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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Mighty God, we thank You for all the marvelous things You have already done for our Nation and world. Marvelous are Your works. We are grateful for the beauty of the Earth and the glories of the skies. We praise You for the love that surrounds us and for Your mercies that are new each day.

Lord, guide our Senators. May they continue to look to You as their helper, defender, and friend. Inspire them to always trust in Your unfailing love as they depend on You to do for them what they can't accomplish with their strength alone.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

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

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

S. 2543

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I and my friend Senator WYDEN released an updated version of our bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act. This bill will now deliver even more savings for seniors and Americans with

disabilities. When I say "more," it will be more than the bill that was voted out of the Senate Committee on Finance on a 19-to-9 vote during the last week of July. The bill will also help pay for critical health programs. Billions of dollars saved in out-of-pocket costs are also a result of the bill and billions of dollars allocated for healthcare programs that tens of millions of Americans rely upon.

What I just said will be accomplished all without spending a dime more of taxpayer dollars. That is because Big Pharma, our pharmaceutical industry of the United States, will finally be held accountable. Taxpayers shouldn't be put on the hook for unlimited subsidies from the Federal Treasury to big companies that make billions in profits.

I don't often quote the Washington Post about legislation I put in, but the Washington Post recently wrote that our bill was the "drug pricing bill with the best chances of passing Congress."

Over the weekend, President Trump applauded the work my friend Senator WYDEN and I have done to improve our bipartisan legislation. The President was very supportive of it even before we made these changes. That is because, in the Congress of the United States today, it is the only significant bipartisan legislation that exists to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs.

The Senate must demonstrate courage and finally pass this very important bill because very few Members of Congress can miss the cry of their citizens that drug pricing is too high, and they expect Congress to do something about it. This bill answers that cry and should soon get a vote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as the end of the year approaches and the House Democratic majority continues to pour its time and attention into impeaching the President, a number of key legislative items remain outstanding.

For weeks, my Republican colleagues have been pleading with our Democratic friends in Congress to put aside their impeachment obsession long enough to complete some basic work for the American people.

We have explained that American families cannot afford for Washington Democrats to obsess over impeachment and obstruct the things we absolutely have to do.

So I am pleased that the last several days have brought at least some initial conversations that sanity and progress may be breaking through. We are still a long way from the finish line, but this week begins on a cautiously optimistic note. It appears that Democrats' willingness to block these basic governing items may be finally giving way.

The National Defense Authorization Act is our annual must-pass vehicle laying out Congress's plan for addressing military funding and meeting the needs of our servicemembers. It is a responsibility that this body has discharged in a bipartisan manner every year, without fail, for 58 years.

That is why it was so disheartening that Democratic leadership in both the

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



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House and the Senate broke with tradition and used this year's NDAA process to insist on all manner of partisan items, including nongermane domestic policy changes. This partisan approach left the future of the Pentagon's most urgent missions in the lurch.

So I am encouraged that bicameral negotiations, with participation from the White House, reached a conclusion last week. Most of the partisan demands predictably fell away. The result is not either side's ideal bill, but it is one that should be able to pass both Chambers under the circumstances. I hope the bipartisan conference report will be signed and moved quickly through each Chamber so Congress can finally fulfill our responsibility to America's Armed Forces for another year.

Then there is the appropriations process—another fundamental responsibility which, for the good of the Nation, is historically approached with a bipartisan willingness to find common ground.

It seemed like that might again be the case when a bicameral, bipartisan deal was struck by the President and the Speaker of the House back in July, but then, when negotiations resumed in earnest back in September, some of our Democratic colleagues realized they weren't really ready to part with partisan poison pills. They ignored their own agreement and months of stalemate ensued.

Fortunately, our appropriators are working hard to salvage the process. Last month, Chairman SHELBY and Chairwoman LOWEY and our other colleagues reached a deal on subcommittee allocations. I understand their hard work continued in earnest over this past weekend, with the goal of producing bills that both Chambers could consider before the end of this year.

I am grateful to colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work. I hope this progress continues, and we can consider appropriations measures this month.

