan took delivery of the S-400 air defense system from Russia. Let me repeat. Turkey, a supposed NATO ally, purchased an air defense system from NATO's main adversary—the reason that NATO largely came to be. This choice endangered the security of the United States and other NATO partners. The United States made a good offer of the Patriot missile system—an offer that would have maintained the security equilibrium in the

region and enabled Turkey to remain a NATO member in good standing. That offer was rejected.

The Trump administration did the right thing in removing Turkey from the F-35 program. It was clear to all involved that the S-400 could not be parked next to an F-35. After all, it is meant and it is intended to be able to shoot down an F-35—this from a NATO ally.

But the administration has fallen well short of its obligations under the law. Under the CAATSA law, which I helped write, the administration is required to sanction any entity that conducts a significant transaction with the Russian military or intelligence sectors. This provision of law is not permissive. It is not optional. Under no credible definition would the purchase of an S-400 Russian system not be considered significant. The administration is breaking the law by ignoring this provision and kowtowing to Ankara. According to U.S. law, Turkey must be sanctioned for the S-400 system, and it should happen today. Otherwise, it will send a global message that we are not serious about sanctioning significant transactions with the Russian military.

Some have said that such an approach is unwarranted and unwise lest we push Erdogan into Putin's arms. He is already there. He clearly is already there.

In a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in Syria, I held up this poster, and I asked the Secretary of State: What is wrong with this picture? This picture of President Erdogan, President Putin, and President Rouhani of Iran says everything—says everything. They are two of our biggest foreign policy challengers. And who is there with them? Erdogan. I argued that we were ceding American leadership in Syria and the region to leaders and countries whose policies were intrinsically at odds with our own. Unfortunately, today we are seeing the terrible consequences of this abdication of leadership.

Erdogan's warm relationship with Putin should ring alarm bells across the NATO alliance, raising concerns about NATO's exposure at Incirlik and intelligence vulnerabilities with respect to the alliance's presence in Turkey. It raises concerns about how Erdogan and Putin may be working together to counter U.S. interests across the Middle East, in the Balkans, and around the world. NATO is an alliance of shared values. None of those values are respected—none of them—by the current occupant of the Kremlin or in Ankara.

Second, provided with a green light from the Trump administration, President Erdogan's invasion of Syria to attack our Kurdish partners is an unconscionable act of brutality that has caused death and untold suffering among our Kurdish friends and partners. Tens of thousands have fled the area, creating an even greater problem

of refugees in that war-torn region. The consequences of these actions by Turkey and its proxies will persist for years to come.

Turkey's incursion poses a direct threat to U.S. national security interests in the region, not the least of which is by facilitating Russian foreign policy ambitions in the region and opening the door for ISIS to reconstitute.

At its inception, Turkey did not take the threat of ISIS seriously enough, and in the early days, ISIS's ability to easily traverse the Turkish-Syrian border bolstered its ability to grow in strength and numbers. Turkey did nothing—nothing—to stop them, did nothing to stop foreign fighters going into Syria. While Turkey has legitimate security concerns from the PKK, its singular focus on extending this feat to the whole Kurdish population risks its ability to effectively confront other terrorist organizations, including ISIS and al-Qaida.

There must be a full accounting by Turkey of these atrocities. That is why I am today introducing an expedited resolution of request for the Secretary of State to inform the Senate in 30 days of the extent of Turkey's human rights abuses in Syria. This resolution invokes statutory authority under the Foreign Assistance Act to require the Secretary of State to assess and report to Congress on Turkey's human rights abuses in Syria. This resolution calls for the administration to provide all available information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by Turkey, its armed forces, and associated groups in Syria. It calls for a description of the steps the United States has taken to promote Turkey's respect of human rights in its Syria operations. The resolution also calls for a determination of whether Turkey's actions have resulted in the release of ISIS or other extremists inside of Syria.

I am also working closely with the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator RISCH, on the Promoting American National Security and Preventing the Resurgence of ISIS Act of 2019, which would impose targeted sanctions on Turkey for its actions in Syria. A similar bipartisan measure passed the House last week, and I urge the Senate to deliberate on the measure. Based on changing circumstances on the ground, we are updating the language to condition sanctions based on Turkey's actions. I hope it will be marked up in the coming days.

For years, the world held out hope that Turkey could be the bridge between east and west—a democratic, secular country that could be a democracy in Europe and a responsible actor on the world stage. I, for one, was always skeptical but certainly supported the sentiment. Today we are the furthest from that dream we have ever been. The most imprisoned journalists in the world—in the world—are not in

North Korea, Russia, or Iran; they languish in Turkish prisons. This doesn't happen in a democracy.

As international pressure mounted following Turkey's invasion of northern Syria, Erdogan threatened to unleash thousands of refugees onto the European Union's shores, a wave like we saw in 2015. These aren't the statements of a rational, responsible actor. Yet where is U.S. policy? The Trump administration was its normal erratic self in recent weeks as it flailed from sanctions on Turkey to claiming victory. The Kurds are the ones who emerged as the clear loser. Erdogan was eager to sign on to the Pence-Pompeo plan because it gave him all he wanted—full control of the Kurdish areas of Syria and *carte blanche* to wipe out swaths of the community.

In addition to claiming victory, President Trump now wants to invite Erdogan to Washington with open arms. Stunning. The photo of Trump and Erdogan in the Oval Office will not only be the nail in the coffin for any Kurdish aspirations to live in peace and security, it will also be the death knell for any credibility the United States hopes to maintain with any combat partners in the future.

President Trump, I urge you to cancel this invitation and side with the bipartisan consensus in the Senate and the House that Turkey, under Erdogan, is no friend to the United States. Do not ruin our reputation further by fawning over yet another authoritarian leader. You want to repair the damage that has been done? Show our commitment to our allies by inviting the Syrian Kurdish leadership to the Oval Office for a meeting on how we prevent a resurgence of ISIS. That is how you protect our interests. That is how you protect our national security.

It is time to challenge Erdogan to live up to NATO's values and to respect the international order. It is time to stop enabling Turkey to be a bad actor. It is time for the Senate to act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:43 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

##### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Tim Scott, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Braun, Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, Michael B. Enzi, Chuck Grassley, Mitch McConnell.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 83, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 343 Ex.]

##### YEAS—83

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

## NAYS—9

Gillibrand	Markey	Schatz
Harris	Menendez	Schumer
Hirono	Merkley	Stabenow

## NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Klobuchar	Sasse
Burr	Risch	Warren
Isakson	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83, the nays are 9.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Iowa.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have a couple of issues on which I want to speak. Trade and section No. 232 would be my second issue. The first one about which I want to speak is commonsense entitlement reform.

In the past year, we have seen a flurry of drug-pricing proposals. I am encouraged by the efforts of my colleagues here in the Senate, especially by Ranking Member WYDEN, by my colleagues in the House of Representatives who agree with this effort to reduce drug prices, and by the President of the United States, who has already been involved for a year and a half in lowering drug prices. All have made lowering prescription drug costs one of the core principles of our efforts and particularly a core principle for this administration.

I have paid attention to each of the pieces of legislation that have been proposed and have looked at their pros and cons closely. However, so far, there is only one bipartisan proposal that cuts prescription drug prices, that protects innovation, that lowers what senior citizens will pay at the pharmacy counter, and that brings along with it entitlement reform. The Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019 is the bill I am talking about. It responsibly reduces Medicare Part D costs.

As with any widely encompassing piece of legislation, there has been some spirited debate surrounding the different provisions of our bill. So I am here today, hoping to clear up some of the confusion surrounding a phrase that I have heard thrown around in this debate—"price setting." Opponents of the legislation criticize the bill for price setting. The scare tactic associated with this claim is centered on one particular policy in our bill—that of matching the growth of government subsidies that drug manufacturers receive to the rate of consumer inflation.

When I set out at the beginning of this year to create a piece of bipartisan legislation that had real and meaningful change, I knew the focus had to be on individual Americans. That is why we kept out-of-pocket costs at a level at which seniors could see relief. That is why we banned spread pricing, which games the healthcare system to the detriment of the beneficiaries and the taxpayers. That is why we created a new way of paying for lifesaving but very costly Medicare drugs. That is why we kept the growth of government subsidies in Medicare Part D to the rate of inflation.

Unlike other proposals, the Senate Committee on Finance's policy does not tie the launch price to an artificially low price. The bill doesn't stop a drug company from recouping its research and development costs, which will lead to more innovation.

What the Part D inflationary rebate does is really quite simple. After launching, if a drug manufacturer chooses to raise the price above the rate of inflation, it has to return the difference for the drugs paid by Medicare. This policy limits government subsidies in order to provide predictability for the Medicare Program. At the same time, it provides protection for the American taxpayer. That is simply all it does. Any subsidies that the pharmaceutical companies would have received from an exorbitant raise in price is then returned to Americans rather than to line pharma's pockets. The inflation rebate incentivizes companies to stabilize their pricing, and the taxpayers' money is used more prudently and more efficiently.

You have all heard of CATO, the research organization and policy organization. CATO is one of the Nation's leading libertarian and free market organizations. It has praised the bill for its significant cost savings for the taxpayers. Does anyone really think a libertarian organization would endorse price controls? In its analysis of the bill, CATO wrote that this bill "would not impose price controls" and "would reduce wasteful Medicare spending." CATO also acknowledged that these "commonsense tweaks to a bloated entitlement program are encountering strong opposition . . . mostly from those who would not make quite as much money off the taxpayers."

We all know that Medicare's finances are worsening. The program is projected to become insolvent within the next 6 years if we continue down this very same path. In getting back to my bipartisan bill, the Grassley-Wyden bill will ensure that the Federal Government uses Medicare's budget to pay for lifesaving treatments in a fiscally responsible manner.

This goal is not without precedent. For those who say we are acting in an unprecedented way and are setting prices, I say it isn't setting prices. They forget that throughout the American healthcare system, the government has, at one time or another, set up different ways to constrain high and rising costs.

For example, States have not been allowed to pay Medicaid providers at a rate that has been higher than Medicare's. Another example is in the Medicare Program. Medicare Part A has paid for the operating costs associated with acute inpatient care and has used the inpatient prospective payment system, or what is referred to as IPPS. Congress enacted the inpatient prospective payment system to constrain the growth of Medicare's inpatient hospital payments by providing incentives for those facilities to provide care more efficiently.

Congress also requires that the concept of budget neutrality be applied to a number of Medicare payment systems, including to provider payments. This is simple. In other words, the government says that if one provider gets an increase, another provider is reduced.

Finally, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, within the CMS, is required by statute to enforce financial controls on total Medicare spending. The Center can only test different ways to pay for services in Medicare and Medicaid if they are expected to lower costs while they maintain quality. So this idea of using taxpayer dollars responsibly and in a targeted manner exists in many facets of the American healthcare system.

My point is, while some call the inflationary rebate in Part D a price control, I urge all of the Members to consider how Congress is using measures to contain costs currently. Isn't it the fiscally responsible thing to do when Federal taxpayer dollars are being spent by those of us in Congress? Shouldn't we do what we can to contain costs? After all, it is not what hospitals, doctors, and pharmaceutical companies may charge; it is about what the American taxpayer will pay for services. That doesn't fall into the category of price controls. At the markup for my prescription drug bill, even the Director of the independent Congressional Budget Office agreed with me.

I could continue to give examples of budgetary tools in the toolbox that Congress uses in an attempt to be fiscally responsible with regard to Medicare and Medicaid. I could also continue to provide examples of outrageous drug costs. Yet the bottom line is that the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019 is a win for Americans across the board.

Seniors will pay less out of pocket; taxpayers will know their money is being used appropriately; and drug manufacturers will continue to be able to innovate.

That is why Ranking Member WYDEN and I strove to achieve these things in the very beginning. I urge my colleagues to keep these considerations in mind, and hopefully my colleagues will support this legislation as a way of answering the concerns that constituents express in almost every State. At least in the 99 county meetings that I hold in Iowa every year, doing something about the pricing of prescription drugs comes up. It has to be that way all over the country.

## TRADE

Now I want to turn to trade legislation, and I will not be as long on this point as I was on prescription drugs.

When I resumed chairmanship of the Senate Finance Committee in January, I laid out my top priorities for the committee's work.

For international trade, my agenda included reviewing section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, which allows the President, without any input

from Congress, to impose tariffs in the name of national security.

For 11 months now, I have been working with other Finance Committee members on both sides of the aisle to establish a separation of powers and checks and balances in the section 232 process. These two basic principles of our system of government are sorely lacking in section 232 as it stands today.

Two of my colleagues on the Finance Committee, Senators TOOMEY and PORTMAN, each filed reform bills that are well thought out, and both happen to be bipartisan. A full quarter of the Senate has cosponsored one or more of their bills, including 10 Democrats, 14 Republicans, and 1 Independent.

Many other Senators have told me that they, too, want to see section 232 reforms reported out of the Finance Committee.

With a strong bipartisan mandate like that, I have been optimistic that Ranking Member WYDEN and I can reconcile the Toomey and Portman bills and hold a markup. More than once I have spoken publicly about my intentions to do just that.

However, every time we get close to marking up a section 232 bill, Senator WYDEN hears from stakeholders who are profiting from tariff production. Meanwhile, I get calls from colleagues who say something like this, and I am paraphrasing: Mr. Chairman, the President won't like us taking away his tariff law, and we don't want to make the President upset.

Well, we hear that a lot, whether we have a Republican or Democratic President, on a whole lot of other issues. But we don't have to listen to the President of the United States. We are Members of an independent branch of government, able to do our own thing—work with the President when we can and not worry about the President when we can't.

Well, allow me to set the record straight on a few things that I have just set before you so far.

First, as I have said before, reforming section 232 is not about President Trump. Reforming section 232 means acknowledging that the 87th Congress handed President Jack Kennedy enormous authority over trade in 1962 at the height of the Cold War. President Trump was merely following that 1962 law.

In the process, he alerted us to the fact that Congress has been too negligent in the past in protecting our constitutional responsibility of lawmaking. Our Founding Fathers were explicit in tasking Congress with responsibility over international trade, and it is time now to rebalance section 232 in line with the Founding Fathers' clear intentions.

Secondly, I have been clear that I am generally not a fan of tariffs, but I also want to make clear that I have agreed to Senator WYDEN's request to introduce a chairman and ranking member's mark that does not unwind section 232

measures on steel and aluminum. Many problems with those tariffs and quotas have been well documented, but I have been in the Senate long enough to know that getting things done requires compromise.

Third, and to all of my colleagues and everyone listening, I don't view 232 reforms as weakening the power of the Chief Executive. I view them as enhancing the effectiveness of the Chief Executive in our country. As the Supreme Court told President Truman, the Office of President and the President himself are strongest when Congress is behind him.

We need reforms to section 232 that will make clearer where Congress stands on national security and trade. Such reforms would also make clearer to our trading partners that when section 232 is used, Congress stands with the President.

Now, with these points cleared up, I hope that Ranking Member WYDEN, members of the Finance Committee, and our House colleagues will be ready to reform section 232.

We have a strong, bipartisan mandate to get to work, and this is likely just the beginning of a great deal of work that needs to be done to review our trade laws.

Senator WYDEN and I have reported bipartisan bills out of the committee successfully in the past, and hopefully we can do it again for section 232.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Illinois. Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss an issue that is important in my State and I think in every State.

Illinois, which I represent and am proud to represent, is a State with the great American city of Chicago but with many other towns and cities of a variety of different sizes.

I actually was born in downstate Illinois, 300 miles away from Chicago. Between the great city of Chicago and the rest of our State, there are many small towns and rural areas. When you go into these areas and talk about the quality of life and living in a small town or rural America, there are a lot of challenges.

Just a few weeks ago I was in Calhoun County, one of the smallest in our State. We had an assembly of kids in middle school and grade school, and we announced that the local electric cooperative, the Illinois Electric Cooperative, was finally going to bring that level of access to the internet for which Calhoun County—the people who live there and those students—have been waiting for a decade or longer. It took longer for it to reach there.

I am glad the electric cooperative led the fight. Historically, the electric co-

operatives literally brought electricity to rural America. Now they are bringing high-speed internet to rural America, and it is critically important for students to learn, along with all of the other services that many people living in big cities take for granted come with the internet.

That is one example, but another one you run into all the time is the comments of people in smalltown America about access to healthcare. You see, across our State we have millions of people who live in smaller towns, rural towns, who don't have the same quality healthcare nearby, whether it is a hospital or a doctor or even a dentist. Across Illinois, 5 million people live in areas with shortages, and 2 million live in areas without a dentist. Almost all of them live in an area without access to mental health providers—counselors, psychologists.

The consequences speak for themselves. Only 1 in 10 people with substance abuse disorders get the care that they need in these areas, and 43 percent of rural Americans do not have access to dentists—43 percent.

Well, there is a Federal program that has been addressing it for a long time, and, coincidentally, the Presiding Officer from Tennessee is the cosponsor of legislation I am going to address at this moment.

Today there is a Federal program in place called National Health Service Corps. It provides loan forgiveness to entice doctors and other healthcare professionals to serve in places with healthcare needs. In total, 10,000 doctors, dentists, behavioral health specialists, and nurses use the National Health Service Corps and treat 11 million Americans each year in hospitals and community clinics.

We entice them to come to these underserved areas by paying off their loans. As you probably know, doctors and dentists and nurses and others end up graduating with a lot of student loans.

Illinois has more than 550 of these National Health Service Corps clinicians, but fewer than 75 of them serve in rural areas. As we face an opioid epidemic that touches every corner of America—no city too large, no town too small, no suburb too wealthy to have escaped it—we need that kind of professional healthcare across the board in urban areas as well as rural areas. That is why I have teamed up with the Presiding Officer, Senator BLACKBURN of Tennessee, on a bipartisan piece of legislation that we call the Rural America Health Corps Act.

Our bill will expand the current Corps program to provide new loan forgiveness funding for providers who will serve in rural areas in Tennessee, in Illinois, and across the Nation. It provides funding for 5 years rather than the usual 2 to ensure that doctors, dentists, and nurses plant their roots in rural America.

With the National Health Corps up for reauthorization this year, Senator

BLACKBURN and I are pleading with our friends, Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee and Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY of Washington, to promote this rural focus.

It isn't the only thing I have looked at when it comes to rural America. I recently introduced a bill with Senator ROBERTS of Kansas. Senator ROBERTS is chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, and he agreed to include in the farm bill something called the SIREN Act.

The SIREN Act provides funding to support rural fire and EMS agencies with training and recruiting staff and purchasing equipment—everything from naloxone to power stretchers.

I recently visited Nauvoo, IL. Students of history may recognize the name of this town, but Nauvoo, IL, is where a man by the name of Mr. Kennedy came forward and told me about the need for new, modern equipment on their ambulances in this rural Hancock County area.

Because of what he told me, I introduced the bill. It passed as part of the farm bill, and we are going to start making money available in rural parts of America for these emergency management specialists to have the right training and the right equipment to respond when needed.

These bipartisan bills are important for rural healthcare, but we also have to maintain the structure of our key health programs.

Thankfully, Illinois has expanded the Medicaid Program through the Affordable Care Act, which has provided a funding lifeline to keep many of our rural hospitals from the brink of closure. It also expanded health insurance to 1 million people in Illinois.

Ten years ago, when we passed ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act, too many Americans did not have health insurance.

If you have ever been in a moment in your life when you were the father of a sick child who desperately needed medical care and you had no health insurance, you will never forget it as long as you live. I know. I have been there. It made an impression on me as a young father that I have never forgotten.

So when this bill, the Affordable Care Act, passed and I saw so many Americans finally getting health insurance, I knew it was giving them peace of mind and access to affordable, quality, accessible healthcare.

