

the Affordable Care Act plan. Make sure you are signing up for a regulated, Affordable Care Act plan. That is a plan that is bronze or silver or gold, not one of these junk short-term plans that is not going to be right for the vast majority of Americans.

It is not too late. Sunday is the deadline. If you are in Connecticut, make sure to go to Access Health CT or your State exchange, if your State runs an exchange. If not, you can get healthcare through [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

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 I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled at 1:45 p.m. begin right now.

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

#### VOTE ON HAHN NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), 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 72, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 397 Ex.]

#### YEAS—72

Alexander	Brown	Cornyn
Baldwin	Capito	Cortez Masto
Barrasso	Cardin	Cotton
Bennet	Carper	Cramer
Blackburn	Casey	Crapo
Blunt	Cassidy	Cruz
Boozman	Collins	Daines
Braun	Coons	Durbin

Enzi	Lee
Ernst	Manchin
Feinstein	McConnell
Fischer	McSally
Gardner	Menendez
Graham	Murkowski
Grassley	Murphy
Hawley	Perdue
Hooven	Peters
Hyde-Smith	Portman
Inhofe	Risch
Johnson	Roberts
Jones	Romney
Kaine	Rosen
Kennedy	Rounds
Lankford	Rubio

#### NAYS—18

Blumenthal	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Gillibrand	Markey	Smith
Hassan	Merkley	Stabenow
Heinrich	Murray	Udall
Hirono	Reed	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—10

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Warren
Duckworth	Moran	
Harris	Paul	

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 immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from South Dakota.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. 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.

#### PALLONE-THUNE TRACED ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, every American has had to deal with annoying and illegal robocalls. All of us have been interrupted at one time or another by a robocall's announcing "You have won a prize" or claiming to need important banking information so that our accounts will not be closed. These calls are a major nuisance. Of course, they are not just a nuisance. Too many Americans fall victim to sophisticated robocall scammers and have their money or identities stolen. These individuals spend months or years struggling to get their lives back after falling prey to these scammers.

There are currently laws and fines in place to prevent scam artists from preying on people through the telephone. Unfortunately, these measures have not been sufficient. In many cases, robocall scammers simply build the current fines into the cost of doing business, and the Federal Communications Commission's enforcement efforts are hampered by a tight time window for pursuing violators.

I have been working on this issue since my time as chairman of the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and at the end of last year, I introduced the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, or the TRACED Act, with my colleague Senator MARKEY.

The Senate passed our bill in May, and last week our bill was passed by the House of Representatives. The TRACED Act provides tools to discourage illegal robocalls, protect consumers, crack down on offenders.

Criminal prosecution of illegal robocallers can be difficult. Scammers are frequently based abroad and quickly shut down shop before authorities can get to them, but I believe we need to make sure there is a credible threat of criminal prosecution and prison for those who use robocalls to prey upon the elderly and other vulnerable Americans.

The TRACED Act convenes a working group with representatives from the Department of Justice, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Commerce, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, State attorneys general, and others to identify ways to criminally prosecute illegal robocalling.

In the meantime, it expands the window in which the FCC can pursue scammers and levy fines from 1 year to 4 years.

The bill also makes it easier for your cell phone carrier to lawfully block calls that aren't properly authenticated, which will ultimately help stop scammers from getting through to your phone in the first place.

The TRACED Act also tackles the issue of spoof calls, where scammers make the call appear as if it is coming from some known number.

I remember an article from my home State a couple of years ago that reported that scammers had successfully spoofed the number of the Watertown Police Department. To anyone who received a call, it looked as if it really was the Watertown Police Department calling.

The TRACED Act also addresses the issue of so-called one-ring scams, where international scammers try to get individuals to return their calls so they can charge them exorbitant fees, and it directs the Federal Communications Commission to convene a working group to address the problem of illegal robocalls being made to hospitals.

There are numerous stories of hospital telephone lines being flooded with robocalls, disrupting critical lines of communication, literally, for hours. This can't be allowed to go on.

I want to thank Senator MARKEY for partnering with me on the TRACED Act, and my House colleagues for advancing this legislation. I am proud of the bipartisan support our bill has received in both Houses of Congress.

One last step remains before we can get this bill to the President's desk, and that is Senate passage of the final

bill. I am hoping we can get that done in the coming days so we can get this bill to the President before Christmas.

While the TRACED Act may not eliminate all of the robocalls Americans receive, it will go a long way toward making it safe to answer your phone again.

I look forward to seeing this legislation signed into law in the very near future.

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

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

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

#### HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT MICHAEL CLEARY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of 1LT Michael Cleary from Dallas, PA. It has been 14 years since his death. Michael is one of some 288 Pennsylvanians killed in action in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

First Lieutenant Cleary served as platoon leader of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team in E Company, 1st of the 15th Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

On December 20, 2005, First Lieutenant Cleary was killed in action while working in a bomb factory near Samarra, Iraq. His platoon was ambushed outside the facility. He was just 24 years old.