Now, there is still one more major piece of bipartisan legislation awaiting action by House Democrats. For months, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats have been slow-walking President Trump's landmark trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. Month after month, House Democrats kept 176,000 new American jobs in limbo, but, finally, after weeks of a full-court press from Republicans in the House and the Senate, we are seeing hopeful signals that Speaker PELOSI's months-long stalling campaign may at long last be coming to an end. Reports suggest the Speaker may finally allow the House to vote in the near future. For our country's sake, I certainly hope so.

So what has been true for months is especially true now that time is short—it is going to take bipartisan collaboration and hard work for any of these outstanding legislative priorities to become law.

Even if House Democrats do finally relent and allow these key priorities to move forward, it is now the eleventh hour, and it will require consent and cooperation for the Senate to consider legislation in a timely fashion.

I ask for that collaborative spirit from my colleagues on both sides in the Senate as we move forward. We Republicans have been ready and eager for weeks to legislate on these key priorities. I hope these reports are accurate that leading Democrats may finally—finally—be willing to let Congress govern, and I hope we can move forward at a brisk pace and in a bipartisan way.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CALENDAR NO. 535

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Halpern nomination, 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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### E-CIGARETTES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, after months of headlines about the dangers of vaping and a litany of mysterious medical conditions, we hit a pretty concerning milestone last week—vaping-related lung injuries have now been reported in all 50 States.

Alaska became State No. 50 with the identification of a teen suffering from these illnesses. I said a teen. The teen

reported regularly vaping both nicotine and THC products, and while I am glad to hear the patient is recovering, it highlights the need for immediate action to this public health emergency.

Nationwide, nearly 28 percent of high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students are using e-cigarettes. That is just to the best of our knowledge.

Folks at home are struggling to respond to these growing numbers, and parents and teachers and others are trying to figure out how to get their arms around this problem.

Last year, 19 percent of Texas high school students had used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days, and all of these recent cases lead me to believe that this number has gone up and gone up significantly.

It is, I believe, a growing epidemic, but folks in North Texas are bearing the brunt of it. More than half of all the vaping-related injuries at home occurred in North Texas. It is also home to the first vaping-related death in the State.

Last Friday, I visited the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth to learn more about the dangers of e-cigarettes and the community-led efforts to curb their use.

Let me be clear. When we are talking about adults making choices on what to put in their body, I will leave those choices to the individual adult, but if we are talking about children exposing themselves to a chemical that is addictive, which may lead to a life—even if they avoid some of the immediate public health consequences, it may lead to a lifetime of addiction and worse.

We heard from a pulmonary specialist that a lot of kids she talks to don't understand the risk of e-cigarettes. They think that because these devices aren't subject to the same regulations and restrictions as traditional cigarettes, they are somehow different and safer.

We got to hear from a teen who certainly had that mindset. Sixteen-year-old high school junior Anna Carey is one of the many students in her high school using e-cigarettes, and she admits to becoming rather quickly addicted to the nicotine.

She said she began to display symptoms like those we have seen across the country. She was extremely lethargic and would experience random and severe pains in her chest.

Two initial x rays came back clear. So her doctors released her, but her symptoms continued. Eventually, she was admitted to the Cook Children's Hospital and diagnosed with chemical-induced pneumonia in both lungs. That, Anna told us, was her wake-up call.

I am glad to report that Anna has fully recovered and is using her story to help educate and alert her fellow teens from going down the same path.

Everyone who participated in our discussion in Fort Worth last Friday

agreed that there is no single action or initiative that can put this outbreak to rest. We need to work together, not only the Federal Government but State and local governments, parents, teachers, and communities, to combat this crisis from every angle.

During our conversations we talked about the need for action by the Food and Drug Administration, something our colleagues on the HELP Committee have been examining. We also talked about the need to do more to educate our kids about the risks of e-cigarette use to stop them from picking up these devices in the first place.

One of the easiest ways we can do that is to make it more difficult for children to purchase vaping devices from online retailers, but, unfortunately, our current laws make that difficult to enforce. We are not talking about changing the age restrictions to purchase these devices, but merely the manner in which these devices are purchased in a way that avoids the age restrictions on their consumption.

For traditional cigarettes, consumers are able to make purchases online, but there are clear guardrails in place to prevent children from skirting the age restrictions. At the time of the delivery, the buyer has to sign and show an ID proving that they are an adult. That just makes common sense. You have to show an ID when you purchase cigarettes at a gas station or convenience store, and it shouldn't be any different when you purchase these devices online.