This week marks the beginning of the open enrollment period to sign up for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act, which ends on December 15. It is vital to make sure that everyone signs up at "healthcare.gov" if you are not currently covered and you want to know what is available to you. Most patients will find the premiums are less than \$100 a month, and if you are in certain income categories you will get a lot of help in making the premium payment.

But the No. 1 thing that I hear from constituents—and it has nothing to do

with what I just mentioned. I listened to my friend from Iowa, Republican Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, on the floor a few minutes ago talking about an issue that each of us runs into in every State in the Union. Here is the question: If you ask the American people what is the issue that you are concerned about from an economic viewpoint that you think the Congress can do something about, 90 percent of Democrats, 90 percent of Republicans, 90 percent of Independents all come back with the same answer. Do you know what it is? The cost of prescription drugs. People understand that these prescription drugs are so expensive, they are beyond the reach of many people who desperately need them.

Now, there was a Senator from Wisconsin years back named William Proxmire. He used to issue monthly recognitions of the most flagrant, excessive examples of waste in the Federal Government. He called it the "Golden Fleece." Earlier this year, I launched a series of awards to carry on Senator Proxmire's work, with the focus on the pharmaceutical industry, the people who make the drugs.

This month, I had this sign produced. This month, the Pharma Fleece award is going to the drug industry's trade group, PhRMA, and the Trump administration, I am afraid, to give away in the new NAFTA trade bill. What does a trade bill have to do with PhRMA or the price of prescription drugs? It turns out that PhRMA—boy, they are good—managed to slip in a provision in this trade bill that most Members of Congress are not even aware of.

This new trade agreement, as you might expect, involving Canada, Mexico, and the United States, covers a wide range of issues. My farmers are very excited about it. The men and women in labor unions are concerned about it. But it falls far short when it comes to labor and environmental protections. There is a lot of work that needs to be done.

But the one provision that I want to highlight today is tucked inside this sprawling document. It is a provision that guarantees monopoly protection for pharmaceutical companies by blocking competition, generic drug competition. It means that these companies can continue to call for sky-high prescription drug costs.

This is just another example of an issue that the President said during his campaign was a high priority and we all talk about on the floor of the Senate that is being sneaked into this new NAFTA trade bill. Let's remember, the top four drug companies avoided paying \$7 billion in taxes last year—\$7 billion—and were able to buy back another \$30 billion in stock thanks to President Trump's tax reform package. It was very kind to PhRMA, not that they needed it.

Americans already pay, incidentally, the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, four times what is paid

in Canada or Europe. So why would the administration agree to put a provision for PhRMA to guarantee high prices into the new NAFTA trade bill?

Listen to the story. In 2017, for example, Canadians can purchase a year's supply of Humira—recognize the name? You should. It is the most heavily advertised prescription drug on television, Humira, made by AbbVie, a company in Illinois—it is used for a disease called psoriatic arthritis. Canadians can buy a year's supply for \$20,000—not cheap. You know what Americans pay for exactly the same drug they buy from exactly the same company? Over \$40,000, more than twice as much as the Canadians.

Why? The Canadian Government cares. They said to AbbVie and to Pharma: We are not going to let you overcharge Canadians. We are going to protect our Canadian families and our Canadian healthcare system. The United States doesn't. Often, Big Pharma charges as much as it can get away with by manipulating our patent and exclusivity rules to avoid competition.

Drugs known as biologics, like Humira, Rituxan, and Remicade, are medicines made from living organisms. They are known as biologics. They make up 2 percent of all the prescriptions sold, but they count for 37 percent of the cost of prescription drugs—very expensive drugs.

Those three biologics have all been on the market for more than 17 years, and yet they are still the top seven highest grossing drugs in America due to the fortress of monopoly protections that Pharma has created.

Now, listen closely. Under U.S. law, biologics like the ones I mentioned—Humira is one of them—are given a 12-year exclusivity period once the FDA approves their application. What does that mean? No one can compete with them. They own the market. They set the price.

That means that a cheaper generic competitor cannot be approved by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States for more than 10 years, while the brand-name company is free to charge whatever it wants. Wonder why prices are high? There is no competition.

I believe the standard is too high and have cosponsored legislation to reduce this period to no more than 7 years. Canada's exclusivity period is 8 years. Mexico does not have one.

But now let's go to the new NAFTA trade agreement and look closely at the fine print that PhRMA included in that. The administration wants to enshrine our Pharma-friendly laws by setting a 10-year exclusivity floor for all three countries. It is a virtual guarantee that PhRMA, when it comes to biologics, will be able to charge whatever they wish for 10 years or more in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Why is that in the trade agreement? If all of us agree that prescription drug prices are too high, why are we putting

in the NAFTA trade agreement a sweetheart deal for PhRMA so that they can charge higher prices, not just in the United States, but in Canada and Mexico?

This new NAFTA has provisions that will encourage drug companies to obtain excessive numbers of secondary patents that delay generic competition and keep prices high.

So when my farmers come to me and say: Why are you not for NAFTA? And I say to them, if it was just about farmers, it would be one thing. But it is about American families, Canadian families, families even in Mexico paying higher prices for prescription drugs because of the trade agreement that the President wants us to approve. We should be working to bring lower-cost products to market sooner, not allowing Pharma to sneak in a payday into a trade package at the expense of American families.

It should come as no surprise that the main coalition running ads supporting the approval of NAFTA is the pharmaceutical industry of the United States. In fact, PhRMA and BIO, the two largest pharmaceutical associations, have already spent \$30 million lobbying Congress to pass this new NAFTA. Now, we know why.

For all the President's talk, this provision in this trade agreement is a Trojan horse giveaway for Big Pharma at the expense of American patients. I guess we should not be surprised, but I will say this: If Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, are listening to the people they represent back home about the cost of prescription drugs, they will not fall for this new Pharma fleecce.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will call the roll.

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

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

#### NATIONAL PEANUT FESTIVAL

Mr. JONES. Madam President, it is not often in floor remarks we can often hit a trifecta on topics that are uniquely connected, but I am fortunate enough to have that privilege today. They all center around the glorious peanut. I want to honor the National Peanut Festival currently being held in Dothan, AL, which recognizes the importance of the peanut industry to the State of Alabama and to the United States.

Every year, Dothan hosts the Nation's largest peanut festival to honor local peanut farmers and to celebrate harvest season. The festival began in 1938 and has been held annually each year, except for the years during the hiatus during World War II. This year's festival is a 10-day-long extravaganza with food, fun, and entertainment. You name it, you can find it in Dothan during the peanut festival. It is one of the most popular events in Alabama each

year. In 2017, the festival broke attendance records with over 200,000 people joining the fun.

Unfortunately, my schedule has prevented me from being down there this week, but I wish I had been there. I wish I could go for the end of this because it is a glorious time.

Last week, I introduced a resolution here in the Senate to pay tribute to the National Peanut Festival and the importance of peanuts in our State and the entire country. Over 400 million pounds of peanuts are produced every year in Alabama alone, and nearly half of all the peanuts in America are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, AL, where most of those peanuts are processed. It is no wonder that the city of Dothan—down in southeast Alabama, right in the corner, just right on the border of Georgia and Florida—is known as the Peanut Capital of the World.

The peanut industry is a critical part of Alabama's economy. In 2018 alone, the 400 million pounds of peanuts produced by Alabama farmers was valued at \$118 million. The farm value of the Nation's peanut crop is over a billion dollars. And like all farmers, peanut farmers have their share of challenges. But year after year, the peanut farmers in Alabama and across the country persevere, providing a crop whose importance is often simply taken for granted—well, as peanuts, as it pertains to our overall economy.

But the peanut is an important staple to the agriculture and food industry, thanks in large part to the amazing and extraordinary work of a scientist, an African-American scientist and adopted son of Alabama, Dr. George Washington Carver, who did his work at one of Alabama's great HBCUs, Tuskegee University.

Dr. Carver was born into slavery, but raised by his former master once slavery was abolished. He was forced to attend segregated schools until 1891, when he was accepted as the first Black student at Iowa State University. Only 5 years later, in 1896, Dr. Carver was hired by the great Booker T. Washington to head the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University, in Tuskegee, AL.

At that point, peanuts were not even recognized as a crop in the United States, but because of a serious threat to the South's cotton crop from boll weevil infestations, Dr. Carver suggested that Alabama farmers start growing peanuts in the alternate years, which he believed would restore and add nutrients to the barren soil so that cotton could grow the next year.

It worked. He not only was a leading voice for crop rotation but ended up inventing over 300 products made out of peanuts, including peanut milk, peanut paper, and peanut soap—although, surprisingly, he did not invent my favorite, peanut butter, but 300 different types of products made from peanuts.

In 1921, in a highly unusual circumstance in the era of Jim Crow, Dr.

Carver testified regarding the value of peanuts before the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives—an African-American scientist in front of the U.S. House in 1921. In 1938, again during the Jim Crow era in Alabama, Dr. Carver was the featured speaker at the first peanut festival in Dothan, AL.

Peanuts became more and more popular, and by 1940, they had become one of the top six crops in the United States—all in large part due to the work of Dr. Carver at Tuskegee University. It is not an overstatement to say that Dr. Carver, Tuskegee University, and the peanut helped save the economy of the South.

This is just one example of the extraordinary contributions that HBCUs have made to our country over the years and continue to make today. But, as we have talked about for some time, including with my friend Senator CARDIN earlier today, those contributions are threatened because of the expiration of Federal funding that occurred at the end of September.

I have been pushing for the passage of my bill, the FUTURE Act, which would renew funding for HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions that expired at the end of September. We need to continue to invest in these institutions and ensure they have consistent funding.

We have worked with this bill, the FUTURE Act, to make sure the concerns of others—particularly those who might object to the UC we have asked for on the FUTURE Act—to make sure that this is not some Federal budget gimmick. We have answered those concerns. We have answered all the pay-for concerns. All we are asking for is consistent funding because now planning is as important as the money. Yes, the Department of Education has told HBCUs that the funding would be there through September, but by this spring, those institutions have to plan. They have to start making sure they have the necessary resources for the fall and beyond. If their funding is set to expire at the end of next year, they cannot make those plans, both with teachers and their infrastructure.

We need to continue to make sure those HBCUs are funded consistently and appropriately. Let's make sure we put aside any differences and make sure those funds are available so that our great HBCUs and minority-serving institutions across the country can continue to operate and plan.

We need to honor the legacy of Dr. Carver, which is one of the reasons I was so proud to introduce a resolution honoring the National Peanut Festival and the peanut industry in the State of Alabama. It is a testament to the importance of the peanut and a time to celebrate its history, our State, and the peanut farming way of life.

I am hopeful that with the advancements of peanut allergy research, we can make sure more people have the ability to enjoy what so many of us

can. I understand that peanut allergies are a real problem around the country and around the world for a lot of people. But advances in research that is going on right now—right now—can make sure we break through and that all who want to can enjoy the value and the taste of those wonderful peanuts. I am not going to go through specifics. I could name all manner of products. I won't do that here today, but I thank you for this opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### ENERGY POVERTY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss the global fight to end poverty and specifically the problem of energy poverty.

The numbers paint a very grim picture. Worldwide, 840 million people are living without electricity. They can't cook or heat their homes safely or reliably. In fact, nearly 3 billion people—3 billion people worldwide—still rely on wood and waste for household energy.

What should the United States do to help? First and foremost, I believe we should push multilateral development banks, like the World Bank, to invest in affordable energy projects, which will help these people. The World Bank's mission is to lift people out of poverty—to help lift people out of poverty. That is their mission. Specifically, it seeks to end extreme poverty while promoting shared prosperity.

For 75 years, the United States has been working with the World Bank to help developing countries grow. The United States remains the World Bank's largest contributor. Every U.S. dollar at the World Bank should make a difference for people in the developing world.

The World Bank's new policies, however, lead me to call for a review by the United States of how U.S. dollars are being used. Several years ago, the World Bank decided to stop financing certain projects—specifically, oil, gas, and coal projects. I am concerned the World Bank is now blocking affordable energy development—energy that is needed to make a positive difference for so many people in the developing world. Traditional fuels are a vital tool for escaping energy poverty. Yet, with the policy change in the World Bank, only renewable energy projects qualify for funding. It seems that the World Bank is putting its liberal political agenda ahead of our anti-poverty mission.

The question is, Does the World Bank still want to help the people living in poor nations today? That is the question. If so, they should be helping with the use of abundant and affordable energy resources. If not, then I think the United States must reevaluate our support for the World Bank.

Here is a case in point: The Bank restricts the financing of high-efficiency power stations fueled by coal. Last fall, for example, the World Bank failed to honor its commitment to the country

of Kosovo. The Bank pulled its funding from Kosovo's state-of-the-art, coal-fired powerplant—state of the art—needed in Kosovo. Kosovo faces an energy security barrier to grow. They don't have enough energy to grow the way they are prepared to. Kosovo has the fifth largest coal reserves in the world. Kosovo desperately needs to retire its older facility.

I saw this firsthand last month when I was visiting members of the Wyoming National Guard stationed in northern Kosovo. This decision by the World Bank is simply unacceptable.

What are other countries doing? China and Russia, meanwhile, are dramatically increasing their global investment in identical carbon-based energy projects. The World Bank is saying: Go ask China. Go ask Russia. South Africa, for example, is now working with China's development bank on its coal-fired powerplant. There are serious concerns when our allies work with China and Russia. These include lower standards, dependence on these countries, and undue political influence.

A number of Members in the Senate share my concern. On Thursday, I led a group of a dozen Senators in urging the World Bank to immediately lift these harmful restrictions. My letter to the President of the World Bank, President David Malpass, was cosigned by Senators BOOZMAN, CAPITO, COTTON, CRAMER, CRUZ, ENZI, HOEVEN, JOHNSON, KENNEDY, MURKOWSKI, and THUNE. Together, we are pressing the World Bank to recommit to an "all of the above" energy strategy. Developing countries desperately need affordable, reliable energy.

We say in our letter:

People living in poor and developing nations want and need a stable energy supply. They are looking for power generation that provides energy security, helps create jobs, and improves their lives.

People back home in Wyoming know firsthand the benefits of developing abundant energy resources. The United States is a top global energy producer. Wyoming has played a key role in this success. We have produced our way to a booming U.S. economy, and we have created millions of new jobs along the way. People who are struggling worldwide to survive and thrive in developing countries deserve that same opportunity. As an energy powerhouse, America can help empower our allies and our energy exports.

Global philanthropist Bill Gates said: "Increasing access to electricity is critical to lifting the world's poor out of poverty. Let me repeat. "Increasing access to electricity is critical to lifting the world's poor out of poverty."

Ultimately, the solution to energy poverty doesn't lie in limiting options but in using all available options. In pursuit of its mission, the World Bank must embrace, not exclude, abundant, affordable energy resources.

Let's work together to end energy poverty now for the 840 million people

on the planet living without electricity.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, about a month ago there was a headline in one of the publications that people pay attention to that read: "Senate Republicans Amp Up Pressure for an USMCA Vote." USMCA, by the way, is an acronym for the new trade agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the United States. I initially thought it was "United States Marine Corps Always," but that is not the case. About nine of us came to the floor and pointed out this was imperative, and if we were going to have a new trade agreement to replace NAFTA, if we could at least get some price recovery and also make some progress with regard to Canada and Mexico—historically great trading partners—it might be a good thing to get the USMCA passed. That was a month ago.

We were assured, at that particular time, by folks over in the House of Representatives—our colleagues over there—that they would do everything in their power to see if we could get it done. It is not done. Still, it is not done. Still, farmers, ranchers, growers, and everybody connected with agriculture, and, for that matter, trade, certainly have been waiting and waiting. Times in farm country, as I think most people know, are pretty rough these days. So at least passing USMCA would be something everybody could agree to.

I rise in support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement again—1 month later. It is time to move forward and pass this important legislation now. "Now," that is my acronym for "right away," "yesterday."

As chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I want to talk about not only my producers in Kansas but all producers throughout these United States and across the country. Time and again, we have asked why there is a delay. Farmers tell me, time and again, they wonder what on Earth is going on back there. Well, that is obvious to everybody, with the "i" word being considered over in the House, but even with that, this is a situation where, if that were brought up to a vote, both the administration and House Members—both sides of the aisle—it would pass, more so especially since our Trade Ambassador, Robert Lighthizer, has been working with my colleagues across the aisle over there in an effort to settle labor issues and also environmental concerns.

I have been down that road before with the Honorable Kika de la Garza, the late Kika de la Garza, but a wonderful man who was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. I was the ranking member and then became the chairman. We worked on NAFTA, writing that bill. We would revert to that bill, but after months and months, there was finally an agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States. We were ready to do this, and it had to go to the House of Representatives. Ambassador Lighthizer and Bob—he used to work for Bob Dole, a good friend of mine—had been working with Democrats over time on these two issues. He tells me he is pretty close to a deal—except we are not. Now, Ambassador Lighthizer, on behalf of the administration, is not going to send this deal, if you will, this trade agreement, to the House unless there is a clear intention that it will be brought up. He doesn't want to be held hostage. So the House has to move.

I want to continue to point out that USMCA, this new trade agreement, will not only increase market access for farmers and provide new opportunities for dairy, poultry, for egg producers, for all the commodities we talk about—wheat, corn, et cetera—but it will also address longstanding nontariff barriers that will help our Kansas farmers export wheat to Canada.

That used to be the case with Mexico. The Kansas winter wheat, once harvested, would get on the Kansas City railroad, down to Mexico. They would sell the wheat to Mexico, where they sorely needed it. It was a very good business trade agreement. That has pretty much dried up.

Let me go back to 2017. At that particular time, 110,000 Kansas jobs were supported by trade with Canada and Mexico, and, I am sure, the neighboring States are even equal to that or much more than that.

While many of those jobs are spread across all sectors of the economy, many are tied to the agriculture value chain; that is, farmers, ranchers, and growers, to the consumer.

In total, Kansas exports \$4 billion of products to Canada and Mexico each year—\$800 million from agriculture alone. It is nearly impossible for me to overstate the importance of this trade deal to my home State of Kansas. We are not going to experience price recovery in farm country because of the supply-demand situation worldwide, and we are in a lot of trouble in farm country. The least we could do is consider USMCA, where we know we have the votes to pass it in both Chambers, both in the House and the Senate.

In fact, the call for Congress to get moving on this trade deal has united more people from different political and professional backgrounds than almost any other issue in recent memory, including organized labor. I recently started a web series, if you will, "Trade Tuesday," to give a platform to the many constituents who have voiced

their support to me by saying: "Pat, where on Earth is the UMCSA bill?" We have featured farmers and manufacturers from around Kansas, including Rich Felts. Rich Felts is a great friend of mine, a farmer from Southeast Kansas, and the president of the Kansas Farm Bureau. Rich hit the nail right on the head. He said:

We are an exporting State. We produce much more than we are ever going to consume [in Kansas], and if we want to grow our economy, specifically our economy in the State, we have to export the excess commodity. I think it is easy to say we want trade, we don't want aide, and this is going to be a step in that direction if we can get this passed by Congress.

I could not agree more with Rich on the importance of this trade deal to farmers and producers in Kansas, but it is not only the agriculture industry that is interested in getting USMCA across the finish line. We have also featured Jason Cox, the president of Cox Machine, Inc., a small aerospace company based in Wichita, KS—typical of the small business community of my State. He recently said:

Trade is very important to our business, both on the raw material supply side as well as the selling side. This USMCA is important for us to help lower the cost of raw material that we buy and pass that savings along to our customers so we can get more work and produce more goods [and also jobs].

Look, my colleagues, it has been nearly a year since President Trump and the leaders of Mexico and Canada signed this new trade agreement. It was November 30, 2018. We are running out of time to get this deal done for folks like Rich and Jason and the many other workers whose livelihoods depend upon trade.