Even prior to joining the Army, Michael Cleary was an active member of his community. He graduated from Dallas Senior High School in Dallas, PA, and was a 4-year varsity athlete in both soccer and tennis. He was captain of both teams in his senior year. He received the Dr. Pepper Soccer MVP Scholarship and a history scholarship at high school graduation and was offered academic scholarships at Ursinus College, Gettysburg, as well as Dickinson and Lafayette—all very strong academic institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania.

He followed his father's footsteps and chose Hamilton College in New York. While at Hamilton, First Lieutenant Cleary participated in varsity soccer and lettered in varsity tennis. After the September 11, 2001, attacks on our Nation, he wanted to enlist in the Special Forces but chose to follow the advice of his mother and stayed in school until completing his studies.

In May 2003, he graduated from Hamilton with honors. During his senior year, he applied to and was accepted into the Marine flight officer program.

He was notified that his class would be deferred until January. Not wanting to wait any longer to serve his country, Michael Cleary decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. Three weeks after college graduation, he went to basic training and earned his airborne wings and sapper tab and graduated from the Special Air Service Antiterrorist Course.

The news of First Lieutenant Cleary's death came just before he was scheduled to return home during the Christmas season. He was also planning to get married 2 months after he returned home to his high school sweetheart. First Lieutenant Cleary earned the following awards and decorations: the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon. His family also received First Lieutenant Cleary's U.S. Army Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Following his death, First Lieutenant Cleary's father, Jack, described his last conversation with his son the day before he died. Jack Cleary is someone I have gotten to know since his son's passing, but here is what Jack said at that time. I am quoting him directly. "He"—meaning Michael—"was very upset that they were sending home some of his men without their awards . . . for things like promotions, and he was fighting for his men. That is the kind of officer he was. Michael was a fine man. He cared about all people, great and small."

Jack Cleary knows of what he speaks because he, himself, served in Vietnam and, as I mentioned earlier, was also a graduate of the same college. 1LT Michael Cleary's legacy lives on with his family. His mother, Marianne, is a member of Gold Star Mothers where she works to support veterans, military families, and her community every day.

Jon Bellona, Michael's college roommate, is a director and founder of the 1LT Michael Joseph Cleary: Run for the Fallen, a run across America to raise awareness about the lives of those who fought to activate their memories and to keep their spirits alive. Run for the Fallen supports organizations that help wounded veterans, as well as the families of those killed, and helps aid the healing process for those Americans whose lives have been affected by war.

All Americans are grateful for the friends and family of fallen servicemembers who not only continue the legacy of service to the Nation, but who take their tragedy and turn it into a force for good.

1LT Michael Cleary is one of so many bright, talented, and dedicated young men and women who have died in service to our country. While I speak specifically of Michael today, his story is the story of thousands of men and women across our country, hundreds of them in Pennsylvania who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and

also have given their lives in service of American values, values like democracy and liberty and rule of law.

As we remember Michael Cleary, we should also remember the words of Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln reminded us that people like Michael Cleary gave, as Lincoln said, "The last full measure of devotion to our country." It is at times like this when we should remember not only those words, but also other words from the Gettysburg Address, where he said, "It is us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

So that was our charge from President Lincoln all those generations ago. We must strive every day, whether we are citizens or public officials, whatever our station in life, we must strive every day to complete that unfinished work that Lincoln talked about, so that, as we discuss major security issues like U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan or combating the resurgence of ISIS in the Middle East or exercising oversight over U.S. military engagements overseas and look increasingly to try to resolve complicated global crises, we must not forget that those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and service to our country, particularly in the most recent wars, are those we should remember.

Just consider these numbers of Americans who have lost their lives in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with an additional seven killed in African Command operations since 2001. That number is 6,989 Americans just in those conflicts, just in that timeframe. These 6,989 Americans includes some 300 servicemembers from Pennsylvania, the fifth highest total of any State. No. 2, over 49,000 in that time period have been wounded, including more than roughly 2,000 from Pennsylvania. So 6,989 killed since 2001 nationwide and over 49,000 wounded in that time period.

Third, although the administration refuses to be transparent in its deployment tracking, press reports indicate that approximately 19,000 Americans are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, with an additional 65,000 serving the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

This year, Pennsylvania lost MSG Benjamin Hines of York County, PA, assigned to the 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve. He was killed by a roadside bomb on April 8 in Parwan Province, Afghanistan, along with two other marines: SSG Christopher Slutman and SGT Robert Hendricks. Staff Sergeant Slutman also had family ties to my home State of Pennsylvania.

While we are so grateful that Pennsylvania did not suffer more losses this year, any loss of life is not only devastating, but should also cause us to reconsider the nature of our military commitments overseas. These fighting men and women are born into families,