But e-cigarettes are on a different playing field. As often is the case, developments in the real world can outpace Congress's ability to respond, and this is, perhaps, a prime example of that.

Anyone, no matter how old or young, can go online and buy e-cigarettes and have them delivered to their front door—no questions asked, no age verification, no ID, no nothing—and that is wrong.

Kids can be resourceful, you better believe, in taking advantage of this loophole. In fact, a recent survey found that a third of underage e-cigarette users bought them online.

There is no reason why e-cigarettes should be subject to lesser restrictions than traditional cigarettes. They are just as addictive and dangerous. After hearing from a number of constituents who share my concerns about teen vaping, I introduced legislation to make it more difficult for our children to get their hands on these devices.

The Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act would put in place the same safeguards for e-cigarettes as traditional cigarettes purchased online.

Just to be clear, we are talking about protecting children. We are not talking about limiting adults' rights to use these devices.

This bill would require online retailers to verify the age of a customer, release deliveries only to an adult show-

ing a proper ID, and to comply with all State and local tobacco taxes.

These are commonsense reforms, and they have garnered broad bipartisan support. More than a quarter of the Senators in this body are cosponsors of this bill, and it recently passed by voice vote in the House of Representatives. When we are talking about passing consensus legislation that makes just common sense, well, this is as easy as it comes.

We need to do everything in our power to turn the tide on this wave of addiction to protect our children from these dangerous substances.

I appreciate Dr. Michael Williams and the folks at the UNT Health Science Center for hosting such an important discussion and for their work to educate the public on e-cigarettes and the dangers associated with their use, particularly by minor children.

I want to thank my colleagues who have thrown their support behind this legislation. It is a bipartisan bill, as demonstrated by the chief cosponsors on the other side, Senators FEINSTEIN and VAN HOLLEN.

I can't imagine why anybody would want to hold such a commonsense bill up, and I hope we will be able to send it to the President before we head home for the holidays.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### WYOMING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DAY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I would like to speak on a topic very important to my wife Diana, to me, and, for that matter, to all of Wyoming, and it should be important to all of America. It is a topic of great importance in Wyoming. It is a topic at the core of what makes Wyoming the Equality State. It is Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day tomorrow.

I recently had the pleasure of introducing and, along with my friend Senator BARRASSO, passing S. Res. 430, which recognizes tomorrow, December 10, 2019, as Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day.

Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day celebrates the contribution of women to our great State and Wyoming's place in history as the trailblazer for women's suffrage. One hundred and fifty years ago, on December 10, 1869, the Wyoming territory approved the first law in legislative history recognizing women's inherent right to vote and to hold public office—50 years before the enactment of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920.

This historic step even preceded Wyoming statehood. The young territory granted women the right to vote 20 years before becoming the 44th State admitted to the Union.

In fact, when Congress invited Wyoming to join the Union, they demanded that women's suffrage be revoked, and the Wyoming legislature—an all-men's legislature—said: "We will remain out of the Union 100 years rather than come in without the women." This pioneering spirit is truly remarkable and something I keep in front of my mind every day as I continue my work in the Senate.

Wyoming was not going to allow the acknowledgement of women's right to vote to be ceremonial or artificial. In fact, 1 short year after recognizing women's right to vote, women began holding public office throughout Wyoming, serving as the first women in the United States to do so.

In 1870, Esther Hobart Morris became the first female justice of the peace, serving in South Pass City, WY. That year, Wyoming also saw the country's first all-female jury and the first woman bailiff in the room, Martha Symon Boies. Later, in 1894, Estelle Reel Meyer became Wyoming's superintendent of public instruction—the first female in the country to be elected to a statewide position. From 1920 to 1921, Jackson, WY, was the first town in the United States governed completely by women. These trailblazing women embodied the cowboy values we hold dear and showed that Wyoming truly has earned its title as an Equality State.