There are deadlines. If we get past the deadline, we will go back to the original NAFTA bill, which—as I look back in my public career, I was happy to work with Kika de la Garza, as I said—the former chairman of the House Ag Committee, and he helped me to write NAFTA at that particular time. As a result, the ag sector has grown by leaps and bounds in not only producing enough food and fiber and other products for our consumers but also for a troubled and hungry world.

We need this trade agreement. I sincerely hope my friends in the House can quickly come to an agreement with the administration so that we can all do what is right by our constituents and get this bill passed this year.

I would point out that the ag chairman today in the House is COLLIN PETERSON. He is a veteran. He is a friend of mine. MIKE CONAWAY is the ranking member—same thing. They are for USMCA. It is bipartisan in the Ag Committee over there.

I would also give a shout-out to Robert Lighthizer, who is our Ambassador, who has been meeting constantly day in and day out—trying to iron out any labor or environment portions of this trade agreement where we have some holdup.

We are not going to go anywhere if we continue to insist on these kinds of

requirements. You know, these are sovereign countries. These are our neighbors. For us to try to dictate labor standards and environmental standards for them is a little much, but I understand that is what we have to do.

I don't know, here, what more we can do. I can come to the floor every day. I can just say that we had 9 Senators here before. I think we could get a mutual agreement to say: Hey, let's get this done. Let's separate it from all of the goings-on that are happening in the House of Representatives today.

I hope Speaker PELOSI—she knows about this. California depends on this big time, and, as Speaker of the entire United States—I am not trying to lecture her or point fingers at her, but she knows exactly what the situation is. If she would just send a signal to Ambassador Lighthizer and we would send that trade pack up and we could get a vote, I think it would pass overwhelmingly, and at least we would have something we could claim we are doing in behalf of our farmers, our ranchers, our growers, and everybody who is supported by the agriculture industry.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

#### PENSIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I come again to speak about what I think of the inequities and unfairness in the system that we have to American workers.

American workers, businesses, and the economy here in the United States are the envy of the world and have been for quite some time. Throughout the history of our country, our citizens have believed that through hard work and dedication, they could achieve the American dream. Unfortunately, that is not always the case, as we know.

Millions of Americans worked hard, played by the rules, and trusted the companies they worked for to keep their end of the bargain. That bargain is their pension. These pensions are modest and what millions of Americans plan to use when they retire in the twilight of their lives.

But for 1.5 million Americans, that security has been pulled out from under them. Why, after working hard for years and forgoing a portion of their paychecks, which they have invested—this is their money matching their employers' for their pension—have they either lost or gotten their pensions cut in half? The answer is the current state of bankruptcy laws.

How does this happen? Every payday, 10.6 million Americans put a portion of their paycheck into a pension account with a promise and trust that it will be there when they retire. These same people forgo pay raises, bonuses, and personal retirement accounts because they believe their pensions will be there until needed.

Unfortunately, that trust is often broken when investment firms swoop in during the bankruptcy process. They cherry-pick at the remains of a company, cannibalizing its most lucrative



assets, therefore putting profits before the people.

Through no fault of the workers in America, companies are able to use their pension money for whatever they want when they declare bankruptcy. Just think about that. All your life, you have been working—20, 30 years or more—and you thought it was always secure. All of a sudden, through the bankruptcy laws, they are able to take your money and use it for whatever they want to now because they declared bankruptcy and went through a procedure.

Under current law, when companies declare bankruptcy, they have the ability to use their workers' pension fund to give their executives bonuses and pay legal costs and debt. I am going to repeat that one. They have the ability to use the workers' pension—your money, workers' money—to give bonuses to the executives, who should be held responsible for the company doing as poorly as it has done to go into bankruptcy, and pay legal costs and debt out of money you put in there for 20 years or more.

For the last few decades, investment firms have manipulated chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code to destroy union contracts, reduce health benefits, and skirt pension obligations to maximize profits. Under current law, investment firms can target companies through chapter 11 bankruptcy, sell off all the company's valuable assets, and leave the pension plan in a worthless corporate shell, while paying handsome bonuses to their executives.

While Congress has sat back and allowed the exploitation that occurs through bankruptcy, millions of workers and retirees have lost their retirement security. Workers and retirees did not set the amount each company contributes to their pension plans, the terms of the plans, or the loopholes in the bankruptcy laws. Those actions were all done right here in the Halls of Congress. As such, it is now the responsibility and duty of Congress to stop the financial engineering and close the loopholes of our Bankruptcy Code.

Let me just talk about one company that affects my State vastly. Last week, the largest private coal company in the United States, Murray Energy, filed for bankruptcy, making it the eighth coal company in the past 12 months to do so. Like so many coal companies before them, they plan to skirt their pension obligations and use coal miners' money to pay off their debts, give their executives bonuses, and pay off legal fees. In the bankruptcy filing, they even labeled coal miners as liabilities.

I don't know about you, but I don't know how any company in good conscience could ever label their employees as liabilities. They are the ones who make the company, but now they are liabilities. That is why they had to go into bankruptcy.

Murray Energy has contributed 97 percent of the money going into the

UMWA pension fund annually. With Murray's bankruptcy filing, the UMWA pension fund will become insolvent even faster. Once the UMWA pension fund becomes insolvent, this crisis will snowball and impact every other multi-employer pension fund in America.

I am going to talk about a couple of cases here to put it in perspective. I think everybody will be able to follow this much easier. I am going to talk about Sears and Roebuck, which we all knew growing up. My mother used to get the catalog way back when, and we used to do most of our shopping there.

This information that I am giving you and I am going to explain comes from a complaint filed by Sears itself in the Southern District of New York in January 2019. This is the old Sears filing against the new Sears—the takeover Sears. This type of financial engineering and exploitation occurred at Sears over the past several years.

After merging with Kmart and being taken over by Eddie Lampert and his hedge fund, ESL Investments, Sears started to buy back its own shares instead of investing in its already run-down stores. Lampert also transferred 235 parcels of Sears' most valuable real estate to an investment trust led by Lampert himself and then leased the properties back to Sears.

In 2017, Sears paid the investment trust owned by Mr. Lampert \$117 million in rent for the use of its former property. Under Lampert and ESL, Sears closed over 3,500 stores, slashed roughly 250,000 jobs, and saw its share price fall from \$193 a share in 2007 to less than \$1. I repeat—\$193 a share in 2007 to less than \$1 a share.

After filing bankruptcy in 2018, Sears no longer possessed enough assets to pay off its creditors—especially its pension obligation. Now those pensions are in the hands of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which is Sears' largest unsecured creditor, and it owes the PBGC more than \$1.5 billion.

Recently, Sears Holdings Corporation filed a lawsuit against former CEO Lampert, alleging that he transferred more than \$2 billion of cash and real estate to himself and other shareholders in the years leading up to the retailer's bankruptcy. That has all been done under what they consider legal.

I am going to tell you about one more. This is Friendly's. Friendly's is an ice cream corporation, and this information comes from the PBGC's complaint opposing Friendly's plan for restructuring. I am telling you, this comes from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which we run in this country—the Federal Government—and they put this complaint against their restructuring.

The same scheme played out with them in early 2000. In 2007, Sun Capital Partners, Inc., a private equity fund, purchased Friendly's for \$337 million. Trying to weather the great recession, Sun forced Friendly's to close 63 stores and take a loan from one of the firm's

affiliate entities. At that point, Sun Capital was both the owner and major creditor of Friendly's. That relationship gave the firm leverage in its bankruptcy to quickly sell much of Friendly's assets free and clear of any pension obligations to one Sun Capital's affiliate. At the end of the bankruptcy, most of Friendly's assets were owned by Sun Capital affiliate free and clear of any pension plans. Those unfunded pension obligations totaled \$115 million and are being assumed by you and I, the taxpayers, through the PBGC. There is nothing fair about any of this that I just explained, no matter how large or how small.

We are talking about righting a wrong that we have allowed to happen. Back in the 1980s, when the bankruptcy laws were changed, I don't think there was a Member here who intended for these type of shenanigans—this type of robbery and thievery to go on in America. It has happened for far too long, and we have a chance to change it.

As the bankruptcy laws continue to allow this type of exploitation to remain, there is a low-profile government agency that is pivotal to the Federal Government's efforts to protect the pension benefits for thousands of American workers and retirees. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation collects insurance premiums from companies that offer pensions and provides a portion of the lost benefit to protect retirees when a pension fund runs out of money. That is an insurance program that the Federal Government has backed up, and the companies have paid into that thinking they are going to be in good standing.

Overall, the PBGC covers benefits for about 44 million people—44 million workers. However, the PBGC has come under tremendous financial pressure as more and more companies have shed their pension debts through the Bankruptcy Code. According to PBGC, there is a 90-percent chance that the union insurance program will run out of money by 2025, leaving it unable to protect pensioners in need. If the exploitation continues and the PBGC is left holding the check for bankrupt companies, taxpayers will, for the first time in history—we taxpayers will, for the first time in history—be on the hook for pensions that were evasively disregarded in exchange for investment company profit—or robbery, actually.

If the PBGC becomes insolvent, taxpayers will be on the hook—listen to this figure. We, as taxpayers, will be on the hook for \$479 billion over the next 30 years, if we allow this to continue.

That is why I have introduced legislation that will reform our bankruptcy laws. It is called the SLAP Act—Stop Looting American Pensions Act. That is exactly what we have allowed to happen for so long. It would ensure companies can no longer exploit loopholes in the Bankruptcy Code to skirt their pension obligations to workers and retirees. My bill would change bankruptcy laws to increase the priority of workers going into bankruptcy

proceedings so the workers are the first priority, not the executive bonuses and legal fees.

What we are doing for the first time is making sure the wage earner, the worker, is in the front of the line, not the back of the line. Right now if a bankruptcy occurs, I guarantee, all of the different reorganization groups that come in, all the different financial groups will be in the front of the line, and the workers are left with nothing. This reverses that procedure.

It is a sad day when American workers across the country pour decades of their life into a company and are denied their pensions due to corporate greed.

I keep hearing CEOs talk about corporate responsibility. Well, I am so thankful to hear those words, "corporate responsibility." This is a step toward putting those words into action. I would like to see the responsible corporate heads of American industry step forward and help us with this needed change. We have to put our workers at the front of the line, and I would like to see that done sooner than later.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JEFFERSON S. BURTON

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I rise to honor Utah's valiant citizen, MG Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, and to pay tribute to him for his many years of devoted service to our Nation and to the great State of Utah.

As General Burton closes a long chapter of 37 years of military service, he leaves behind a tremendous legacy as an American patriot and as a true servant-leader. So I would like to take a moment to talk about General Burton today.

From a young age, General Burton knew that he wanted to follow in the footsteps of a number of his family members by serving both his faith and his country. He served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on a Canadian Indian reservation, braving harsh conditions that would well prepare him for his future of military service.

As soon as he returned home, he enrolled at Brigham Young University, where he enlisted in the National Guard as an artillery field soldier. He joined BYU's ROTC Program, receiving a commission as second lieutenant in 1984.

He completed tours with the U.S. Army Military Police Corps in Alabama; with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO; and with the 7th U.S. Corps in Germany, where he witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In 1991, General Burton left the Army and returned home to join the Utah National Guard, where he served in a variety of distinguished leadership positions over the next decade. Chief among them was a position that in-

involved commanding the 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of the initial ground war in that conflict.

He and his troops were tasked with searching for and eliminating explosive devices, improving Embassy security, and improvising whenever necessary to strengthen security in and around the U.S. Embassy, and of course responding to bombings and other acts of terror. They were often the first ones on the scene of an explosion. In honor of his heroic service there, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

General Burton was appointed assistant adjutant general of the Utah National Guard in 2008, promoted to brigadier general just a few months later, and then made major general and adjutant general in 2012. In this role, General Burton has trained and equipped over 7,000 soldiers under his command and helped them to prepare to respond to challenges in both military life and in their personal lives.

He has prepared them not only to fight our Nation's wars and provide military support to our troops throughout the world but to combat wildfires, respond to natural disasters, and ensure law and order in our communities. Under his leadership, they have performed at an absolutely remarkable and, indeed, exceptional caliber.

When the 100,000-soldier surge in Afghanistan ended in 2012, General Burton was also responsible for overseeing the needs of the soldiers returning home from war. He rose to the challenge, tending to both the physical and emotional needs of those warriors and their families with the utmost care. As he himself has once said, "May we make a silent promise to keep the faith with our battle buddies and wingmen. . . . May we be strong for one another, and unashamedly rush to the aid of those in need. May we remember those who have suffered grievous physical wounds in the defense of liberty, and may we never forget those who have given the ultimate sacrifice within our formations so that we might live in freedom."

General Burton has lived by these words over his long and dedicated career. Every day he keeps a note tucked in the band of his hat. That note contains the list of the soldiers who were killed in combat or during 9/11 under his command. He has led by example, never asking of his soldiers something that he himself has not done. He has led in order to serve, striving always to protect the welfare of his command, of our country, of the U.S. Constitution, and of the freedoms it protects.

So it is only fitting that we honor him today. On behalf of our Nation and all Utahns, I thank MG Jeff Burton for the sacrifices he and his family have made to secure the freedoms we hold dear. I congratulate him on this occasion and wish him many happy years ahead with his wife, Charn, and their children.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ATTACK IN SONORA, MEXICO

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I now wish to speak briefly regarding a tragedy that occurred just in the last 48 hours—a tragedy that occurred in the northern Mexican state of Sonora, a tragedy in which a handful of U.S. citizens—the precise number of victims still not known—but a number of U.S. citizens were murdered in cold blood. This attack was inflicted in a most gruesome manner and was carried out against a group which included men, women, and children.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of the victims. My thoughts and prayers are also extended to the administration of President Lopez Obrador in Mexico, whose inauguration I attended just a few months ago.

This is a sobering task to have to identify the source of such a heinous and barbaric crime. I have every expectation, every hope, and every confidence in those who are assigned on both sides of the border to investigate this crime, figure out who did it, and to bring those responsible to justice.

Mexico is a good neighbor to us. We have about \$1.6 billion or \$1.7 billion every single day that crosses over our shared southern border. Mexico has been a good neighbor, a solid trade partner, and a country with which we share many interests. It is a country that desperately needs our prayers right now and our help and assistance.

It has been publicly reported that President Trump and his administration are eager to help President Lopez Obrador in combating and detecting whoever was responsible for this heinous crime and bringing them to justice. I hope and implore the Lopez Obrador administration to accept President Trump's generous offer to help.

This is not an easy task. If, in fact, this was an act, as it appears quite possible to have been, of a Mexican-based drug cartel, this is a big problem. It is a big problem either way. These drug cartels are no small threat to the safety and security of not only the people of Mexico but also the people of the United States.

Think about it. Imagine someone sees in their next-door neighbor's backyard a poisonous snake—a poisonous snake that is big and that is headed toward his property. Is that neighbor going to stop and ignore that snake? In many circumstances, that neighbor is going to take action. He might not wait until his neighbor comes home to give the go-ahead to take care of that snake. Why? Because that snake is headed toward his own backyard where his own children are playing.

This is not something we can trifle with. This is a matter of utmost seriousness for the safety and security of the Mexican people and also the people of the United States.

I applaud the Lopez Obrador administration for its efforts to root out corruption and to bring justice to the drug cartels. This brazen attack within the last 48 hours signals a need to do more. This is why I am so grateful to President Trump that he was willing to reach out and offer the assistance that can be provided by the United States. I urge President Lopez Obrador to accept it and to do so very soon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President. First of all, I have never come to the floor of the Senate—and previously of the House—as ill-prepared as today, but I want to follow up on something my friend from Utah just spoke about, and that is the attack on the innocent people in the last 48 hours. When I learned of it last night, I was stunned.

I just got off the phone a few minutes ago with the brother and sister of one of the victims. A young mother, Anita Miller, was killed along with her four children. They were in the first SUV that was shot up and burnt. They were on their way to Phoenix to pick up their dad from North Dakota—Howard—who was working on an oil rig as this occurred. I just talked to Howard's brother Kenny and his sister Heather.

All of the Millers and the LeBarons who are victims of this have many, many family members in North Dakota. They have lots of businesses in the State of North Dakota. They are hard-working, faithful people.

It was a hard phone call to make. This was a hard message to deliver. And I didn't really know what to deliver except that I wanted them to know that the people of their country and the United States are hugging the people of their country, Mexico, and that what they have experienced is certainly the personification of evil in the form of these thugs from this cartel, for sure. They are people who kill with reckless abandon. They have no regard for life, even the life of innocent children. But we serve a God who personifies pure good, and the greatest response to pure evil is pure good.

Kenny and I had a particularly long talk regarding his family—what they are experiencing and what is going on. They wanted me to know that they support the United States as well as their country. They wanted me to tell the President that they support what he is doing and appreciate his offer of help to the Mexican Government.

I told them that there is lots of time for talking about the response of one government working with another but that, right now, grief is sort of the emotion of the moment, and remembering their loved ones is important, and we would be doing it as a Congress, as an administration, as a country, and as the State of North Dakota, which embraces these people we know and love so much. We will do what needs to be done, and we stand ready, first of all, to hold them up in prayer and to share their burden with them.

I wanted to express as much as anything that their burden is ours today and that, to the degree we can share a burden like this, we are sharing it. We will react. We will respond in whatever way is appropriate and whatever way we can.

I join Senator LEE in gratitude to President Trump for his reaching out and his offer of assistance. It can't be easy to live in a country or even to rule a country where the cartels are so powerful, where their weapons are as good as, if not better than, the weapons of the police and maybe even the military. It can't be easy to stand up to that, but with good friends and allies and neighbors, perhaps now, perhaps this event and perhaps the grief of these families will be the things that bring two countries together to fight this evil.

I will end as I began and look forward to future days when we speak more thoroughly about it and there is more information on it, but to remind perhaps ourselves as much as anything, the only effective response to pure evil is pure love. As people of faith, we know pure love is personified in our Lord. So tonight, my message to the families in Mexico, North Dakota, and Utah is that we love them. We love them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### HEALTHCARE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I wanted to speak for a few minutes today to talk a little bit about rural healthcare and to ask my colleagues for help in protecting the 20 percent of Americans who live in rural areas who are in danger of losing—or may have lost entirely—access to healthcare in their communities.

Since 2010, 118 rural hospitals have shut their doors. Fourteen of those facilities are in my State of Tennessee. Medical practitioners are paying attention to this trend and, more often than not, choose stability in the cities and suburbs over the uphill battle that comes with practicing medicine without access to the funding and modern resources many clinics now take for granted. As a result, rural patients are left to suffer through illnesses or emergencies or sacrifice time, money, and mileage for even the chance of a diagnosis. This system is broken, but this year, I have been able, by working with my colleagues on each side of the aisle, to kind of pick up the pieces around this.

I have a three-bill rural health agenda, which comes at the direct request of smalltown mayors and local leaders who are struggling in my State to keep

these communities afloat. Last week, my fellow Tennesseans, Congressmen KUSTOFF and ROE, introduced House companions to all three pieces of legislation.

I will tell you, I have been talking to Tennesseans, and they want my colleagues in the Senate to know what we should do about this issue. If you have never lived in a rural area, hearing someone talk about driving 20 or 30 minutes to the nearest doctor probably really doesn't seem like a problem to you. But in the country, 30 minutes away translates into miles of driving through isolated areas. Chances are good that you will not even have cell service for part of that drive. There are no EMTs or rapid response teams. And if there is a local doctor, he or she may not have any specialized expertise, which could spell disaster for patients dealing with a complicated diagnosis.

