

we made this progress and look forward to working with the committee to ensure it is enacted.

The only language that the committee did not accept, due to jurisdictional concerns raised by Senators BLUMENTHAL and MORAN, was the grant accountability language in the SAFESPORT Act. One section of my bill, which bars nonprofits receiving Justice Department grants from stashing funds in offshore accounts for tax avoidance purposes, among other requirements, has cleared the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support on multiple occasions. Chairman GRAHAM approved its inclusion in the Commerce package, and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN has cosponsored similar language on multiple occasions. So I am disappointed that these reforms were omitted from S. 2330 today. Senators BLACKBURN and SULLIVAN, who joined with me in seeking the inclusion of that grant accountability language in that Commerce Committee package today, have called for adding it to S. 2330 before its floor consideration.

I look forward to working with the leaders of the Commerce Committee to achieve that goal. The only other key provision of my SAFESPORT Act that was not included in S. 2330 would enable the Attorney General to seek the removal of officers and directors of the Center for SafeSport, in the event these individuals engage in serious misconduct or material violations of the Ted Stevens Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring S. 2838, the SAFESPORT Act, which is so important to ensure that the organization tasked by Congress with protecting amateur athletes retains its current, high standard of excellence. I, again, thank Senator PETERS as well as my cosponsors, particularly Senators BLACKBURN and SULLIVAN, for helping me negotiate for the inclusion of so many provisions of the SAFESPORT Act in the bipartisan measure that cleared the Commerce Committee. I also want to thank my committee staff, including Kolan Davis, Evelyn Fortier, Rachael Soloway, and Dario Camacho for their hard work on this measure. Finally, I thank the organizations, such as Fairness, Dignity & Respect for Crime Victims & Survivors Project, which endorsed this legislation, as well as the Athletes Advisory Council, which worked with us on the antiretaliation provisions.

#### REMEMBERING THOMAS M. OWENS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on September 29, Thomas Owens of Chicago passed away, leaving a legacy of faith, philanthropy, and friendship. He was an innovator and an advocate for helping people. Tom was dedicated to the biblical proverb, "To whom much is given, much is expected."

Tom used to joke that he entered philanthropic ventures because he spent too much time hovering around

the kitchen with his wife, Mary. In truth, he just believed in helping those less fortunate. Tom and Mary founded the Owens Foundation in 1985, inspired by the work of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Tom and Mary enjoyed a friendship with Mother Teresa and were instrumental in supporting Missionary of Charity projects in Chicago, Arizona, and Tijuana, Mexico, to alleviate poverty and provide hope to those in need.

In the early 1990s, Tom retired from a successful business and having spent 20 years as an IBM executive. Many people would have considered slowing down after that, but not Tom. That same year he retired, he founded Cara Chicago.

Tom started Cara out of the back of his car. He drove shelter to shelter, connecting women with business colleagues and contacts he had accumulated over the years. Nearly 30 years later, Cara is a world-class job training and placement program, helping more than 6,000 people into more than 10,000 jobs.

Cara is the Gaelic word for friend, and this program helps give people a professional friend when they need it most.

Tom earned numerous awards like being one of the Streetwise Foundation's 20 Most Inspirational Chicagoans. He also was Leo High School's Lifetime Achievement Award winner in 2018. Leo High School's motto is *Facta non Verba*, meaning Deeds not Words. Tom's work as one of the most caring people I have known speaks for itself.

Tom liked to say, "Don't just make it a good day . . . make it a great day!" Many people have great days because of his work.

Tom is survived by his wife, five children, 22 grandchildren, and the thousands of people who have better days because of Tom.

#### NOMINATION OF STEVEN J. MENASHI

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to join many of my colleagues who have come to the floor to express my opposition to the nomination of Steven Menashi to U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit.

I am disappointed that Mr. Menashi's nomination has moved forward even though he lacks the support of his home State senators. In the rush to confirm judges like Mr. Menashi, the Senate has chipped away at the traditions that allow us to properly advise and consent on nominations, which is our responsibility under the Constitution.

Today, we are considering a nominee whose record has raised several concerning issues. While working as Principal Deputy General Counsel and as Acting General Counsel at the Department of Education, Menashi advised Secretary DeVos on the Department's efforts to withhold debt relief for stu-

dents who were defrauded by their colleges, reverse the Obama administration's regulations on campus sexual assault, and delay the enforcement of rules designed to ensure that students of color with disabilities are treated fairly. And while at the White House Counsel's Office, Mr. Menashi has advised on the administration's efforts to end the deferred enforced departure program for Liberians and to restrict access to asylum.

I am also concerned that, despite a request from all of the Democratic Senators on the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Menashi has refused to provide information about his knowledge or involvement in the events related to the telephone call between President Trump and Ukrainian President Zelensky on July 25, 2019.

It is for these reasons that I am unable to support Mr. Menashi's confirmation.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 352, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 464, William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit.

Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 351, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 365, Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. district judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 355, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 486, Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit. •

(At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I join my fellow Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee chairs in expressing my serious concerns with the possibility that congress might not pass a National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, for fiscal year 2020.

For more than five decades, the NDAA has been signed into law with bipartisan support. We had our differences, but if we fail to pass the NDAA this year, what kind of message does that send to the men and women who, in many cases, are risking their lives for our national security? Further, they will receive this message at a time of heightened strategic competition with China and Russia and a continued need to support our allies and partners. Meanwhile, we must continue