Just as they did in 1869, women's voices and their votes continue to help build our economy and guide our democracy. Throughout history, Wyoming has been home to many remarkable women and today still recognizes how important women are to the success of the State. This continued dedication to being the Equality State has made Wyoming home to trailblazing women's organizations, such as the Wyoming Women's Legislative Caucus, a nonpartisan caucus that advocates for the support and leadership of women in all levels of government, and Climb Wyoming, which helps single mothers transition to long-term self-sufficiency through better paying jobs, including nontraditional jobs. That is the key to Wyoming's economy. Climb Wyoming does this through innovative programming that goes far beyond just job training. The Wyoming Women's Business Center supports aspiring female entrepreneurs and business owners through educational tools to help them plan, start, and grow successful businesses. As a former small business owner myself, I know how important these businesses are to the fabric of our great State.

Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day is a testament to the contributions women make and have made and will continue to make in Wyoming and the values that make our State stand out as an example to the rest of the country. I look forward to working with Senator BARRASSO and Congresswoman CHENEY to ensure Wyoming continues to do things the cowboy way, striving to

hold the tradition of excellence and equity and equality well into the future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### 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 bill 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 Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Jerry Moran, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, Mike Braun, Joni Ernst, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker.

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 Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 386 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Barrasso	Ernst	Moran
Blackburn	Fischer	Murkowski
Blunt	Gardner	Paul
Boozman	Graham	Perdue
Braun	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hawley	Roberts
Capito	Hoeben	Romney
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Inhofe	Shelby
Cornyn	Isakson	Sullivan
Cotton	Johnson	Thune
Cramer	Kennedy	Tillis
Crapo	Lankford	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Enzi	McSally	

#### NAYS—41

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Klobuchar	Sanders
Bennet	Risch	Sasse
Booker	Rounds	Scott (SC)
Harris	Rubio	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from North Carolina.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Bumatay nomination expire at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

I further ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on the VanDyke nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 290, S. 2740. I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided between the leaders and their designees, and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on the passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate and that the Senate then resume executive session.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon, on Wednesday, December 11, the Senate proceed to legislative session and to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2333, which was received from the House, and that the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on its passage with no intervening action or debate.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### S. 2942

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to say how pleased I am to join with the Senator from New Hampshire in introducing S. 2942, a bill to revise the tax treatment of certain contributions to the capital of corporations.

S. 2942 corrects a provision in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that disqualified government grants to corporations from treatment as tax-free contributions to capital. The provision resulted in the imposition of income tax on all such grants. At the same time, a companion provision in the act imposed income tax on "contributions in aid of construction," CIAC, to regulated water utilities, reversing a long-standing rule of prior law that shielded regulated water utilities from tax on such payments. The term CIAC refers to payments—from either governmental sources or other sources that are used by a utility to expand its physical plant.

Our bill corrects the TCJA, first, by restoring the tax exemption for CIAC received by water utilities. That change will ensure that Alaskans, along with all water utility customers around the country, who make payments to a water utility to help the utility expand its service territory or otherwise improve its physical plant will not thereby saddle the utility with a tax charge that could translate into an increase in rates for water service or that, alternatively, could be passed back to the payer of the CIAC.

There is no plausible basis for taxing CIAC received by water utilities and thereby saddling the utility and its customers with the tax charge. CIAC does not at all resemble normal taxable income received by a business in exchange for goods or services. In fact, our bill specifically precludes the utility from including CIAC in its rate base and thereby earning a return on it.

The treatment of CIAC as taxable income might not matter if water utilities could expense the cost of the capital improvements funded through CIAC. The expensing deduction would offset the income. But under the TCJA, regulated utilities do not qualify for expensing. Thus, they incur the tax on the receipt of CIAC and pass the tax on to the payer of the CIAC.

One unintended consequence of the taxability of CIAC, coupled with the ineligibility of regulated utilities for expensing, is the creation of an unjustifiable incentive for the development of water infrastructure outside regulated utilities—i.e. outside the companies that are best equipped to build and manage the infrastructure. The incentive exists because non-utility corporations, unlike regulated utilities, qualify for expensing and can thus eliminate the tax on the receipt of CIAC. Our bill eliminates the incentive by restoring the tax exemption for CIAC received by regulated water utilities.

The other correction our bill makes in the TCJA is to reverse the rule in the act that treats all government grants to corporations as taxable income. Under prior law, government grants that were not in the nature of ordinary purchases of goods or services could qualify as tax-free contributions of capital.