The first component of the agenda is the Telehealth Across State Lines Act, which would lead to the creation of uniform, national best practices for the provision of telemedicine across State lines and set up a grant program to expand existing telehealth programs and incentivize the adoption of telehealth by Medicare and Medicaid Programs. But implementation of telehealth will not eliminate the need for face-to-face interactions between patients and doctors.

This leads us to another problem. Rural communities keep themselves afloat on strapped budgets, which means that plans to open as much as a bare-bones urgent care facility can be derailed by all the startup costs. The Rural Health Innovation Act—the second part of the agenda—features two grant programs. The first one will fund the expansion of existing healthcare centers—such as local nursing homes—into urgent care walk-in clinics. Facilities will be able to use grant money to purchase equipment, hire physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other essential staff.

A second grant program will expand rural health departments to meet urgent care and triage needs. This is using programs that already exist, tailoring them to the needs of rural America.

Of course, this points out the third issue: Expanded facilities are useless if there are no medical personnel. I have been working on this problem with my friend from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, and he spoke about this on the floor a few minutes ago. We recognized from the beginning that throwing money and equipment at an updated facility will not convince medical professionals to establish a rural practice, so we wrote the Rural America Health Corps Act to encourage practitioners to set up shop in rural areas. The bill creates a new student loan repayment program that doctors and other medical professionals can take advantage of. In exchange for those loan payments, they will have to agree to serve for at least 5 years in a rural area with a health

professional shortage, but the benefit comes tax-free.

I have spoken to rural communities all across my State. I know Senator DURBIN has talked across the State of Illinois. I will tell you that these bills don't simply address a matter of convenience. My fellow Tennesseans want my colleagues to know they aren't just frustrated with the long drives and unanswered questions. They are worried that their child's cough will turn into pneumonia before they are allowed a full day off from work to drive to a pediatrician. They have no idea what they would do if they were diagnosed with an illness that requires continuous care.

They do, however, know what would probably happen if someone they love suffered a heart attack or had another major emergency. They are very fearful.

If these bills pass, they will no longer have to live with the knowledge that they have been abandoned by our healthcare system. They will have access to healthcare in their communities.

I ask my colleagues to let these people know that yes, indeed, somebody is listening, and I ask them to do so by cosponsoring Senate bills 2406, 2408, and 2411.

I yield the floor.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Tapp nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. 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 yeas and nays are ordered.

All time has expired.

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

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 344 Ex.]

YEAS—85

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

NAYS—8

Gillibrand	Menendez	Schumer
Hirono	Merkley	Stabenow
Markey	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Isakson	Warren
Burr	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

John Thune, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, Mitch McConnell.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 345 Ex.]

YEAS—75

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

NAYS—18

Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Markey	Schumer
Duckworth	Menendez	Stabenow
Durbin	Merkley	Tester
Gillibrand	Murray	Udall

NOT VOTING—7

Booker	Isakson	Warren
Burr	Klobuchar	
Harris	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 75, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Danielle J. Hunsaker, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

HEALTHCARE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Thank you, Madam President.

This weekend, thousands of Tennesseans and, of course, millions across this Nation are going to pause and give thanks for our veterans. Quite frankly, this is something we should be doing every single day.

I am just amazed and so grateful that there are men and women, like the Presiding Officer, who have worn the uniform and who have served—brave men and women who wake up every day in some of the most dangerous places on the face of the Earth and do a job that would bring many of us to our knees. We look at this and say it is basically impossible.

When our veterans have done their part and come home, they find themselves facing another set of struggles. The challenges the veterans face are well documented, and we hear about them: long waits and long lines at VA hospitals and clinics, long recoveries from battle wounds that they have suffered, and severe emotional and mental health struggles that, if left untreated, could end in tragedy. There are systems in place to help our returning heroes. We just need to be using these correctly.

Earlier this year, the VA OIG—Office of Inspector General—released a report showing that the agency's system for keeping track of controlled prescriptions had almost entirely broken down. Think about that. We are in the middle of an opioid crisis in this country. There is a system in place, but the VA's system for keeping track of all of these prescriptions had almost entirely broken down. This is truly unacceptable.

Pretty much what is happening is this: The State-operated prescription drug monitoring program—or PDMP—contains valuable information about what drugs veterans are being prescribed outside of the VA healthcare system. VA clinicians are supposed to check this database before prescribing opioid-based and other controlled medications to make sure their patients—that patient in front of them, that veteran in front of them—are not receiving too many pills from multiple sources.

Get this. That Office of Inspector General report—the OIG report—showed that 73 percent of our VA patients who were prescribed opioids walked out of the pharmacy, medication in hand, without a VA clinician ever having performed the minimum required checks. So the system is there. It could be utilized, but what happens? The clinician gives the prescription but never checks the database in 73 percent of the cases.

This failure to follow through puts 19 percent of those patients at risk for problems with their care coordination, and almost half of those VA patients were under long-term care for chronic pain and were at a higher risk for opioid-use disorder and overdose.

We hear about these reports time and again, and we say: How in the world could this possibly happen? How could this be acceptable? It is not.

We look at how it has happened, and here is what we found out. It happened because the VA didn't make the rules clear enough.

Get this. Officials highly recommended that clinicians submit a

PDMP query, but they didn't explicitly state that it was required under existing VHA directives, and there were no national oversight controls to act as a backstop. So the rule is there, but a bureaucrat, a clinician, says: Well, they recommend it, but it is not required, so I will skirt that.

Along with their report, the OIG handed the VA a laundry list of recommendations, including directives to develop national oversight programs, better train their clinicians—that one should be an imperative—and embed accountability checks into the technology used to track patient care. VA officials have submitted now-approved corrective action plans, and we thank the VA Secretary for this. It is our job to make sure that they do follow through with this.

The lack of organization that turned VA clinics into unwitting pill pushers has made it almost impossible for veterans to seek help during times of mental and emotional distress.

In September, the VA published a report that confirmed our worst fears. As of 2017, there has been no significant change in veteran suicide rates. In 2017, the suicide rate for veterans in Tennessee hit 32.6 percent, which is significantly higher than the overall national suicide rate. It will take more than 1 day of recognition to fix this. It is going to take commitment and an all-hands-on-deck approach.

I am an original cosponsor of the Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act, which will help vets connect to the over 50,000 existing suicide prevention programs that are ready and waiting to be helpful. The bill will also give regulators a tool to measure how effective these programs are. It is a good start, but it is not enough.

Earlier this year, President Trump launched the PREVENTS Initiative, and we thank him for this attention to the needs of our veterans. PREVENTS establishes a cabinet-level task force responsible for finding the root causes of disconnect between veterans and helpful services from the VA and private organizations. Their job is to develop a strategy for Federal, State, and community leaders to engage with veterans, improve research and access to resources, and work from the ground up to prevent suicide.

Here is the caveat: This will work only if we remain in constant contact with veterans back home and use those interactions to find the cracks that veterans continue to fall through.

For years, we have listened to frustrated complaints from agency officials insisting that untangling the VA's procedural knots is an exercise in futility. Sometimes you hear: Well, it just can't be done. We do things this way because we have always done things this way. That is not necessarily true. We do them because oversight has not been exercised.

It is time for all of us—not just lawmakers and rulemakers—to finally accept that “honoring their service”—

honoring the service of these heroes—means helping these heroes heal when they need it and not leaving them at the mercy of a broken and bloated bureaucracy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture votes on the Rudofsky and Wilson nominations occur at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 6. I further ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote on the Hunsaker nomination occur at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 6, and that following the disposition of the Hunsaker nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Nardini nomination. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the Rudofsky, Wilson, and Nardini nominations, that the confirmation votes occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader on Thursday, November 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN MCDANIEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this upcoming Veterans Day gives every American the opportunity to pause and pay tribute to the many sacrifices of those men and women who served in our Armed Forces. Out of devotion to this country and our values, these brave servicemembers made the world a safer place. It is a sincere privilege to extend my gratitude to each and every one of them.

I am especially proud to recognize the nearly 300,000 American veterans who call Kentucky home. After their military service, many of these Kentuckians came home and continued selflessly giving to their communities and our Nation. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to a special Kentucky veteran today, Dan McDaniel of Kenton County. Six days after he graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1972, Dan became one of the final draftees his community sent into the Army during the Vietnam war. Following his basic training, Dan was sent with his wife, Linda, to Augsburg, Germany, as a field artillery crewman. He

served there until he received an honorable discharge that brought the couple home to Kenton County.

Using his degree in social studies, Dan taught history for a short time in Northern Kentucky. Then, a few years later, Dan and his brother Mike started a small concrete company out of their basements. For nearly four decades, Mike and Dan grew their business and earned respect in Northern Kentucky and the greater region as full service concrete contractors. In 2008, the brothers sold their business to Dan's son, Chris, who runs the company to this day.

The family business isn't the only way Chris has followed his father's footsteps, however. After graduating from The Citadel, Chris served 4 years in the Army as an infantry officer. Today, he is continuing to serve the Bluegrass State as a prominent member of the Kentucky State Senate. Like so many veterans, both Dan and Chris continue to make lasting contributions to their community, our Commonwealth, and this great Nation.

So, on this Veterans Day, I am grateful to all those who served our country in uniform. Our Commonwealth is made safer because of their service and stronger because of their example. To Dan and Chris McDaniel, all Kentucky veterans, and their families, it is an honor to say thank you.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN OTT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to recognize Kathleen "Kathy" Ott, who recently retired from her role as the Director of the Library of Congress' Congressional Relations Office after 11 years of dedicated service to the Library and to Congress.

Appointed in 2008 by former Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, Kathy was sought after by the Library for her extensive experience interfacing with Congress from both the public and private sectors. As the director of the Library's Congressional Relations Office, she spent more than a decade of her career building strong bipartisan relationships between the Library, Congress, and congressional staff.

Kathy has had the privilege of serving two Librarians of Congress, Dr. James Billington and Dr. Carla D. Hayden. Kathy was instrumental in supporting Dr. Hayden's confirmation process. With the help of Kathy's tireless effort throughout the nomination process, Dr. Hayden was overwhelmingly confirmed in a bipartisan fashion by the Senate during the 114th Congress.

In her time at the Library, Kathy has shaped the Library's relationship with Congress through 3 Presidential administrations, 6 Congresses, and 11 budget and appropriations cycles, building bipartisan support for Library of Congress initiatives along the way. Additionally, she worked with 10 different chairs of the Senate Rules and Admin-

istration Committee and House Administration Committee. As a member of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, I always appreciated Kathy's thorough and dutiful commitment to her role, the Library, and Congress.

During her tenure, Kathy has welcomed nearly 500 new Members of Congress during their freshman orientation activities hosted at the Library. She also created the bipartisan Library of Congress Caucus in the 111th Congress, which currently has 84 Representatives. Moreover, she helped to coordinate the congressional participation in the award of the Library's Gershwin Prize for Popular Song to the likes of Sir Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Smokey Robinson, as well as other noteworthy musical artists.

In her position, Kathy also played an integral role in the launch of the Library's popular Congressional Dialogue Dinner Series in 2013, which has just concluded its 45th dinner. Marcelle and I have had the pleasure of enjoying many wonderful nights at the Library attending these delightful dinners and discussions.

Marcelle and I have had so many wonderful experiences with Kathy. I have to mention one especially. When Pope Francis came to speak to a joint meeting of Congress, Kathy had arranged to have a special Bible from the Library's collection available to be blessed by the Pope. She knew the Pope would bless it, so she arranged to have with it several religious medals and other things important to her and her family available to be a part of the blessing. I know the Pope didn't mind, and those of us there thought, "This is why we think the world of her."

Kathy has always been known as a reliable and trusted source for Library of Congress information. She will be greatly missed by Members of Congress and congressional staff alike. Marcelle and I wish Kathy the best in retirement.

#### BAT WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in the midst of fall celebrations such as Halloween or, for fans in Washington and Houston, the World Series, I want to take a moment to highlight another important annual celebration that occurred last week: Bat Week.

It is fitting that last week, the Senate approved an appropriations bill to fund the Fish and Wildlife Service. At this time each year, we join our friends at the Fish and Wildlife Service, conservation groups around the world, and bat enthusiasts to recognize the irreplaceable role of bats and to highlight our urgent fight to protect them.

Many do not know the profound impact that bats have on our environment and our economy. For an agricultural state like Vermont, bats are vital to both our ecosystem and our economy. They control pests, pollinate crops, and even spread seeds. Some

farmers would consider bats among their best friends. For years, I have worked on the Appropriations Committee to prioritize funding for habitat conservation and to stop the spread of white-nose syndrome. I am proud that the fiscal year 2020 Interior bill once again responds to the call of the bat signal and provides more than \$7 million to combat white-nose, a disease that has devastated bat communities across the country.

So once again I hope Senators will join me in recognizing the importance of bat and keep the advocacy behind Bat Week going throughout the year.

#### RECOGNIZING VERMONT'S MAPLE INDUSTRY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Vermont sets the gold standard for the maple industry, and maple is integral to our State's economy and to our State's identity. The Vermont families and businesses that keep this sector vibrant and viable are also an essential part of the fabric of our State. I am proud to recognize one of those businesses today. Nestled along the western slopes of Vermont's highest peak, Mount Mansfield, Runamok Maple is one of the roughly 1500 sugar producers in Vermont that produce nearly half of the Nation's maple syrup. Owned and operated by Laura and Eric Sorkin, Runamok Maple exemplifies the innovation and entrepreneurship that is revitalizing communities across Vermont.

Maple sugaring is a tradition carried forward and refined by each new generation of Vermonters. The Sorkins themselves benefited from the mentorship of nearby sugar producers before launching their own business a decade ago. In 2016, recognizing an opportunity, they pumped money and energy into a diversification effort that included a retail line of flavor-infused and barrel-aged syrups, all packaged and branded for the direct sales market. Two years later, I was proud to support funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission that in turn allowed Fairfax, VT, to expand wastewater infrastructure to Runamok's new manufacturing home, an old facility that once manufactured Scrabble game tiles. The improvements enabled Runamok's expansion from 45 to 100 employees and revitalized a part of the historic town.

Through their products, writings, and creativity, the Sorkins and their outstanding staff are not only producing world-class value-added products, they are changing how people think about maple syrup. Long gone are the days when it was considered a mere condiment for pancakes. I was not surprised, then, to see Runamok Maple featured in a recent Washington Post article about the many possibilities of Vermont's sweetest export.

In recognition of the families across our State who continue to keep this bedrock Vermont sector thriving, I ask

unanimous consent to have that article printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 2, 2019]

**BEFORE YOU POUR ALL THAT MAPLE SYRUP ON YOUR PANCAKES, HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT**

(By Becky Krystal)

It's fall, so you can take your pumpkin spice and . . . enjoy it in your deodorant, candles, lattes and, well, seemingly everything. Me? When I think of fall flavors, I think about maple syrup. It is actually a bit odd when you consider that spring is the season when producers collect and cook down the sap from the maple trees. Still, I'm going to stick with my convictions, because maple syrup to me evokes New England and flannel and colorful foliage, all of which are the essence of fall.

And no, it's not just sweet. "Maple syrup is a lot more complex than sugar," says Laura Sorkin, who owns Vermont-based Runamok Maple with her husband, Eric. "There's a lot more nuance than what you would get with granulated sugar." The flavor can vary depending on the time of year, but Sorkin says toffee, caramel, honey and apple are among the notes she can pick out. There's also a balance of sweetness and acidity.

We've all poured maple syrup over our pancakes and waffles. Maybe even a little too much—that stuff is \$\$\$! Here's what you need to know about how to better understand, appreciate and use that liquid gold. (Sorry, Mimi.)

The grades. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture updated its maple grades to come into line with standards already adopted by several states and Canada. One of the goals with the new grades was to give consumers better descriptors of flavor and color, as well as allow some of the very dark syrup previously classified as B grade to be folded into the A grade, providing easier access for home cooks. Sorkin says it's worth keeping in mind that the strength of flavor does not always occur in a smooth progression along with color, as you can get a lighter-colored syrup with an intense taste and a darker that's milder.

Still, here is the rundown of how the government describes the grades aimed at individual buyers (there is a processing grade that can be used by manufacturers making other products), ordered from least to most intense, as well as early to late season:

Grade A, golden color/delicate flavor: "Mild maple taste," according to the USDA. You might know this from its previous grade, Fancy. The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association suggests serving this grade with the expected breakfast fare or rich dairy, such as ice cream or yogurt.

Grade A, amber color/rich flavor: "A full-bodied maple taste of medium intensity," the USDA says. If you choose only one grade, Sorkin says, it should be this one. It's great on waffles and pancakes, but the Vermont association also recommends it for salad dressings, cocktails and barbecue sauce.

Grade A, dark color/robust flavor: The USDA is less helpful on the last two grades, explaining that this grade has a stronger taste than the lighter colors. You don't say. Anyway, our friends from Vermont like to take advantage of its hearty flavor by pouring it over baked fruit and vegetables and using it as a glaze for meat and vegetables. It can also shine in baking.

Grade A, very dark/strong flavor: You guessed it—"a maple taste that is stronger than robust." Okay then! What say you, Vermont? "When you need a strong maple

flavor in a bread or cookie, ice cream, or barbecue sauce, this is the grade of choice."

Storage. Keep unopened maple syrup in a cool, dry spot, out of direct light. The Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association recommends storing opened maple syrup in the refrigerator. Or to keep it in very good shape, you can freeze it, going through as many freezing and thawing cycles as you want, the group says, as long as you let it thaw completely and stir in any condensation that forms on the top of the syrup.

Even when properly stored, maple syrup can crystallize. In "The Clever Cook's Kitchen Handbook: 5,037 Ingenious Hints, Secrets, Shortcuts, and Solutions," author David Joachim suggests heating the jar of syrup in a pan of hot water over low heat until the crystals dissolve. (Move the syrup to a glass jar or heatproof bowl if it's in plastic.) Or, try microwaving it for 10 to 15 seconds on medium power. Of course, you can consider it candy and just eat the crystals, too. Joachim says you can salvage moldy maple syrup by scraping or straining out the mold and bringing the syrup to a full boil and returning it to a clean jar or bottle.

Substituting. "Maple syrup is about as sweet as sugar, so you can replace it using an equal amount of syrup," according to the Vermont-based experts at King Arthur Flour. "Decrease the liquid by 3 to 4 tablespoons per 1 cup substitution." If you're adding maple syrup to a recipe that doesn't call for liquid, you need to increase the flour by 1 tablespoon for every ¼ cup maple syrup used. KAF emphasizes using room temperature maple syrup, because if it's cold, it can cause other ingredients, including butter, to clump. If you use a darker grade, expect a "delightfully caramelly" flavor.

Flavoring your own. Runamok's eclectic infused syrups include such flavors as hibiscus, makrut lime-leaf, smoked chile pepper and ginger. (Here's a link to a coffee syrup in our archives.) If you're interested in creating your own infusions, especially with whole spices, Sorkin suggests gently heating the syrup and letting the ingredients steep for a few hours. Taste every so often to see whether you've achieved the right level of flavor. Keep in mind that it's better to be conservative than add too much or steep too long.

Uses. "I would just love it if people would start thinking beyond pancakes," Sorkin says. She notes that honey has really come into its own as an ingredient to be appreciated and used in a variety of ways and hopes the time will come soon for maple syrup. Maple syrup on a cheese board? Go for it! In Vermont, people have been putting maple syrup in their coffee for a long time, and Sorkin says it works in tea, too, particularly a black variety (try it in chai). She is, as you would expect, a proponent of maple syrup in cocktails.