The TCJA failed to distinguish among different types of government grants in writing the new rule. For example, there is no apparent reason why government grants made to spur investment in rural broadband infrastructure should be taxable. The effect of the tax is to reduce the value and effectiveness of the grants. Nor should tax logically be imposed on grants intended to spur investment that would protect the environment or public health, including Investment in water infrastructure.

There are, of course, types of government grants that could probably be taxed without adverse consequences. One example would be grants made to influence corporate decisions on the location of corporate headquarters or facilities.

To create a simple starting point, our bill simply eliminates the TCJA rule taxing government grants. As the Finance Committee and leadership consider the issue, we anticipate that, this time around, they will take the time to consider more carefully which types of grants should be taxable and which should be tax-free. At a minimum, the broadband and environmental grants described above should be tax-free, but there are probably many similar types of grants that should have the same treatment.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with the Senator from New Hampshire and with the members of the Finance Committee to craft sensible corrections to the TCJA to restore the tax exemption for CIAC received by water utilities and restore the tax exemption for government grants received by corporations where the grants are demonstrably in the public interest.

#### THE BALKANS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize that the Balkan region is critical to U.S. interests in Europe due to the

implications in the region surrounding security, counterterrorism, cyber security, and implementation of 5G. It is a strategically significant region and a primary target of Russian malign influence.

Each year I have the honor of hosting a Balkan Roundtable Security Forum with leaders from the Balkans and Members of Congress. NATO's role in southeastern Europe is critical for the support of our interests in the region. Integration of the Balkans into NATO, the EU, and other partnerships with our friends in the region has long been an important goal, given the mounting threat posed by Russians continued behavior. In a time where our strategic competitors are seeking to expand their influence, it is critical that our friends in the Balkan region know that the United States is here to support them and work together to counter our common foes.

It is clearly stated in the President's National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, and the National Military Strategy that Europe and the Trans-Atlantic NATO Alliance are paramount to our national security, and this includes the integration of our allies on the Balkan Peninsula. We have made significant strides in adapting our capabilities in many areas, including cyber, to meet the growing threats in the region, but we must continue to work with our partners to counter the evolving threats from Russia and China and preserve a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAYO BODDIE

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and praise a great man, Mayo Boddie, who has lived a long and admirable life as a successful businessman and dedicated servant to the people of North Carolina and his country.

Mr. Boddie was born on December 6, 1929, on a farm in Nash County, NC. The son of Nick and Lucy Boddie, Mr. Boddie learned the value of hard work and perseverance at an early age. In 1962, along with his brother Nick and his uncle, Carleton Noell, Mayo Boddie opened his first Hardee's restaurant in Fayetteville, NC. Fast food was a relatively new concept back then, but the new company, Boddie-Noell, knew the recipe for success.

Today, he is chairman of Boddie-Noell Enterprise, headquartered in Rocky Mount in the great State of North Carolina. Under Mr. Boddie's leadership, Boddie-Noell Enterprises operates more than 350 Hardee's restaurants and is the popular brand's largest franchisee. Despite their rapid growth and expansion throughout the Carolinas, Virginia, and Kentucky, Boddie-Noell has maintained a close-knit family culture in which every individual is treated with dignity and respect. To Mayo Boddie, the secret of his success is "our people."

His devoted leadership never went unnoticed. In 1987, he received the

North Carolina Jaycees Outstanding Boss of the Year Award. In 1991, he was named Master Entrepreneur of the Year for North Carolina by Inc. Magazine. In 2000, Mayo and his brother, Nick, were named NC Restaurant Association's Restaurateurs of the Year.

At the age of 90 years old, celebrating a recent birthday, Mayo Boddie continues to be very active in his community of Rocky Mount and Eastern North Carolina. He still serves as an advisory board member for the NC Wesleyan College Entrepreneurial Center and continues to serve on the East Carolina Council BSA executive board. He remains an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount and has been active in the Boy Scouts since 1941. His support for scouting is legendary. In honor of this support, one of the Scout reservations in Beaufort County—Camp Bonner—was renamed Camp Boddie.

Mr. President, it is obvious Mr. Boddie is well respected and loved among many who know him, and I am proud to honor him and his life-long and innovative service to the great State of North Carolina, along with his many accomplishments throughout his lifetime.