Sorkin says maple syrup can be lost in flour-heavy baked goods, so she prefers to save it for situations when it can really shine, such as in frostings (buttercream or cream cheese), glazes and a simple syrup applied to a cake. It can be used in a wide variety of savory applications, too, adding just the right balance when played against other flavors. Sorkin, who trained at the French Culinary Institute in New York (now the International Culinary Center), likes to add a drizzle on top of a sweet potato and tahini dip. Her other recipes include maple vinaigrettes, roasted cabbage and crispy tofu. Always worth considering: Maple butter.

Need some more ideas? Here are a few contenders from our archives:

Frozen Maple Mousse. This is very much like a no-chum ice cream, which you can drizzle with a bit more maple syrup, naturally.

Maple Olive Oil Pecan Granola. Here's another way to incorporate maple syrup into

your breakfast that does not involve pancakes or waffles.

Maple Spiced Glazed Nuts. These are definitely worth adding to your party food repertoire—they make an ideal game-day snack.

Grilled Maple-Marinated Portobello Mushrooms. Maple syrup is paired with soy sauce and earthy mushrooms for an umami-rich meatless main.

Maple-Chipotle Basting Sauce. Consider using a darker grade for this sauce, which is right at home on pork or any other grilled meat.

## RECOGNIZING VERMONT'S AWARD-WINNING CHEESEMAKERS

Mr. LEAHY, Madam President, earlier this year, Vermonters who are expanding and elevating one of Vermont's most honored products—cheese—were recognized with a record number of ribbons at the American Cheese Society's 36th Annual Awards competition in Richmond, VA. I am delighted, though not surprised, that a total of 44 Vermont cheeses won awards, including 5 that were finalists for Best of Show. Many of these cheeses are featured every year at our annual Taste of Vermont, held here on Capitol Hill each May.

Vermont's talented Vermont cheesemakers have brought home top awards from this competition each year, but never before has the State been a winner across so many categories. Despite its small size, Vermont was in the top three States for the number of awards earned—a significant accomplishment for this bedrock sector in our State.

The winners came from every corner of Vermont, every scale of production, and for many varieties of cheese. Large producers, like the Cabot Creamery Cooperative, which represents hundreds of farm families, came home as winners. So, too, did small operations like Barn First Creamery, which is home to just 32 goats and 2 farmer-cheesemakers. This contrast and diverse success is a fitting illustration of Vermont's agricultural landscape.

The Vermont Cheese Council helped to support the Vermont cheesemakers involved in the American Cheese Society's competition by providing technical assistance and marketing support. This council's foundational role is to help produce and advance Vermont-made cheese. The success of Vermont cheesemakers at this year's American Cheese Society's Annual Awards is just the latest testament to its effectiveness. Similar to the American Cheese Society, the Vermont Cheese Council provides the public and food professionals with educational events to learn more about cheese and cheese making throughout the State.

Cheese is a staple for Vermont agriculture and value added production, with over 45 cheesemakers—the most per capita of any State—throughout Vermont working with sheep, goats, and multiple cow breeds, to produce world-class artisanal cheese. The State's Department of Tourism and

Marketing provides visitors with a map of the Vermont Cheese Trail created by the Vermont Cheese Council. It features locations where visitors can experience over 150 varieties of cheeses. Great cheese requires great dairy farmers, and both are fundamental to our State's economy and tradition.

I am proud to celebrate the success of all the cheese producers throughout my home State of Vermont and want now to recognize the Vermont cheesemakers receiving awards from this year's American Cheese Council. They include Barn First Creamery, Westfield; Boston Post Dairy, Enosburg Falls; Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Cabot; Fairy Tale Farm, Bridport; Grafton Village Cheese Company, Grafton; Jasper Hill Farm, Greensboro; Maplebrook Farm, Bennington; Mt. Mansfield Creamery, Morrisville; Parish Hill Creamery, West Westminster; Sage Farm Goat Dairy, Stowe; Spring Brook Farm/Farms for City Kids Foundation, Reading; Vermont Creamery, Websterville; Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company, Woodstock; Vermont Shepherd, Putney; and Von Trapp Farmstead, Waitsfield.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HARRIS. Madam President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 234, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 119, Michael T. Liburdi to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 235, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 120, Peter D. Welte to be U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 236 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 119, Michael T. Liburdi to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 237, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 120, Peter D. Welte to be U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 238 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 203, James Wesley Hendrix to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 239 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 203, James Wesley Hendrix to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 240 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 204, Sean D. Jordan to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote

No. 241 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 204, Sean D. Jordan to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 242 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 205, Mark T. Pittman to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 243 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 231, Jeffery Vincent Brown to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 244 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 232, Brantley Starr to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 245 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 233, Stephanie L. Haines to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 247 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 327, Steven D. Grimberg to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 248 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 345, Jason K. Pulliam to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 249 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 350, Martha Maria Pacold to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 250 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 352, Steven C. Seeger to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 251 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 364, William Shaw Stickman IV to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 253 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 205, Mark T. Pittman to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 254 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 231, Jeffrey Vincent Brown to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 255 the confirmation of Executive

Calendar No. 232, Brantley Starr to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 256 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 345, Jason K. Pulliam to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 257 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 350, Martha Maria Pacold to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 258 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 364, William Shaw Stickman IV to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 276 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 233, Stephanie Haines to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 278 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 327, Steven D. Grimberg to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 279 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 352, Steven C. Seeger to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 315 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 359, Frank William Volk, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 316 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 363, Charles R. Eskridge III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 317 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 328, David John Novak, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 318 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 348, Rachel P. Kovner to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 320 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 359, Frank William Volk, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 321 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 363, Charles R. Eskridge III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.



I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 322 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 328, David John Novak, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 323 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 348, Rachel P. Kovner to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO RANDY VEACH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Arkansas Farm Bureau President Randy Veach for his years of dedication to Natural State farm families and rural communities and celebrate his leadership, advocacy, and passion for agriculture as his service as president comes to a close.

As a third-generation farmer, Randy has made advocating for the rural way of life his calling. He grew up on his family's farm in the community of Lost Cane in Mississippi County. He continues farming on that land with his wife Thelma where they grow cotton, soybeans, rice, wheat, corn, and milo.

His commitment to the industry has extended beyond his own fields. For decades, Randy has been a voice for Arkansas agriculture producers, working to develop policies that benefit farmers. He has served in a number of leadership positions at the local level up to the national level. He is a member of the American Farm Bureau board of directors, and in 2015, he was appointed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Trade Advisory Committee for Tobacco, Cotton, and Peanuts.

For 11 years, Randy has been at the helm of Arkansas Farm Bureau where he worked to advance the priorities of farmers and ranchers. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I have been blessed to have Randy's knowledge, experience, and insight to help craft farm bills and ag policy that support Arkansas' agricultural industry and strengthen rural communities throughout our state.

I am grateful for the friendship we have built, for his advice, and most importantly, his service on behalf of our State's farmers and ranchers. Although his time as president is ending, I know his advocacy for agriculture will continue.

I wish Randy and Thelma much happiness in this next chapter of their lives.●

##### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I come forward today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Ne-

vada Farm Bureau Federation. Founded in 1919, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation has been a strong voice for Nevada's farmers and ranchers. Unbeknownst to many, Nevada is home to some of the largest agricultural operations in the Nation, and over the past 100 years, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation has provided a reliable and steady source of advocacy for the agricultural community in the Silver State.

On February 25, 1919, Assemblyman Care C. Tidd of Smith, NV, introduced Nevada Assembly Bill 110 in the Nevada Legislature. The purpose of the bill was to provide for cooperative agricultural and home economics extension work in several counties in accordance with the Smith-Lever Act and provide for the organization of county farm bureaus. Following formation of an authorized county farm bureau, the bill directed that bureau as the official body within county for carrying on extension work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with the Cooperative Services Program and the Land-Grant University System. The first Nevada Farm Bureau office was founded in Lyon County.

Over the course of the past century, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation has evolved from its original form into a private nonprofit organization and strong advocate for the State's farmers and ranchers, voicing the concerns of its membership to policymakers on the local, State and federal levels. Additionally, the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation continues its century-old partnership with Cooperative Extension in the Silver State.

The Nevada Farm Bureau Federation is currently made up of 11 county farm bureau organizations representing nearly 18,000 family members. I am pleased to recognize the Nevada Farm Bureau's 100 years of service to Nevadans and our great State and wish the group well in continuing its work on behalf of farmers and ranchers for many years to come.●

##### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I come before the Senate today to honor the life of Kay Hagan, who I had the honor of serving in Congress with from 2013 to 2014. A beloved public servant, businesswoman, mother, wife and friend, Kay passed away last month at the age of 66.

I admired Kay's ability to find common ground and work in a bipartisan manner without compromising her core beliefs, as evidenced by both her many legislative successes and her many courageous votes, including healthcare reform and expanded background checks. She was also a tireless voice for women's rights, and advocated for hard-working North Carolinians and U.S. Servicemembers by fighting to crack down on predatory payday lending.

Roughly a decade before I brought my daughter Maile onto the Senate

floor, Kay took on an outdated Senate rule of her own by leading the successful charge to force the Senate swimming pool to allow women. Making the Senate a welcoming place for everyone is an ongoing struggle, but her efforts certainly made it a little bit better for women Senators for years to come.

Kay was an inspirational role model to young girls and young women in North Carolina, often encouraging them to run for office at her events. I have no doubt that many of them now hold public office.

My deepest sympathies are with Kay's loved ones. I am grateful for her passionate service to her State and our country, and I am proud to continue her work in the U.S. Senate.●

##### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH OF THE JAMES MAGAZINE

• Mr. KAIN. Madam President, I want to wish a happy 25th anniversary to North of the James magazine and congratulate it on reaching this milestone. I want to thank editor Charles McGuigan and all who worked tirelessly to make the publication what it is today. The magazine started off in a garage in Richmond's North Side neighborhood. It has been exciting to see the news outlet grow and become an integral part of the community it serves. North of the James has served as a unique, hyper-local voice that Richmonders can relate to. This is evident by the loyal readership in the area throughout all these years.

I am proud that this year, Charles McGuigan was awarded first place for the feature writing portfolio by the Virginia Press Association. He also was awarded second place for the feature titled "Kaitly Kasper: Blazing into that Good Night." I was proud to be featured by the magazine in 2012, and I was humbled to be among great Virginians, like Oliver Hill, who have been on the cover over the years.

Local news is a vital part of our communities. Whether it is keeping readers informed about art exhibits and food or shining a spotlight on Virginians, we are grateful for North of the James' dedication to serving Richmonders for the past 25 years. I know they will keep up the great work.●

##### REMEMBERING JOHN H. ADLER

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the late John H. Adler on the occasion of the dedication of the John H. Adler Memorial Park at Challenge Grove in Cherry Hill, NJ.

The Honorable John H. Adler was a remarkable public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of New Jersey residents for decades. Growing up in southern New Jersey, John worked hard in school and overcame many personal challenges to earn his undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University before returning home to Camden County. He began a selfless career in

public service in 1987 when he was elected to the Cherry Hill Township Committee. In 1992, he went on to represent New Jersey's Sixth Legislative District in the State's senate, where he served until 2008. There, he rose to the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee and served on the Environmental Committee. One of John's signature achievements, New Jersey's Smoke-Free Air Act, has greatly improved the lives of New Jerseyans and will undoubtedly continue to positively impact the health and well-being of our State's residents for generations.

In 2008, John was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Democratic lawmaker to represent New Jersey's Third Congressional District in more than a century. Upon his arrival on Capitol Hill, John quickly established a reputation for hard work, compromise, and compassion. He advocated forcefully for seniors, members of the armed services and veterans, and the environment. He recognized the strategic and military importance of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and sought to attract new missions to help preserve the installation's role in our national defense. He was well known for working across the aisle and overcoming partisanship to accomplish meaningful legislation to the benefit of our families and constituents.

I am honored to have served with John both in the New Jersey Legislature and as members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation. John represented the very best of our lawmakers, and his sudden passing in 2011 was an immense loss to the Garden State. Today, John's wife, Shelley, and their sons, Jeffrey, Alex, Andrew, and Oliver, continue to carry on his legacy of service and extraordinary dedication to our friends, neighbors, and communities.

Mr. President, I acknowledge and commend the Camden County Board of Freeholders on the dedication of the John H. Adler Memorial Park at Challenge Grove as a fitting tribute to remember one of New Jersey's most honorable sons. I would like to once again recognize, applaud, and remember the Honorable John H. Adler's extraordinary life and his service to the people of New Jersey.●

#### RECOGNIZING RHINO METALS, INC.

● Mr. RISCHE. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my Home State of Idaho. However, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11, this month I will honor a veteran-owned small business for each of the 10 days the Senate is in legislative session. The personal sacrifices made by America's veterans have protected the very freedoms and values that give

each of us and our children the ability to achieve the American dream. The skills veterans learn as members of the military are invaluable and undoubtedly contribute to Idaho's flourishing veteran business community. I am proud of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our country and that they are choosing Idaho to call home when they complete their service in the military. As your U.S. Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Rhino Metals, Inc., in Caldwell as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 5, 2019.

Rhino Metals, Inc., is owned and operated by U.S. Air Force veteran Don Suggs and is known for its quality, hand-crafted products. The company began in the 1990s as an aircraft restoration business and eventually expanded to sell gun safes, tool chests, and custom furniture. Suggs was inspired to open Rhino Metals following his time serving in the Air Force as a fighter pilot flying a McDonnell Douglas F-4 airplane, known as the "rhino" for its toughness and long nose.

After transitioning back to civilian life, Suggs used the skills and work ethic acquired during his military service to build his business. Rhino Metals makes an effort to give back to fellow veterans seeking to reenter civilian life. As a result, Suggs employs a large number of veterans and remains committed to the values he learned while serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Congratulations to Don Suggs and all of the employees at Rhino Metals, Inc., for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 5, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

#### RECOGNIZING PINK STABLE

● Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, as a member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our economy. This week, it is my privilege to honor a business that provides quality women's clothing while also fostering economic development within its immediate community. It is my pleasure to recognize Pink Stable of Camden, SC, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Pink Stable is a boutique located in historic downtown Camden. Established in 2014, Kathryn Couch's business provides both classic and trendy clothing at an affordable price for women of all ages. Kathryn filled an empty space in Camden's downtown after noticing there were few places where women could buy contemporary clothing with an element of southern flair. After securing private financing, she began implementing her unique business plan and quickly developed a loyal customer base. Currently, the business is expanding their brand and

brainstorming ideas to create a greater following outside of Camden. Their Instagram page has amassed over 4,000 followers. This social media outlet is used to scale their business and provide merchandise to a wider range of potential customers.

Since its founding, Pink Stable has also made a significant positive impact in the community by maintaining its commitment to customer service and quality products. Through the Main Street South Carolina Program, the city of Camden has allocated \$32.5 million to revitalize the historic downtown area and expand the local economy. Kathryn's business has helped inspire others to consider opening shops and restaurants in downtown Camden. Pink Stable has become an integral part of the community, proving that a Camden-based business can flourish through determination and a well-executed business plan.

Kathryn was recently awarded with the honor of South Carolina Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the South Carolina Small Business Administration in 2019 for her outstanding contributions. Pink Stable's success has led Kathryn to open another small business in the Camden area, Evelyn's Bridal Store, which was recognized as South Carolina's Best Bridal Store in 2017. I am honored to recognize Kathryn and the entire team at Pink Stable as the Senate Small Business of the Week. Their boutique is a great example of how strategic vision and determination can create commercial success, and I look forward to watching their continued growth.●

#### REMEMBERING THOMAS IVERSON, JR.

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I have come to the floor to pay tribute to Thomas Iverson, Jr., a longtime New Hampshire resident and law enforcement official who passed away recently at the age of 72. Although he was born in Massachusetts and lived briefly in Maine, George was in many ways a quintessential Granite Stater. He had big personality and a passion for public service that brought him to posts across our great State.

After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war, Tom began his long career in law enforcement with the Manchester Police Department. He served in New Hampshire's Queen City for 6 years before, at the age of 26, becoming chief of police for the town of Bradford, a small community of roughly 1000 residents west of Concord. He continued his commitment to protecting communities across New Hampshire as lieutenant with the Merrimack Police Department, chief of police in Pembroke, and finally serving as chief of the Litchfield Police Department. Following a law enforcement career that spanned three and a half decades with service in five towns, Tom retired in 2004.

Though a full retirement would have been well-deserved, Tom wanted to

continue dedicating his life to public service. His next move took him to Maine, where he was named the director of the Emergency Management Agency for Piscataquis County in 2005, acting as a link between communities and the State in responding to natural and manmade disasters in Maine's least populous county. He returned to the Granite State in 2012 and became involved in courthouse security for the New Hampshire Judicial Branch's facilities in Manchester.

Throughout his career, Tom was a strong proponent of what we now know as community policing. He knew the value of police officers building trust and forging strong ties with the people they serve. When he served as chief in Bradford, Pembroke, and Litchfield, Tom was a reliable and approachable presence in the community. His commitment to this community-based approach did not surprise those who knew him and his commitment to helping and enjoying the company of others. At many local potlucks, he was known to bring his trademark Norwegian meatballs with pasta. Although incredibly giving of his time and wisdom, Tom kept this recipe a closely-held secret.

The Granite State and the many communities he served are grateful for his many gifts and acts of selfless service. In the last month, family and friends have gathered to share and cherish their many fond memories of him. I am with them in spirit as they reflect on the life of this good and generous man.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

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

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

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4842. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 995. A bill to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

S. 1130. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1399. A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs.

S. 1608. A bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

S. 1657. A bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

By Mr. GRAHAM, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2511. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court Police with the authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2619. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start program.

S. 2629. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps.

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 2740. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2770. A bill to direct the Attorney General to make grants to States that have in place a law providing for the rights of sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 2771. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to protect consumers from excessive rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2772. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2773. A bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2774. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a Veteran Treatment Court Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2775. A bill to improve the cyber workforce of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 2776. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons who engage in the hostage-taking or wrongful detention of United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2777. A bill to assist States, tribes, territories, counties, and cities in implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2778. A bill to reform the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2779. A bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2780. A bill to establish a training facility to support functions and activities relating to the licensing of commercial space launch and reentry activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2781. A bill to prohibit the involvement of immediate family members of senior United States Government officials with Ukrainian entities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 2782. A bill to improve provisions of law relating to sexual harassment and assault prevention at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ENZI:

S. 2783. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2784. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to establish "Family Friendly School" policies at 500 elementary schools that align the school day with the work day to better support working families and to disseminate the

learnings from these model schools so that other local educational agency's may adopt these practices, and to establish a supplemental 21st century community learning centers grant program to support programs and activities during summer recess when school is not in session; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2785. A bill to set forth a method of determining maximum out-of-pocket limits and annual updates to premium tax credit eligibility under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2786. A bill to establish a Federal advisory committee to provide policy recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on positioning the United States to take advantage of emerging opportunities for Arctic maritime transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. Res. 406. A resolution recognizing that for 50 years, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, have worked with the United States toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia, and expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States will continue to remain a strong, reliable, and active partner in the ASEAN region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KAINÉ (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 407. A resolution congratulating the Washington Nationals on winning the 2019 Major League Baseball World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Con. Res. 29. A concurrent resolution urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 170

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the amount of certain qualified conservation contributions.

S. 179

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 179, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 457, a bill to require that \$1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

S. 460

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

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 610, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 762

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from California

(Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 762, a bill to provide for funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for all Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. 814

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 839

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

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1102

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to promote security and energy partnerships in the Eastern Mediterranean, and for other purposes.

S. 1238

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1238, a bill to provide requirements for Executive agency spending at the end of a fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 1380

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1380, a bill to amend the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to remind prosecutors of their obligations under Supreme Court case law.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a "Ghost Army"

that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

S. 1458

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1458, a bill to codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1583

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1583, a bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes.