#### RECOGNIZING MILITARY MISSIONS IN ACTION

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Military Missions in Action, MMIA, an organization with locations in Fuquay-Varina and Southern Pines, NC, that is doing tremendous work throughout the State of North Carolina for Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

Mr. Mike Dorman founded MMIA in 2008 after a 20-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard. Since then, MMIA has worked tirelessly to accomplish a wide array of support for servicemembers, veterans, and their families. MMIA conducts a number of operations each year such as: Operation Building Hope, which gathers volunteers to make modifications and repairs necessary for safe and independent living for veterans with disabilities; Homes for Healing, through which volunteers provide new and gently used furniture and household goods to formerly homeless veterans; Operation Rescue Christmas, which provides holiday assistance to low-income veteran and military families through gift cards, new toys, and monetary support; and Fill the Footlocker whereby comforts from home, health, and hygiene items are packaged and shipped to deployed servicemembers.

MMIA completes the operations mentioned above in addition to many other projects in community engagement and support with the help of volunteers and other collaborators. To date, MMIA has completed 710 building projects, assisted over 30,500 homeless veterans, provided furniture and household goods to 463 families, shipped over 58,000 care

packages to deployed servicemembers, and assisted 1,620 children through Operation Rescue Christmas.

I would like to thank and recognize the men and women of MMIA and all of the volunteers for their continued dedication and support for the large servicemember and veteran populations of the State of North Carolina and their families.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO JORDAN EMBREE

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jordan for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jordan is a native of California. He is a graduate of Wheaton College, where he studied international relations and French. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jordan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JASMINE SLUSSER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jasmine for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jasmine is a native of Pennsylvania. She is a student at George Washington University, where she is studying public health. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jasmine for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JEREMIAH WORDEMAN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jeremiah for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jeremiah is a native of Cheyenne. He is a student at Laramie County Com-

munity College, where he is studying political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jeremiah for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JULLIANE FRAZIER

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, on Friday, December 31, 2019, Julliane Frazier, a lifelong resident of Maryland, will retire from Amtrak after an extraordinary 40 years of service.

Julie joined Amtrak in December 1980 when President Jimmy Carter was just leaving the White House and Ronald Reagan was about to be sworn in. In May of the following year, Amtrak celebrated its 10th anniversary. The number of current Amtrak employees with 40 or more years of service is fewer than 20; the number of retirees is not much more. Julie therefore joins a small but elite group of Amtrak employees who have been the founders and builders of America's passenger railroad.

Over the years, Julie has seen the growth and maturity of an organization whose existence was born of great uncertainty. For most of her career, she served as the senior executive assistant for the Government Affairs Department, serving and assisting the vice presidents who guided and managed Amtrak's relations with the Federal Government and with Congress. Amtrak's CEOs, who worked in their Union Station offices next door to government affairs, often relied on Julie as well because she was quick to complete assignments and was loyal to her colleagues in pursuit of Amtrak's important mission. While it would appear at first blush that the vice president of government affairs runs the office, it was clear to anyone who spent time there that Julie was really the one in charge. She is the consummate professional.

Julie has said that while she will miss the pace of work, she will miss the people she worked with most of all. Having spent 40 years in the organization and having celebrated good times while coping with hard times, Julie formed many close and deep friendships. She will be truly missed by all who worked with her, but her service will be appreciated for years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Julliane Frazier for her service and wishing her many happy and healthy years in retirement with her husband Phil and her sons Zack, Max, and Austin.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4. An act to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2534. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4. An act to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2534. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3424. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a delay in submission of the quarterly exception Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the Army, Navy, and Air Force; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Armed Services.

EC-3425. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Simplifications to the Capital Rule Pursuant to the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996; Revised Effective Date" (RIN3064-AF18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3426. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Capital Simplification for Qualifying Community Banking Organizations" (RIN3064-AE91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3427. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Deposits" (RIN3064-AF07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3428. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transportation Infrastructure Management" (RIN2132-AB37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3429. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2020 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts" (RIN0938-AT76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3430. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2020 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" (RIN0938-AT77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3431. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23-174, "Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3432. A communication from the General Counsel and Acting Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3433. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3434. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3435. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3436. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bu-

reau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice in Explosives License and Permit Proceedings (2007R-5P); Revisions Reflecting Changes Consistent With the Homeland Security Act of 2002" (RIN1140-AA40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3437. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The U.S. Department of Transportation's Status of Actions Addressing the Safety Issue Areas on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Most Wanted List"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3438. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fifteenth annual report on ethanol market concentration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3439. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers, Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support" (FCC 19-111) (WC Docket Nos. 17-287, 11-42, and 09-197) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3440. A communication from the Chief of the Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reform of Certain Part 61 Tariff Rules" (FCC 19-107) (WC Docket Nos. 18-276, and 18-276) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3441. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Licensing, Registration, Financial Responsibility Requirements, and General Duties for Ocean Transportation Intermediaries" (RIN3072-AC73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3442. A communication from the Associate Managing Director, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities" (FCC 19-83) (CG Docket No. 13-24, and 03-123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3443. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trawl Logbook" (RIN0648-BI74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3444. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory

Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Modifications to Individual Fishing Quota Programs" (RIN0648-BG83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3445. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Authorize Recreational Quota Entity To Participate in the Halibut IFQ Program" (RIN0648-BG57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3446. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Fisheries; 2018 and Projected 2019 Scup Specifications and Announcement of Final 2018 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Specifications; Correction" (RIN0648-XF669) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3447. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2019 Commercial Closure for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia" (RIN0648-XS011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3448. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XY018) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3449. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XG996) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## 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. REED (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 2997. A bill to revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the



Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2998. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that payment of taxes on deferred foreign income in installments shall not prevent credit or refund of overpayments or increase estimated taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2999. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with direct primary care service arrangements to remain eligible individuals for purposes of health savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3000. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow PDP sponsors of prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage organizations offering MA-PD plans to share with enrollees a portion of savings from switching to lower cost therapeutic alternative medications; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3001. A bill to provide for certain extensions with respect to the Medicare and Medicaid programs under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3002. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to increase amounts transferred to the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund and to require the use of certain amounts in the fund to implement labor obligations in a free trade agreement with Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 448. A resolution designating December 3, 2019, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 117

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect paincapable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to gather information about the illicit production of illicit fentanyl in foreign countries and to withhold bilateral assistance from countries that do not have emergency scheduling procedures for new illicit drugs, cannot prosecute criminals for the manufacture or distribution of controlled substance analogues, or do not require the registration of tabletting machine and encapsulating machines.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and the stability of the transportation security workforce by applying a unified personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who are responsible for screening passengers and property, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1105

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 1153

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1153, a bill to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of iden-

tification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to provide that 12 weeks of leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 1254

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1254, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to review and report on certain laws, safety measures, and technologies relating to the illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes.

S. 1263

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

S. 1352

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to establish a Federal Advisory Council to Support Victims of Gun Violence.

S. 1392

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1392, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1575

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1575, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 1583

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) 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. 1657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1657, a bill to provide assistance to combat the escalating burden of Lyme disease and other tick and vector-borne diseases and disorders.

S. 1764

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New



Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1764, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for telephone and advanced communications services in the correctional and detention facilities.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) 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. 1830

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1908

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2282

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to enable Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities to apply for, receive, and administer grants and subgrants under the Continuum of Care Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

S. 2289

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2289, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the energy credit and the credit for residential energy efficient property.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2461

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

S. 2529

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2529, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to modify provisions relating to whistleblower incentives and protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2547

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2547, a bill to state the policy of the United States with respect to the expansion of cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe regarding the People's Republic of China.

S. 2741

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2741, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2754

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2754, a bill to create jobs and drive innovation and economic growth in the United States by supporting and promoting the manufacture of next-generation technologies, including refrigerants, solvents, fire suppressants, foam blowing agents, aerosols, and propellants.

S. 2765

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2765, a bill to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process.

S. 2766

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2766, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2777, a bill to assist States, tribes, territories, counties, and cities in implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 2809

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2809, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a surtax on high income individuals.

S. 2827

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2827, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, and for other purposes.

S. 2836

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2836, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from taking any action to implement, enforce, or otherwise give effect to the final rule, entitled "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority".