S. 1590

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

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 1665

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1665, a bill to modify the procedures for issuing special recreation permits for certain public land units, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1766

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1766, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1804

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1804, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment to issue guidelines relating to the appropriate inclusion of residential manufactured homes in Consolidated Plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1820, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

S. 1846

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1846, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball.

S. 2026

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

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2216

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as

cosponsors of S. 2216, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to redesignate and expand the Troops-to-Teachers Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2254

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2254, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multiemployer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2353

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2353, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2417, a bill to provide for payment of proceeds from savings bonds to a State with title to such bonds pursuant to the judgment of a court.

S. 2427

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2459

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2459, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of certain disputes arising from claims of servicemembers and veterans.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to modify and reauthorize the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2565

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2565, a bill to establish a Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy, to authorize the admission of climate-displaced persons, and for other purposes.

S. 2567

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2567, a bill to provide rental assistance to low-income tenants of certain multifamily rural housing projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2590

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2590, a bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes.

S. 2603

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2603, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to end the immigrant visa backlog, and for other purposes.

S. 2613

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to provide a path to end homelessness in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2625

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2625, a bill to authorize the admission of a limited number of Kurdish Syrians and other Syrian partners as special immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

S. 2662

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2662, a bill to amend sections 111, 169, and 171 of the Clean Air Act to clarify when a physical change in, or change in the method of operation of, a stationary source constitutes a modification or construction, and for other purposes.

S. 2666

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2666, a bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public land, and for other purposes.

S. 2679

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2679, a bill to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2749

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2749, a bill to provide requirements for the .gov domain, and for other purposes.

S. 2750

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Operation Stonegarden grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2765

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2765, a bill to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 98, a resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Senators of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury.

S. RES. 112

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 112, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

S. RES. 371

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 371, a resolution reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.

S. RES. 395

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 395, a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 404

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 404, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 406—RECOGNIZING THAT FOR 50 YEARS, THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) AND ITS TEN MEMBERS, BRUNEI, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, LAOS, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, AND VIETNAM, HAVE WORKED WITH THE UNITED STATES TOWARD STABILITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN A STRONG, RELIABLE, AND ACTIVE PARTNER IN THE ASEAN REGION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 406

Whereas the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) represent a variety of different cultures and beliefs as well as vibrant economies giving rise to a flourishing middle class;

Whereas an estimated 70,000,000 United States citizens identify with an ethnicity represented in ASEAN, including 4,000,000 Filipinos and 1,900,000 Vietnamese;

Whereas the United States and ASEAN have been cooperating to advance our mutual interests for 40 years, having first established dialogue relations on September 10, 1977, with the issuing of the 1977 Joint Communiqué of the First ASEAN-United States

Dialogue and the United States acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session with the United States in Thailand on July 22, 2009;

Whereas the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN on April 29, 2008, and the first non-member to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas cooperation between the United States Government and the governments and people of the ASEAN nations can help realize their common goals of a peaceful, prosperous, and open Indo-Pacific rooted in a rule-based order that promotes security, opportunity, and dignity to all peoples;

Whereas, in 2019, ASEAN's 10 members represent the sixth largest economy in the world and constitute the United States' fourth-largest export market, with total exports to ASEAN countries reaching \$116,200,000,000, representing the number one destination for United States investment in the Indo-Pacific with \$329,000,000,000 in cumulative foreign direct investment;

Whereas ASEAN nations host critical global sea lanes located at the heart of the world's most dynamic economic regions, with \$5,300,000,000,000 of global trade and more than half of the world's total shipped tonnage transiting through ASEAN waters each year;

Whereas the ultimate goal of the ASEAN Economic Community is to create one of the world's largest single market economies and facilitate the free movement of goods, services, and professionals;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Single Window custom facilitation system expedites intra-ASEAN trade and enhances the ability of United States businesses to operate in the region;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive, Small, and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) has trained more than 4,600 small-to-medium size enterprises, with nearly half of the participants being women entrepreneurs;

Whereas the Lower Mekong Initiative, established on July 23, 2009, promotes sustainable economic development in mainland Southeast Asia and fosters regional cooperation, integration, and capacity building;

Whereas the United States remains committed to working with ASEAN to improve the protection of human rights and fundamental dignity of the people of ASEAN countries, a key ingredient to maintaining stability, promoting economic growth, and advancing good governance;

Whereas the United States opposes all claims in the maritime domain that infringe on the rights, freedoms, and lawful use of the sea that belongs to all nations, and has a national interest in freedom of navigation and overflight, open access to Asia's maritime commons, and respect for international law in the South China Sea;

Whereas the United States does not take sides on the competing territorial disputes, but nevertheless believes claimants should pursue territorial claims without resort to coercion, and through collaborative diplomacy, including international arbitration, and in accordance with international law and institutions;

Whereas the United States supports the Philippines' decision to use arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), done at Montego Bay December 10, 1982, to peacefully and lawfully address competing territorial claims;

Whereas the United States supports efforts by ASEAN and the People's Republic of China to develop an effective Code of Conduct (COC), opposes efforts by any nation to use the COC as a vehicle to limit presence in

or lawful use of the South China Sea, encourages claimants not to undertake new or unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including reclamation activities or administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea, and encourages ASEAN countries to adopt a unified position in negotiating the COC;

Whereas the ASEAN-United States Maritime Exercise (AUXM), which ran from September 2, 2019, until September 6, 2019, built greater maritime security on the strength of ASEAN, the strength of our navy-to-navy bonds, and the strength of our shared belief in a free and open Indo-Pacific; and

Whereas changes in climatic conditions in the ASEAN region over the past four decades have resulted in major loss and damage, with a disproportionate impact on developing countries, and the United States will pursue initiatives that are consistent with sustainable development, including the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation, improvement of conservation and sustainable management of forests, fish stocks, and oceanic resources, resilience to extreme weather events and climate-driven disasters, and provision of sustainable livelihood for local communities throughout the ASEAN region; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports and affirms the full implementation of provisions of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (Public Law 115-409) with regard to elevating the United States relationship with ASEAN;

(2) reaffirms the importance of United States-ASEAN economic engagement, including the elimination of barriers to cross-border commerce, and supports the ASEAN Economic Community's goals, including strong, inclusive, and sustainable growth and cooperation with the United States that focuses on innovation and capacity building efforts in technology, education, disaster management, food security, human rights, and trade facilitation, including for ASEAN's poorest countries;

(3) urges ASEAN to continue its efforts to foster greater integration and unity within the ASEAN community, as well as to foster greater integration and unity with non-ASEAN economic, political, and security partners, including Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the European Union, Taiwan, and India;

(4) recognizes the value of strategic economic initiatives like the United States-ASEAN Connect, which demonstrates a commitment to ASEAN and the AEC and builds upon economic relationships in the region;

(5) supports ASEAN nations in addressing maritime and territorial disputes in a constructive manner and in pursuing claims through peaceful, diplomatic, and legitimate regional and international arbitration mechanisms, consistent with international law, including through the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea to further promote peace and stability in the region;

(6) urges all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or complicate or escalate disputes through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force;

(B) to refrain from new efforts to militarize uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features, including the construction of new garrisons and facilities and the relocation of additional military personnel, material, or equipment;

(C) to oppose actions by any country to prevent any other country from exercising its

sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by seeking to enforce claims to those areas in the South China Sea that have no support in international law; and

(D) to oppose unilateral declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea;

(7) urges parties to refrain from unilateral actions that cause permanent physical damage to the marine environment, and supports the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and ASEAN to implement guidelines to address the illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the region;

(8) supports efforts by United States partners and allies in ASEAN—

(A) to enhance maritime capability and maritime domain awareness; and

(B) to protect unhindered access to and use of international waterways in the Asia-Pacific region that are critical to ensuring the security and free flow of commerce;

(C) to counter piracy;

(D) to disrupt illicit maritime trafficking activities such as the trafficking of persons; goods, and drugs; and

(E) to enhance the maritime capabilities of countries or regional organizations to respond to emerging threats to maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region;

(9) urges ASEAN member states to develop a common approach to reaffirm the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague's ruling with respect to the case between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China;

(10) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and trafficking in persons, and urges ASEAN to make increased efforts to create and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants;

(11) supports the Lower Mekong Initiative, which has made significant progress in promoting sustainable economic development in mainland Southeast Asia and fostering integrated sub-regional cooperation and capacity building;

(12) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights by ASEAN member states, and the implementation of related priorities, programs, and activities;

(13) urges ASEAN governments to engage directly with leaders of civil society and human rights, including advocates of religious freedom, victims of human rights abuses, and environmental groups, and to prioritize the construction of forums that give these stakeholders a voice to instruct public policy;

(14) encourages the President of the United States to communicate to ASEAN leaders the importance of protecting human rights, including ending extrajudicial killings, releasing political prisoners, ceasing politically motivated prosecutions, strengthening civil society, safeguarding freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the free flow of information and ideas, and promoting the rule of law and open and transparent government;

(15) supports efforts by organizations in ASEAN addressing corruption in the public and private sectors, enhancing anti-bribery compliance, enforcing bribery criminalization in the private sector, and building beneficial ownership transparency through the ASEAN-USAID PROSPECT project partnered with the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC);

(16) supports the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative program as an example of people-to-people partnership building that

provides skills, networks, and leadership capabilities to a new generation of people who will create and fill jobs, foster cross-border cooperation and partnerships, and rise to solve the regional and global challenges of the future; and

(17) urges ASEAN governments to fully uphold and implement all United Nations Security Council resolutions and international agreements with respect to North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 407—CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS ON WINNING THE 2019 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. KAINÉ (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 407

Whereas, on October 30, 2019, the Washington Nationals won the 2019 Major League Baseball World Series;

Whereas that World Series win was the first World Series won by the Washington Nationals in the 51 years that the franchise has been in Major League Baseball;

Whereas the last Major League Baseball team in Washington, DC, to win the World Series was the Washington Senators in 1924;

Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the Milwaukee Brewers in the National League Wild Card Game;

Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League Division Series;

Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League Championship Series;

Whereas the Washington Nationals defeated the Houston Astros in the World Series;

Whereas the Washington Nationals demonstrated team spirit and determination in winning the World Series after starting the regular season 19-31, staving off 5 playoff elimination games, and being widely considered underdogs in the World Series;

Whereas the roster of players for the Washington Nationals for the 2019 World Series included—

- (1) Matt Adams;
- (2) Asdrúbal Cabrera;
- (3) Patrick Corbin;
- (4) Sean Doolittle;
- (5) Brian Dozier;
- (6) Adam Eaton;
- (7) Yan Gomes;
- (8) Javy Guerra;
- (9) Daniel Hudson;
- (10) Howie Kendrick;
- (11) Gerardo Parra;
- (12) Tanner Rainey;
- (13) Anthony Rendon;
- (14) Víctor Robles;
- (15) Fernando Rodney;
- (16) Joe Ross;
- (17) Anibal Sánchez;
- (18) Max Scherzer;
- (19) Juan Soto;
- (20) Stephen Strasburg;
- (21) Wander Suero;
- (22) Kurt Suzuki;
- (23) Michael A. Taylor;
- (24) Trea Turner; and
- (25) Ryan Zimmerman;

Whereas Stephen Strasburg received the Most Valuable Player award for the 2019 World Series;

Whereas Mike Rizzo, General Manager and President of Baseball Operations, and Dave

Martinez, Manager, provided outstanding leadership and guided the Washington Nationals to their first World Series victory;

Whereas the Principal Owners of the Washington Nationals, Theodore N. Lerner (Founding Principal Owner), Mark D. Lerner (Managing Principal Owner), Annette M. Lerner, Marla Lerner Tanenbaum, Debra Lerner Cohen, Robert K. Tanenbaum, Edward L. Cohen, and Judy Lenkin Lerner, have contributed greatly to the Nation's Capital and the National Capital Region through the philanthropic work of The Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation and the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Washington Nationals on winning the 2019 World Series;

(2) applauds the people of the Nation's Capital and the National Capital Region for their enthusiastic support of the Washington Nationals; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Managing Principal Owner of the Washington Nationals, Mark D. Lerner;

(B) the Manager of the Washington Nationals, Dave Martinez; and

(C) the General Manager and President of Baseball Operations of the Washington Nationals, Mike Rizzo.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 29—URGING ALL NATIONS TO OUTLAW THE DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE AND TO ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS AGAINST SUCH TRADE

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 29

Whereas a bipartisan domestic prohibition on the knowing slaughter, transportation, possession, purchase, or sale of a dog or cat for human consumption was included in section 12515 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), which was enacted on December 20, 2018;

Whereas the dog and cat meat trade occurs throughout the world, primarily in Asia;

Whereas established dog meat markets still exist today;

Whereas Humane Society International, Animals Asia Foundation, and others estimate that 30,000,000 dogs and 10,000,000 cats die annually worldwide as a result of the dog and cat meat trade, and those organizations have found that a considerable number of the dogs and cats in this trade are stolen pets still wearing collars when they reach the slaughterhouses, in addition to stray dogs and cats who are captured for slaughter;

Whereas there have been reports of abuse, poor living conditions, and cruel slaughtering techniques for dogs and cats farmed for their meat;

Whereas many dogs and cats die during transport to slaughterhouses after days or weeks crammed into small cages on the back of vehicles without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport;

Whereas the extreme suffering of dogs and cats at such slaughterhouses and on transportation trucks would breach anti-cruelty laws in the United States and other countries;

Whereas many government officials, civil society advocates, and activists are working to end the dog and cat meat trade on anticruelty and public health grounds, and

the Governments of Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, and Hong Kong have passed laws banning the dog meat trade;

Whereas the World Health Organization has linked the dog meat industry to human outbreaks of trichinellosis, cholera, and rabies;

Whereas those involved in the dog meat industry are at an increased health risk for zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, which can transfer from dogs to humans through infectious material such as saliva;

Whereas the spread of disease may be exacerbated by unsanitary conditions of slaughter and by the sale of dog and cat meat at open-air markets and restaurants; and

Whereas the World Health Organization and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control have both acknowledged the link between the spread of rabies and the dog meat trade which sees large numbers of dogs of unknown disease status moved vast distances: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress—

(1) calls for an end to the consumption and trade of dog and cat meat on cruelty and public health grounds;

(2) urges all nations with a dog or cat meat trade to adopt and enforce laws banning that trade; and

(3) affirms the commitment of the United States to advancing the cause of animal protection and animal welfare, both domestically and around the world.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION AND SPACE

The Subcommittee on Aviation and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.



SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND TERRORISM  
 The Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Michael Thomas, a member of my staff, during today's session of the Senate.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Debbie Stabenow:									
Japan	Yen		1,139.99						1,139.99
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Emily Carwell:									
Japan	Yen		1,139.99						1,139.99
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan							553.04		553.04
Singapore							465.24		465.24
Australia							1,569.66		1,569.66
Total			6,025.98				2,587.94		8,613.92

\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PAT ROBERTS,  
 Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry, Oct. 28, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Paul Grove:									
Bangladesh	Taka		409.14						409.14
Myanmar	Kyat		554.00						554.00
Thailand	Baht		577.00						577.00
United States	Dollar				12,679.63				12,679.63
Senator Chris Van Hollen:									
Turkey	Lira		549.92						549.92
Israel	Shekel		1,356.24						1,356.24
Qatar	Riyal		243.66						243.66
United States	Dollar				13,499.53				13,499.53
Afreen Ahkter:									
Turkey	Lira		550.29						550.29
Israel	Shekel		1,357.43						1,357.43
Qatar	Riyal		244.08						244.08
United States	Dollar				14,946.73				14,946.73
Allen Cutler:									
Chile	Peso		699.00						699.00
United States	Dollar				13,307.63				13,307.63
Senator Roy Blunt:									
Belgium	Euro		1,423.20						1,423.20
Italy	Euro		936.83						936.83
United States	Dollar				14,473.63				14,473.63
Laura Friedel:									
Belgium	Euro		1,423.20						1,423.20
Italy	Euro		936.83						936.83
United States	Dollar				14,473.63				14,473.63
Richard Eddings:									
Belgium	Euro		1,423.20						1,423.20
Italy	Euro		936.83						936.83
United States	Dollar				14,473.63				14,473.63
John Lucio:									
Marshall Islands	Dollar		218.00						218.00
United States	Dollar				2,499.03				2,499.03
Senator Richard Shelby:									
Iceland	Krona		1,439.00						1,439.00
Belgium	Euro		390.22						390.22
Germany	Euro		1,021.23						1,021.23
Senator John Kennedy:									
Iceland	Krona		1,439.00						1,439.00
Belgium	Euro		390.22						390.22
United States	Dollar				4,082.53				4,082.53
Shannon Hines:									
Iceland	Krona		1,369.00						1,369.00
Belgium	Euro		390.22						390.22
Germany	Euro		1,021.22						1,021.22
Anne Caldwell:									
Iceland	Krona		1,369.00						1,369.00
Belgium	Euro		390.22						390.22
Germany	Euro		1,021.22						1,021.22
David Stokes:									
Iceland	Krona		1,369.00						1,369.00
Belgium	Euro		390.22						390.22

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Germany	Euro		1,021.22						1,021.22
Senator Jerry Moran:									
Australia	Dollar		1,308.00						1,308.00
New Zealand	Dollar		463.04						463.04
Japan	Yen		1,385.47						1,385.47
Senator James Lankford:									
Australia	Dollar		1,211.64						1,211.64
New Zealand	Dollar		366.68						366.68
Japan	Yen		1,289.11						1,289.11
Brennen Britton:									
Australia	Dollar		1,268.00						1,268.00
New Zealand	Dollar		463.04						463.04
Japan	Yen		1,385.47						1,385.47
James Kelly:									
Australia	Dollar		1,241.66						1,241.66
New Zealand	Dollar		457.36						457.36
Japan	Yen		1,372.95						1,372.95
Michelle Altman:									
Australia	Dollar		1,172.41						1,172.41
New Zealand	Dollar		367.45						367.45
Japan	Yen		1,289.88						1,289.88
Katherine Jackson:									
Republic of the Congo	Franc		2,011.00						2,011.00
United States	Dollar				7,632.23				7,632.23
Kali Farahmand:									
Republic of the Congo	Franc		2,011.00						2,011.00
United States	Dollar				7,667.23				7,667.23
Senator Steve Daines:									
China	Renminbi		1,262.00						1,262.00
United States	Dollar				12,369.13				12,369.13
Wally Hsueh:									
China	Renminbi		1,262.00						1,262.00
United States	Dollar				12,549.03				12,549.03
Laura Friedel:									
Japan	Yen		1,140.00						1,140.00
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Fiji	Dollar		308.00						308.00
Christopher Hall:									
Japan	Yen		1,140.00						1,140.00
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Fiji	Dollar		308.00						308.00
Amber Bursby (Beck):									
Belgium	Euro		599.28						599.28
Denmark	Krone		1,042.00						1,042.00
England	Pound		1,392.00						1,392.00
United States	Dollar				13,325.03				13,325.03
Jennifer Eskra:									
Belgium	Euro		601.45						601.45
Denmark	Krone		1,042.00						1,042.00
England	Pound		1,392.00						1,392.00
United States	Dollar				13,325.03				13,325.03
Paul Grove:									
Thailand	Baht		241.00						241.00
Cambodia	Riel		708.00						708.00
United States	Dollar				12,959.00				12,959.00
Adam Yezerksi:									
Philippines	Peso		1,020.63						1,020.63
Indonesia	Rupiah		1,380.68						1,380.68
United States	Dollar				5,714.23				5,714.23
Alex Carnes:									
Philippines	Peso		965.63						965.63
Indonesia	Rupiah		1,320.68						1,320.68
United States	Dollar				5,714.23				5,714.23
Kate Kaufer:									
Japan	Yen		2,335.06						2,335.06
United States	Dollar				15,830.33				15,830.33
Hanz Heinrichs:									
Japan	Yen		2,335.06						2,335.06
United States	Dollar				15,830.33				15,830.33
John Lucio:									
Japan	Yen		960.58						960.58
Thailand	Baht		241.00						241.00
Vietnam	Dong		308.00						308.00
United States	Dollar				9,839.13				9,839.13
Emy Lesofski:									
Vietnam	Dong		2,019.00						2,019.00
United States	Dollar				11,814.53				11,814.53
Lucas Agnew:									
Vietnam	Dong		2,019.00						2,019.00
United States	Dollar				11,814.53				11,814.53
Ryan Hunt:									
Vietnam	Dong		2,019.00						2,019.00
United States	Dollar				9,783.53				9,783.53
Patrick Magnuson:									
Japan	Yen		1,048.73						1,048.73
United States	Dollar				2,778.66				2,778.66
Jennifer Bastin:									
Japan	Yen		1,048.73						1,048.73
United States	Dollar				2,778.66				2,778.66
Jason McMahon:									
Japan	Yen		1,048.73						1,048.73
United States	Dollar				2,778.66				2,778.66
Senator Richard Shelby:									
United Kingdom	Pound		1,800.19						1,800.19
United States	Dollar				4,337.93				4,337.93
Delegation Expenses:*									
Bangladesh	Taka					226.19			226.19
Myanmar	Kyat					200.00			200.00
Thailand	Baht					2,417.07			2,417.07
Delegation Expenses:*									
Turkey	Lira		563.50						563.50
Israel	Shekel		6,252.58						6,252.58
Qatar	Riyal		455.86						455.86