S. 2855

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2855, a bill to require the Secretary to conduct a study and issue a report on the affordability of insulin.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2960, a bill to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2974

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2974, a bill to require the Postmaster General to establish a comprehensive organizational strategy to combat the use of the mail in the distribution of illicit drugs.

S. CON. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 21, a concurrent resolution strongly condemning human rights violations, violence against civilians, and cooperation with Iran by the Houthi movement and its allies in Yemen.

S. CON. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 23, a concurrent resolution honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater.

S. RES. 142

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 142, a resolution condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 260

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 260, a resolution recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the United States Agency for International Development to global nutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.

S. RES. 371

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) 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. 375

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 375, a resolution recognizing

the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 2997. A bill to revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be introducing the Title VII Health Care Workforce Act of 2019 with Senator ENZI. This critical legislation would reauthorize funding for the Title VII health professions programs to help strengthen the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce so it is better prepared to meet the Nation's evolving and emerging health care needs.

The Title VII health professions programs have a longstanding history of increasing the supply of primary care professionals, expanding access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and developing a workforce that reflects the nation's diversity and the needs of patients. At a time when the Country is facing health provider shortages, it is critical that we continue to support the programs that advance our health care workforce, such as: scholarships for disadvantaged students, public health and preventive medicine, geriatrics training, area health education centers, oral health training, and primary care medicine.

These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers in areas of greatest need, and this legislation will take an important step in ensuring that these programs can continue to serve students and patients for years to come. I look forward to working with stakeholders supporting these efforts, including the American Association of Medical Colleges, as well as my colleague, Senator ENZI, to pass the Title VII Health Care Workforce Act of 2019, in addition to the bipartisan Investment in Tomorrow's Pediatric Health Care Workforce Act I introduced with Senator CASSIDY, as these bills proceed through the legislative process.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 3, 2019, AS “NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Whereas phenylketonuria (in this preamble referred to as “PKU”) is a rare, inherited metabolic disorder that is characterized by the inability of the body to process the es-

sential amino acid phenylalanine, and which causes intellectual disability and other neurological problems, such as memory loss and mood disorders, when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life;

Whereas PKU is also referred to as Phenylalanine Hydroxylase Deficiency;

Whereas newborn screening for PKU was initiated in the United States in 1963 and was recommended for inclusion in State newborn screening programs under the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-204);

Whereas approximately 1 out of every 15,000 infants in the United States is born with PKU;

Whereas PKU is treated with medical foods;

Whereas the 2012 Phenylketonuria Scientific Review Conference affirmed the recommendation of lifelong dietary treatment for PKU made by the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement in 2000;

Whereas, in 2014, the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and Genetic Metabolic Dietitians International published medical and dietary guidelines on the optimal treatment of PKU;

Whereas medical foods are medically necessary for children and adults living with PKU;

Whereas adults with PKU who discontinue treatment are at risk for serious medical issues, such as depression, impulse control disorder, phobias, tremors, and pareses;

Whereas women with PKU must maintain strict metabolic control before and during pregnancy to prevent fetal damage;

Whereas children born from untreated mothers with PKU may have a condition known as “maternal phenylketonuria syndrome”, which can cause small brains, intellectual disabilities, birth defects of the heart, and low birth weights;

Whereas, although there is no cure for PKU, treatment involving medical foods, medications, and restriction of phenylalanine intake can prevent progressive, irreversible brain damage;

Whereas access to health insurance coverage for medical foods varies across the United States and the long-term costs associated with caring for untreated children and adults with PKU far exceed the cost of providing medical foods treatment;

Whereas access to medical foods can prevent detrimental effects on individuals with PKU, their families, and society;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in PKU research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important projects involving PKU; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of PKU among the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 3, 2019, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed about phenylketonuria and the role of medical foods in treating phenylketonuria; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the National PKU Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria.

NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA  
AWARENESS DAY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 448, 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. 448) designating December 3, 2019, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day".

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 448) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 10, 2019

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 10; 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 Bumatay nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JAMES E. MCPHERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE RYAN MCCARTHY, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FINCH FULTON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE CARLOS A. MONJE, JR.

## CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

J. BRETT BLANTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE TERM OF TEN YEARS, VICE STEPHEN T. AYERS.