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Egypt	Pound								
United Arab Emirates	Dirham						2,163.54		2,163.54
Delegation Expenses:*							510.08		510.08
Belgium	Euro						4,510.83		4,510.83
Delegation Expenses:*									
Iceland	Krona						2,779.70		2,779.70
Belgium	Euro						2,458.45		2,458.45
Germany	Euro						3,538.88		3,538.88
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar						5,395.50		5,395.50
New Zealand	Dollar						634.70		634.70
Japan	Yen						686.11		686.11
Delegation Expenses:*									
China	Renminbi						2,641.00		2,641.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						553.04		553.04
Singapore	Dollar						465.24		465.24
Australia	Dollar						1,569.66		1,569.66
Fiji	Dollar						1,229.46		1,229.46
Delegation Expenses:*									
Belgium	Euro						1,803.80		1,803.80
Delegation Expenses:*									
Thailand	Baht						294.07		294.07
Cambodia	Riel						622.62		622.62
Delegation Expenses:*									
Philippines	Peso						504.32		504.32
Indonesia	Rupiah						955.67		955.67
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						1,950.51		1,950.51
Thailand	Baht						90.77		90.77
Vietnam	Dong						69.00		69.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Vietnam	Dong						1,426.00		1,426.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen						1,962.17		1,962.17
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound						2,481.18		2,481.18
Total			83,978.43		283,277.40		51,411.50		418,667.33

\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD SHELBY,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 25, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Rick Scott:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,191.44						2,191.44
Belgium	Euro		244.60						244.60
Jackie Zeckman:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,657.77						1,657.77
Belgium	Euro		199.31						199.31
Chris Hartline:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,097.44						2,097.44
Belgium	Euro		245.41						245.41
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling				143.90		576.67		720.57
Belgium	Euro				1,010.12				1,010.12
Eric Trager:									
United States	Dollar				8,034.43				8,034.43
Lebanon	Pound		137.36						137.36
Egypt	Pound		1,095.90						1,095.90
Thomas Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				8,034.43				8,034.43
Lebanon	Pound		222.36						222.36
Egypt	Pound		1,128.31						1,128.31
Delegation Expenses:*									
Lebanon	Pound						6,639.00		6,639.00
Egypt	Pound						3,789.67		3,789.67
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				11,479.12				11,479.12
Germany	Euro		264.32						264.32
France	Euro		1,121.46						1,121.46
Augusta Binns-Berkey:									
United States	Dollar				11,529.12				11,529.12
Germany	Euro		254.65						254.65
France	Euro		1,514.74						1,514.74
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro				1,941.00				1,941.00
Senator Rick Scott:									
United States	Dollar				4,467.23				4,467.23
Luxembourg	Euro		477.60						477.60
Delegation Expenses:*									
Luxembourg	Euro				32.30				32.30
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar				5,397.43				5,397.43
Germany	Euro		553.32						553.32
Thomas Goffus:									
United States	Dollar				8,958.31				8,958.31
Germany	Euro		710.32						710.32
Ukraine	Hrynia		601.89						601.89
Lithuania	Euro		1,021.47						1,021.47
William G.P. Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				10,819.76				10,819.76
Germany	Euro		355.16						355.16

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		556.89						556.89
Michael Noblet:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				12,708.27				12,708.27
Germany .....	Euro .....		315.16						315.16
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....		546.89						546.89
Lithuania .....	Euro .....		951.47						951.47
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany .....	Euro .....				9.68				9.68
Ukraine .....	Hryvnia .....					677.68			677.68
Eric Trager:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,324.93				10,324.93
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		287.30						287.30
Tajikistan .....	Somoni .....		562.38						562.38
Mariah Cooper:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,321.93				10,321.93
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....		425.00						425.00
Tajikistan .....	Somoni .....		795.14						795.14
Delegation Expenses:*									
Pakistan .....	Rupee .....				208.06	204.26			412.32
Tajikistan .....	Somoni .....				170.28	571.07			741.35
Turkey .....	Lira .....				222.70				222.70
Jackie Kerber:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,632.83				13,632.83
Armenia .....	Dram .....		390.56						390.56
Georgia .....	Lari .....		262.87						262.87
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....		259.17						259.17
Kazakhstan .....	Tenge .....		1,174.04						1,174.04
Jonathan Epstein:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,745.72				13,745.72
Armenia .....	Dram .....		390.56						390.56
Georgia .....	Lari .....		254.33						254.33
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....		259.17						259.17
Kazakhstan .....	Tenge .....		1,109.98						1,109.98
Delegation Expenses:*									
Armenia .....	Dram .....				930.22				930.22
Georgia .....	Lari .....				768.68	100.00			868.68
Azerbaijan .....	Manat .....				1,516.00	44.84			1,560.84
Kazakhstan .....	Tenge .....				2,827.86				2,827.86
Senator Kevin Cramer:									
Japan .....	Yen .....		1,048.74						1,048.74
Singapore .....	Dollar .....		928.77						928.77
Australia .....	Dollar .....		1,104.12						1,104.12
Fiji .....	Dollar .....		297.40						297.40
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan .....	Yen .....				270.53	37.46			307.99
Singapore .....	Dollar .....				17.08	121.54			138.62
Australia .....	Dollar .....					387.69			387.69
Fiji .....	Dollar .....					344.15			344.15
Gwyneth Woolwine:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,402.83				5,402.83
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....		816.61						816.61
Belgium .....	Euro .....		610.16						610.16
Dustin Walker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				10,777.23				10,777.23
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....		954.81						954.81
Belgium .....	Euro .....		560.27						560.27
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....				1,287.97				1,287.97
Belgium .....	Euro .....				1,052.98				1,052.98
Senator Doug Jones:									
Iceland .....	Krona .....		1,176.46						1,176.46
Delegation Expenses:*									
Iceland .....	Krona .....					397.10			397.10
Dustin Walker:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				8,294.93				8,294.93
Australia .....	Dollar .....		1,577.36						1,577.36
Thomas Goffus:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				8,331.95				8,331.95
Australia .....	Dollar .....		1,713.77						1,713.77
Ozge Guzelsu:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,999.14				7,999.14
Australia .....	Dollar .....		896.77						896.77
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia .....	Dollar .....				2,705.00				2,705.00
Katherine Sutton:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				13,345.63				13,345.63
Australia .....	Dollar .....		1,662.91						1,662.91
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia .....	Dollar .....				1,032.00				1,032.00
Senator Tammy Duckworth:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				11,156.23				11,156.23
Vietnam .....	Dong .....		665.70						665.70
Thailand .....	Baht .....		840.69						840.69
Matt Lampert:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,334.93				7,334.93
Vietnam .....	Dong .....		793.70						793.70
Thailand .....	Baht .....		931.19						931.19
Aline Sredni:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				6,830.93				6,830.93
Vietnam .....	Dong .....		894.70						894.70
Thailand .....	Baht .....		956.19						956.19
Delegation Expenses:*									
Vietnam .....	Dong .....				152.00	521.00			673.00
Thailand .....	Baht .....				649.59	1,009.54			1,659.13
Senator Tom Cotton:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				7,833.73				7,833.73
France .....	Euro .....		1,265.62						1,265.62
Belgium .....	Euro .....		414.84						414.84
Netherlands .....	Euro .....		267.15						267.15
Delegation Expenses:*									
France .....	Euro .....				3,557.00				3,557.00
Belgium .....	Euro .....				1,337.96				1,337.96
Netherlands .....	Euro .....				110.70				110.70
Senator Rick Scott:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				3,717.77				3,717.77

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Guatemala	Quetzal		446.74						446.74
Mexico	Peso		54.98						54.98
Paul Bonicelli:									
United States	Dollar				3,889.28				3,889.28
Guatemala	Quetzal		514.19						514.19
Mexico	Peso		65.45						65.45
Collin Lomagistro:									
United States	Dollar				4,123.46				4,123.46
Guatemala	Quetzal		446.47						446.47
Mexico	Peso		57.43						57.43
Delegation Expenses:*									
Guatemala	Quetzal						1,050.51		1,050.51
Mexico	Peso						1,289.00		1,289.00
Senator David Perdue:									
United States	Dollar				8,923.73				8,923.73
China	Renminbi		594.24						594.24
Philippines	Peso		249.33						249.33
Delegation Expenses:*									
China	Renminbi						19.00		19.00
Philippines	Peso						241.41		241.41
Senator Angus S. King, Jr.:									
United States	Dollar				8,735.59				8,735.59
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		565.68						565.68
Oman	Rial		289.04						289.04
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		377.75						377.75
Stephen M. Smith:									
United States	Dollar				8,735.59				8,735.59
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		565.68						565.68
Oman	Rial		289.04						289.04
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		378.23						378.23
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				1,948.75		1,023.45		2,972.20
Oman	Rial						547.01		547.01
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						2,965.86		2,965.86
Anthony Pankuch:									
United States	Dollar				11,853.03				11,853.03
Norway	Krone		288.48						288.48
Germany	Euro		885.86						885.86
France	Euro		869.52						869.52
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro				206.28				206.28
Total			51,951.78		290,848.13		22,557.91		365,357.82

\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1997.

SENATOR JAMES INHOFE,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Oct. 25, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dan Burgess:									
United States	Dollar				14,473.63				14,473.63
Belgium	Euro		1,831.20						1,831.20
Italy	Euro		1,210.83						1,210.83
Delegation Expenses:*									
Belgium	Euro						1,503.61		1,503.61
Senator Roger Wicker:									
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Japan	Yen		1,139.98						1,139.98
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Fiji	Dollar		308.00						308.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar						420.00		420.00
Japan	Yen						340.34		340.34
Singapore	Dollar						138.61		138.61
Fiji	Dollar						917.50		917.50
Senator Mike Lee:									
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Japan	Yen		1,139.98						1,139.98
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Fiji	Dollar		308.00						308.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar						420.00		420.00
Japan	Yen						340.34		340.34
Singapore	Dollar						138.61		138.61
Fiji	Dollar						917.50		917.50
Allyson Bell:									
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Japan	Yen		1,139.98						1,139.98
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Fiji	Dollar		308.00						308.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar						420.00		420.00
Japan	Yen						340.34		340.34
Singapore	Dollar						138.61		138.61
Fiji	Dollar						917.50		917.50
Sara Drake:									
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Japan	Yen		1,139.98						1,139.98
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Fiji	Dollar		308.00						308.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar						420.00		420.00
Japan	Yen						340.34		340.34
Singapore	Dollar						138.61		138.61

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Fiji	Dollar						917.50		917.50
Stacy McBride:									
Australia	Dollar		955.00						955.00
Japan	Yen		1,139.98						1,139.98
Singapore	Dollar		918.00						918.00
Fiji	Dollar		308.00						308.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Australia	Dollar					420.00			420.00
Japan	Yen					340.34			340.34
Singapore	Dollar					138.61			138.61
Fiji	Dollar					917.50			917.50
Senator John Thune:									
New Zealand	Dollar		463.04						463.04
Australia	Dollar		1,308.00						1,308.00
Japan	Yen		1,385.47						1,385.47
Delegation Expenses:*									
New Zealand	Dollar					126.94			126.94
Australia	Dollar					1,079.10			1,079.10
Japan	Yen					137.22			137.22
Daffnei Riedel:									
New Zealand	Dollar		463.04						463.04
Australia	Dollar		1,268.00						1,268.00
Japan	Yen		1,385.47						1,385.47
Delegation Expenses:*									
New Zealand	Dollar					126.94			126.94
Australia	Dollar					1,079.10			1,079.10
Japan	Yen					137.22			137.22
Senator Mike Lee:									
United States	Dollar				14,453.87				14,453.87
Russia	Ruble		1,385.00						1,385.00
Allyson Bell:									
United States	Dollar				12,208.77				12,208.77
Russia	Ruble		1,385.00						1,385.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Russia	Ruble					1,452.00			1,452.00
Total			28,689.95		41,136.27		14,724.38		84,550.60

\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,  
Oct. 28, 2019.

AMENDED 2ND QTR CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
United States	Dollar				6,103.73				6,103.73
Finland	Euro		272.53						272.53
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
United States	Dollar				15,830.53				15,830.53
China	Yuan		583.25						583.25
Isaac Edwards:									
United States	Dollar				15,830.53				15,830.53
China	Yuan		585.25						585.25
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
United States	Dollar				1,280.73				1,280.73
Canada	Dollar		326.72						326.72
Denmark	Krona		91.68						91.68
Norway	Krona		536.99						536.99
United Kingdom	Pound		214.42						214.42
Iceland	Krona		310.46						310.46
Senator Joe Manchin III:									
Canada	Dollar		328.39						328.39
Denmark	Krona		88.35						88.35
Norway	Krona		551.85						551.85
United Kingdom	Pound		229.81						229.81
Iceland	Krona		317.37						317.37
Senator John Barrasso:									
Canada	Dollar		320.66						320.66
Denmark	Krona		88.35						88.35
Norway	Krona		536.99						536.99
Senator John Barrasso:									
United Kingdom	Pound		244.30						244.30
Iceland	Krona		310.46						310.46
Senator Maria Cantwell:									
United States	Dollar				7,615.63				7,615.63
Canada	Dollar		310.43						310.43
Denmark	Krona		93.17						93.17
Norway	Krona		584.04						584.04
United Kingdom	Pound		234.04						234.04
Brian Hughes:									
Canada	Dollar		317.72						317.72
Denmark	Krona		91.67						91.67
Norway	Krona		510.35						510.35
United Kingdom	Pound		249.15						249.15
Iceland	Krona		351.13						351.13
Lane West, Jr.:									
Canada	Dollar		326.42						326.42
Denmark	Krona		88.34						88.34
Norway	Krona		510.34						510.34
United Kingdom	Pound		250.16						250.16
Iceland	Krona		310.22						310.22
Isaac Edwards:									
Canada	Dollar		346.35						346.35
Denmark	Krona		91.67						91.67

AMENDED 2ND QTR CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, TO JUNE 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Norway	Krona		510.35						510.35
United Kingdom	Pound		235.38						235.38
Iceland	Krona		310.22						310.22
Karina Borge:									
Canada	Dollar		323.28						323.28
Denmark	Krona		91.67						91.67
Karina Borge:									
Norway	Krona		518.36						518.36
United Kingdom	Pound		235.68						235.68
Iceland	Krona		363.32						363.32
Rebecca Bonner:									
Canada	Dollar		363.48						363.48
Denmark	Krona		91.67						91.67
Norway	Krona		500.97						500.97
United Kingdom	Pound		250.80						250.80
Iceland	Krona		348.30						348.30
Delegation Expenses:*									
China	Yuan					1,039.00			1,039.00
Canada	Dollar					1,399.98			1,399.98
Norway	Krona					5,909.00			5,909.00
United Kingdom	Pound					8,683.73			8,683.73
Iceland	Krona					1,740.00			1,740.00
Total			14,746.51		46,661.15	18,771.71			80,179.37

\*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 3, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Isaac Edwards:									
United States	Dollar				3,798.43				3,798.43
Micronesia	Dollar		44.00						44.00
Bryan Petit:									
United States	Dollar				3,921.43				3,921.43
Micronesia	Dollar		111.94						111.94
Total			155.94		7,719.86				7,875.80

\*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Oct. 3, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Andrew Harding:									
United States	Dollar				2,127.33				2,127.33
Switzerland	Swiss franc		2,256.06						2,256.06
Amber Bland:									
United States	Dollar				6,172.06				6,172.06
Belgium	Euro		907.38						907.38
Greece	Euro		618.98						618.98
Romania	Leu		447.97						447.97
Delegation Expenses:*									
Romania	Leu					914.99			914.99
Total			4,230.39		8,299.39	914.99			13,444.77

\*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO,  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 25, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tim Scott:									
New Zealand	Dollar		548.74						548.74
Australia	Dollar		820.13						820.13
Japan	Yen		1,202.35						1,202.35
Jennifer DeCasper:									
New Zealand	Dollar		619.51						619.51
Australia	Dollar		907.93						907.93
Japan	Yen		1,291.43						1,291.43
Delegation Expenses:*									
New Zealand	Dollar					263.06			263.06

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Australia	Dollar						1,734.00		1,734.00
Japan	Yen						274.44		274.44
Rory Heslington:									
Cote d'Ivoire	CFA Franc		838.61						838.61
United States	Dollar				10,131.43				10,131.43
Virginia Lenahan:									
Cote d'Ivoire	CFA Franc		698.32						698.32
United States	Dollar				10,231.43				10,231.43
Lila Nieves-Lee:									
Cote d'Ivoire	CFA Franc		785.48						785.48
United States	Dollar				10,231.03				10,231.03
Adam Farris:									
Cote d'Ivoire	CFA Franc		859.44						859.44
United States	Dollar				10,231.53				10,231.53
Totals			8,571.94		40,825.42		2,271.50		51,668.86

\* Delegation expenses include expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 15, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Kuwait	Dinar		264.89						264.89
Oman	Rial		272.33						272.33
United States	Dollar				16,342.23				16,342.23
Charles Ziegler:									
Kuwait	Dinar		264.89						264.89
Oman	Rial		272.33						272.33
United States	Dollar				12,939.73				12,939.73
Delegation Expenses:									
Kuwait	Dinar						1,333.00		1,333.00
Oman	Rial						285.32		285.32
United Arab Emirates	Dinar						217.11		217.11
Senator John Barrasso:									
Montenegro	Euro		531.71						531.71
Croatia	Kuna		350.27						350.27
Italy	Euro		958.14						958.14
Delegation Expenses:									
Montenegro	Euro						1,796.80		1,796.80
Croatia	Kuna						2,879.20		2,879.20
Italy	Euro						3,186.25		3,186.25
Senator Benjamin Cardin:									
Northern Ireland	Pounds		972.70						972.70
England	Pounds		740.43						740.43
Hungary	Forint		754.00						754.00
Luxembourg	Euros		1,016.00						1,016.00
United States	Dollar				933.90				933.90
Debbie Yamada:									
Northern Ireland	Pounds		923.03						923.03
England	Pounds		709.48						709.48
Hungary	Forint		648.92						648.92
Luxembourg	Euros		1,086.42						1,086.42
United States	Dollar				898.90				898.90
Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom & Northern Ireland	Pounds						1,344.05		1,344.05
Hungary	Forint						558.33		558.33
Luxembourg	Euros						142.13		142.13
Senator Robert Menendez:									
Colombia	Pesos		2,739.00						2,739.00
United States	Dollar				6,214.18				6,214.18
Fred Turner:									
Colombia	Pesos		2,720.00						2,720.00
United States	Dollar				6,743.28				6,743.28
Brandon Yoder:									
Colombia	Pesos		2,791.85						2,791.85
United States	Dollar				3,985.28				3,985.28
Delegation Expenses:									
Colombia	Pesos						14,258.00		14,258.00
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Kosovo	Euro		196.27						196.27
Ukraine	Hrynia		450.03						450.03
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		336.17						336.17
United States	Dollar				13,572.53				13,572.53
Jessica Elledge:									
Kosovo	Euro		196.27						196.27
Ukraine	Hrynia		450.03						450.03
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		336.17						336.17
United States	Dollar				13,572.53				13,572.53
Lydia Westlake:									
Ukraine	Hrynia		281.77						281.77
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		240.99						240.99
United States	Dollar				14,117.23				14,117.23
Delegation Expenses:									
Kosovo	Euro						1,428.62		1,428.62
Ukraine	Hrynia						230.83		230.83
Serbia	Serbian Dinar						429.00		429.00
Senator Todd Young:									
United Arab Emirates	Riyal		542.46						542.46
Oman	Dinar		296.82						296.82
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		382.62						382.62
United States	Dollar				17,105.49				17,105.49
Brandt Anderson:									
United Arab Emirates	Riyal		551.55						551.55



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Oman	Dinar		305.91						305.91
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		391.71						391.71
United States	Dollar				16,971.99				16,971.99
Delegation Expenses:									
United Arab Emirates	Riyal						2,972.20		2,972.20
Oman	Dinar						547.01		547.01
Saudi Arabia	Riyal						2,965.86		2,965.86
Viviana Bovo:									
Guatemala	Dollar		511.00						511.00
El Salvador	Dollar		235.05						235.05
United States	Dollar				1,988.07				1,988.07
Victor Cervino:									
Guatemala	Dollar		591.18						591.18
El Salvador	Dollar		363.05						363.05
United States	Dollar				3,160.26				3,160.26
Delegation Expenses:									
Guatemala	Dollar						260.00		260.00
Margaret Dougherty:									
Kenya	Shilling		2,114.00						2,114.00
Mozambique	Metical		670.00						670.00
United States	Dollar				8,669.38				8,669.38
John Tomaszewski:									
Kenya	Shilling		2,154.00						2,154.00
Mozambique	Metical		670.00						670.00
United States	Dollar				8,669.38				8,669.38
Delegation Expenses:									
Mozambique	Metical						176.82		176.82
Heather Flynn:									
Kenya	Shilling		1,115.00						1,115.00
South Sudan	Pound		80.00						80.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar		1,459.16						1,459.16
United States	Dollar				10,399.03				10,399.03
Delegation Expenses:									
Kenya	Shilling						400.00		400.00
Zimbabwe	Dollar						2,689.27		2,689.27
Robert Hunter:									
United Kingdom	Pound		1,022.00						1,022.00
Belgium	Euro		700.15						700.15
United States	Dollar				804.50				804.50
Delegation Expenses:									
United Kingdom	Pound						643.98		643.98
Belgium	Euro						526.49		526.49
Igor Khrestin:									
Japan	Yen		776.21						776.21
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar		816.21						816.21
Malaysia	Ringgit		196.27						196.27
Indonesia	Rupiah		323.56						323.56
Korea	Won		242.33						242.33
United States	Dollar				5,711.33				5,711.33
Zachary Hosford:									
Japan	Yen		827.08						827.08
Hong Kong	Dollar		768.80						768.80
Malaysia	Ringgit		177.35						177.35
Indonesia	Rupiah		297.16						297.16
Korea	Won		228.16						228.16
United States	Dollar				7,565.23				7,565.23
Matt Squeri:									
Japan	Yen		809.04						809.04
Hong Kong	Dollar		796.06						796.06
Malaysia	Ringgit		181.35						181.35
Indonesia	Rupiah		305.80						305.80
Korea	Won		288.01						288.01
United States	Dollar				7,174.23				7,174.23
Brandt Anderson:									
Malaysia	Ringgit		196.27						196.27
Indonesia	Rupiah		323.56						323.56
Korea	Won		299.76						299.76
United States	Dollar				7,841.73				7,841.73
Delegation Expenses:									
Japan	Yen						725.34		725.34
Hong Kong	Dollar						1,266.34		1,266.34
Malaysia	Ringgit						30.28		30.28
Indonesia	Rupiah						247.02		247.02
Korea	Won						483.40		483.40
Joshua Klein:									
Mongolia	Tugrik		375.00						375.00
United States	Dollar				2,851.43				2,851.43
Delegation Expenses:									
Mongolia	Tugrik						390.07		390.07
Damian Murphy:									
Belgium	Euro		368.11						368.11
Bangladesh	Taka		915.37						915.37
Sri Lanka	Rupee		768.03						768.03
United States	Dollar				4,529.23				4,529.23
Naz Durakoglu:									
Belgium	Euro		426.35						426.35
Bangladesh	Taka		1,084.57						1,084.57
United States	Dollar				5,258.24				5,258.24
Delegation Expenses:									
Bangladesh	Taka						770.43		770.43
Sri Lanka	Rupee						105.00		105.00
Andrew Olson:									
Israel	Shekel		1,400.00						1,400.00
Jordan	Dinar		377.00						377.00
Lebanon	Pound		470.00						470.00
United States	Dollar				4,046.54				4,046.54
Colin Brooks:									
Israel	Shekel		1,400.00						1,400.00
Jordan	Dinar		377.00						377.00
Lebanon	Pound		470.00						470.00
United States	Dollar				4,046.54				4,046.54
Delegation Expenses:									
Israel	Shekel						769.69		769.69
Lebanon	Pound						2,563.28		2,563.28
Scott Richardson:									
Belgium	Euro		327.64						327.64

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ukraine	Hryvnia		546.65						546.65
United Kingdom	Pound		848.59						848.59
United States	Dollar				3,076.03				3,076.03
Matthew Sullivan:									
Belgium	Euro		327.64						327.64
Ukraine	Hryvnia		327.64						327.64
United Kingdom	Pound		522.65						522.65
United States	Dollar				3,076.03				3,076.30
Delegation Expenses:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia						1,204.21		1,204.21
Christopher Socha:									
Belgium	Euro		869.24						869.24
Christopher Socha:									
Mozambique	Metical		550.00						550.00
South Africa	Rand		648.75						648.75
United States	Dollar				9,534.23				9,534.23
John Tomaszewski:									
Mozambique	Metical		659.32						659.32
South Africa	Rand		632.57						632.57
Zimbabwe	RTGS Dollar		1,201.50						1,201.50
United States	Dollar				11,519.37				11,519.37
Delegation Expenses:									
Mozambique	Metical						46.44		46.44
South Africa	Rand						853.91		853.91
Zimbabwe	RTGS Dollar						4,221.00		4,221.00
Lowell Schwartz:									
Belgium	Euro		488.00						488.00
United Kingdom	Pound		1,153.76						1,153.76
United States	Dollar				3,188.83				3,188.83
Daniel Ricchetti:									
Belgium	Euro		476.13						476.13
United Kingdom	Pound		1,021.33						1,021.33
United States	Dollar				3,223.83				3,223.83
Delegation Expenses:									
Belgium	Euro						158.24		158.24
Hannah Thoburn:									
Turkey	Lira		420.00						420.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		415.60						415.60
Georgia	Lari		744.40						744.40
United States	Dollar				5,429.43				5,429.43
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ukraine	Hryvnia						649.43		649.43
Georgia	Lari						1,017.94		1,017.94
Lydia Westlake:									
Belgium	Euro		852.79						852.79
Greece	Euro		602.07						602.07
Romania	Leu		398.00						398.00
United States	Dollar				11,075.83				11,075.83
Delegation Expenses:*									
Romania	Leu						914.98		914.98
Total			64,978.43		256,235.97		55,687.27		376,901.67

\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1997.

SENATOR JAMES RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 25, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Israel	New Shekel		1,710.00						1,710.00
Qatar	Riyal		372.75						372.75
Turkey	Lira		662.25						662.25
Craig Abele:									
Israel	New Shekel		1,710.00						1,710.00
Qatar	Riyal		372.75						372.75
Turkey	Lira		662.25						662.25
Delegation Expenses:*									
Israel	New Shekel						6,252.59		6,252.59
Qatar	Riyal						455.86		455.86
Egypt	Pound						163.55		163.55
Turkey	Lira						563.39		563.39
UAE	Dirham						510.09		510.09
Senator John Cornyn:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00		31.09				2,621.09
Poland	Zloty		493.29						493.29
Germany	Euro		2,798.08						2,798.08
Donald Bergin:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00		31.09				2,621.09
Poland	Zloty		493.29						493.29
Germany	Euro		2,798.08						2,798.08
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling						1,349.07		1,349.07
Poland	Zloty						2,350.51		2,350.51
Germany	Euro						4,325.24		4,325.24
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,357.00						1,357.00
Croatia	Kuna		281.00						281.00
Italy	Euro		761.74						761.74
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,357.00						1,357.00
Croatia	Kuna		281.00						281.00
Italy	Euro		760.98						760.98
Alice James:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,357.00						1,357.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Croatia	Kuna		281.00						281.00
Italy	Euro		646.96						646.96
Matt Rinkunas:									
Montenegro	Euro		1,357.00						1,357.00
Croatia	Kuna		281.00						281.00
Italy	Euro		646.96						646.96
Delegation Expenses:*									
Montenegro	Euro					2,532.80			2,532.80
Croatia	Kuna					11,516.80			11,516.80
Italy	Euro					12,745.03			12,745.03
Total			26,621.38		62.18	42,764.93			69,448.49

\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 28, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Andrew Polesovsky:									
United States	Dollar				1,243.33				1,243.33
United Kingdom	Pound		1,168.97						1,168.97
Andrew Dockham:									
United States	Dollar				1,068.33				1,068.33
United Kingdom	Pound		1,150.33						1,150.33
Brandon Reavis:									
United States	Dollar				1,068.33				1,068.33
United Kingdom	Pound		1,150.33						1,150.33
Gabrielle D'Adamo Singer:									
United States	Dollar				1,621.03				1,621.03
El Salvador	Dollar		162.72						162.72
Guatemala	Quetzal		365.18						365.18
Lydia Westlake:									
United States	Dollar				1,397.03				1,397.03
El Salvador	Dollar		162.72						162.72
Guatemala	Quetzal		365.18						365.18
Delegation Expenses:*									
El Salvador	Dollar					153.00			153.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Guatemala	Quetzal					1,160.27			1,160.27
Senator Kyrsten Sinema:									
United States	Dollar				15,406.83				15,406.83
Germany	Euro		752.62						752.62
United Kingdom	Pound		387.39						387.39
Michael Brownlie:									
United States	Dollar				14,293.73				14,293.73
Germany	Euro		1,000.81						1,000.81
United Kingdom	Pound		1,103.81						1,103.81
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro					5,543.24			5,543.24
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound					3,225.00			3,225.00
Michael Flynn:									
United States	Dollar				3,231.93				3,231.93
Estonia	Euro		370.35						370.35
United Kingdom	Pound		927.17						927.17
Joseph C. Folio III:									
United States	Dollar				3,231.93				3,231.93
Estonia	Euro		370.35						370.35
United Kingdom	Pound		927.17						927.17
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound					1,715.63			1,715.63
Senator Ron Johnson:									
United States	Dollar				14,371.33				14,371.33
Serbia	Dinar		241.00						241.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		293.71						293.71
Delegation Expenses:*									
Serbia	Dinar					143.00			143.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia					76.95			76.95
Total			10,920.72		56,933.80	12,017.09			79,871.61

\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,  
Oct. 25, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Lindsay Dearing:									
Italy	Euro		143.18						143.18
Germany	Euro		349.00						349.00
United States	Dollar				14,602.53				14,602.53
Simon Coon:									
Italy	Euro		143.18						143.18

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Germany .....	Euro .....		349.00						349.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				14,602.53				14,602.53
<b>Total</b> .....			984.36		29,205.06				30,189.42

\*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Oct. 7, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Cornyn .....			577.50						577.50
			765.40						765.40
					13,865.53				13,865.53
Jacob Barton .....			577.50						577.50
			632.40						632.40
					8,676.40				8,676.40
						3,219.46			3,219.46
Senator Richard Burr .....			1,504.50						1,504.50
					9,802.83				9,802.83
Senator Marco Rubio .....			1,504.50						1,504.50
					12,769.03				12,769.03
Chris Joyner .....			1,504.50						1,504.50
					14,234.03				14,234.03
Vanessa Le .....			1,504.50						1,504.50
					14,234.03				14,234.03
Brian Walsh .....			1,504.50						1,504.50
					6,799.43				6,799.43
Senator Ron Wyden .....			1,394.67						1,394.67
			1,162.00						1,162.00
			1,100.00						1,100.00
					12,391.94				12,391.94
Ben Widness .....			1,203.47						1,203.47
			1,092.00						1,092.00
			1,100.00						1,100.00
					12,391.94				12,391.94
Isaiah Akin .....			892.32						892.32
			1,202.00						1,202.00
			1,100.00						1,100.00
					12,391.94				12,391.94
Jacob Barton .....			762.33						762.33
					12,656.23				12,656.23
Jon Estridge .....			1,223.35						1,223.35
					13,705.50				13,705.50
James Sauls .....			1,223.35						1,223.35
					12,975.23				12,975.23
Russell Willig .....			904.33						904.33
			804.60						804.60
					11,278.43				11,278.43
Maria Mahler-Haug .....			452.33						452.33
			804.60						804.60
					11,279.73				11,279.73
						100.06			100.06
Ryan White .....			492.14						492.14
			989.00						989.00
					16,615.24				16,615.24
Emily Clise .....			492.14						492.14
			1,060.00						1,060.00
					16,615.24				16,615.24
Mike Casey .....			116.56						116.56
			590.36						590.36
			894.09						894.09
					12,392.03				12,392.03
						909.86			909.86
Jon Estridge .....			3,030.00						3,030.00
					6,131.34				6,131.34
Jacob Barton .....			2,415.00						2,415.00
					6,131.34				6,131.34
James Sauls .....			2,415.00						2,415.00
					9,635.84				9,635.84
						872.47			872.47
Brian Walsh .....			670.00						670.00
			398.00						398.00
					4,242.63				4,242.63
Jim Catella .....			369.38						369.38
			698.00						698.00
					3,856.63				3,856.63
Brett Freedman .....			292.49						292.49
			698.00						698.00
					4,242.63				4,242.63
						194.00			194.00
Chris Howell .....			950.73						950.73
			722.00						722.00
					13,692.43				13,692.43
Maria Mahler-Haug .....			950.73						950.73
			620.16						620.16
					13,692.43				13,692.43
Russell Willig .....			950.73						950.73
			722.91						722.91
					13,692.43				13,692.43

Total	47,034.07	300,662.43	16,424.96	364,121.46
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\* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD BURR,  
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Aug. 2, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roger F. Wicker:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00						2,590.00
Poland	Zloty		493.29						493.29
Luxembourg	Euros		4,029.96						4,029.96
Kyle Parker:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00						2,590.00
Poland	Zloty		396.14						396.14
Luxembourg	Euros		2,798.08						2,798.08
Janice Helwig:									
Luxembourg	Euros		1,923.08						1,923.08
Everett Price:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00						2,590.00
Poland	Zloty		396.14						396.14
Luxembourg	Euros		2,993.17						2,993.17
Rachel Bauman:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00						2,590.00
Poland	Zloty		396.14						396.14
Luxembourg	Euros		3,148.08						3,148.08
Danica Starks:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00						2,590.00
Poland	Zloty		396.14						396.14
Luxembourg	Euros		2,798.08						2,798.08
Alex Tiersky:									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		2,590.00						2,590.00
Poland	Zloty		396.14						396.14
Luxembourg	Euros		2,798.08						2,798.08
Mark Toner:									
Poland	Zloty		485.14		8,851.70				9,336.84
Luxembourg	Euros		2,993.17		1,757.30				4,750.47
Stacy Hope:									
Poland	Zloty		485.14		10,601.03				11,086.17
Jordan Warlick:									
Luxembourg	Euros		875.00						875.00
Paul Massaro:									
Luxembourg	Euros		3,591.81		3,373.00				6,964.81
Bob Hand:									
Luxembourg	Euros		4,190.44		1,732.23				5,922.67
Delegation Expenses:*									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling						14,112.56		14,112.56
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						28,206.15		28,206.15
Delegation Expenses:*									
Luxembourg	Euros								
Kyle Parker:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,329.76		11,414.43				12,744.19
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ukraine	Hryvnia						3,528.48		3,528.48
Kyle Parker:									
Mongolia	Tögrög		762.50		11,013.83				11,776.33
Japan	Yen		2,107.57						2,107.57
Delegation Expenses:*									
Mongolia	Tögrög								
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen								
<b>Total</b>			<b>55,323.05</b>		<b>48,743.52</b>		<b>45,847.19</b>		<b>149,913.76</b>

\* Accurate Delegation Expenses to be amended.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,  
Chairman, U.S. Helsinki Commission, Oct. 30, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Robert Karem:									
United States	Dollar				12,679.63				12,679.63
Bangladesh	Taka		410.39		226.19				636.58
Burma	Kyat		554.00		200.00				754.00
Thailand	Baht		759.32						759.32
Delegation Expenses:*									
Bangladesh	Taka						3,153.55		3,153.55
Burma	Kyat						5,861.00		5,861.00
Thailand	Baht						503.46		503.46
Laura Dove:									
Iceland	Dollar		1,369.00						1,369.00
Belgium	Euro		390.22						390.22
Germany	Euro		1,022.00						1,022.00
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
United Kingdom	Pound		2,325.00						2,325.00
Poland	Zloty		493.29						493.29
Luxembourg	Euro		2,532.63						2,532.63
Robert Karem:									
United States	Dollar				12,304.43				12,304.43
Sweden	Krona		1,282.62						1,282.62
Finland	Euro		270.52						270.52
Norway	Krone		1,053.38						1,053.38
Delegation Expenses:*									
Sweden	Krona						1,966.00		1,966.00
Finland	Euro						1,232.12		1,232.12

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total .....			12,462.37		25,410.25		12,716.13		50,588.75

\*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, Oct. 28, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22  
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Gary Myrick:									
Iceland .....	Dollar .....		1,439.00						1,439.00
Belgium .....	Euro .....		390.22						390.22
Germany .....	Euro .....		1,022.00						1,022.00
Total .....			2,851.22						2,851.22

\*Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER,  
Democratic Leader, Oct. 9, 2019.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4842

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4842) to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

PREVENTING ANIMAL CRUELTY AND TORTURE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 724 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The bill (H.R. 724) to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 724) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS ON WINNING THE 2019 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 407, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 407) congratulating the Washington Nationals on winning the 2019 Major League Baseball World Series.

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

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 407) was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 6th; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Rudofsky nomination under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:02 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
STEPHEN HAHN, OF TEXAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE SCOTT GOTTLIEB.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 5, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID AUSTIN TAPP, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.