

As vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I am proud of several provisions within the IAA, particularly those aimed at tackling the technological threats from China, bolstering intelligence security against foreign malign influence, and enhancing whistleblower processes to protect the brave individuals who come forward to report waste, fraud, abuse, and other malfeasance.

Beyond these provisions, I want to highlight a few others that I believe will have a real impact on our Nation's security and the individuals serving in the IC.

First, as the chairman has already mentioned, there is paid parental leave. The National Defense Authorization Act includes a landmark provision that grants 12 weeks of paid parental leave for government employees. This builds upon the original bipartisan provision included in the Senate-passed IAA, which gave 12 weeks of paid parental leave to IC personnel, including adoptive and foster parents. This important provision will help to recruit and retain top talent across the government, including within the IC.

Frankly, this is a vital step forward for families across the Nation, and I am glad that our committee helped to lay the groundwork for this milestone achievement.

Next, deterring foreign interference in our elections. The IAA includes a number of provisions that are particularly important as we enter a Presidential election year. These include measures to deter foreign interference, including increased sharing of information between State, local, and Federal officials. It also creates an independent Social Media Data and Threat Analysis Center to counter foreign propaganda. Additionally, it includes provisions to counter the use of "deepfakes" and other emerging technologies by our adversaries.

Next, there are security clearance reforms. Additionally, the IAA includes several provisions to modernize the government's outdated security clearance process. The bill advances reforms that will make the system simpler and more transparent. It will capitalize on advanced technology and reflect the demand of today's mobile workforce. It calls for specific plans to reduce the background investigation and adjudication backlogs and to improve information sharing, so that only the folks who deserve a clearance can have one. These provisions are critically important to the government and our industry partners in maintaining a trusted and agile workforce.

The next provision is the creation of a public-private talent exchange. Finally, I want to highlight a provision that creates this IC public-private talent exchange. This exchange will allow employees to move between the public and private sectors more readily, broadening the expertise perspective of

our workforce, because, frankly, solving the complex problems facing our government today requires robust partnership with industry.

The IAA also contains provisions on the security risks posed by climate change, 5G, and hostile foreign intelligence services, to name just a few.

Before I conclude, I thank my friend the chairman, RICHARD BURR, as well as the hard-working bipartisan staff of the Intelligence Committee, without whose work this achievement certainly would not have been possible. I am proud of the work we have done. I am proud of the fact that this may be the only major authorization bill that, in a committee, received unanimous support, and I hope it bodes well for future cooperation going forward.

Before I yield the floor, let me acknowledge a great member of our committee, the Senator from Maine, who was absolutely central to the successful conclusion of this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 397, I voted no. It was my intention to vote yea; therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

I yield the floor.

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 clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany S. 1790, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Kevin Cramer, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, John Thune, James Lankford, James E. Risch, Deb Fischer, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, James M. Inhofe, Johnny Isakson, Steve Daines.

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

Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report to accompany S. 1790, an original bill to au-

thorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), 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 Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 76, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 398 Leg.]

YEAS—76

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

NAYS—6

Braun	Enzi	Lee
Carper	Gillibrand	Paul

NOT VOTING—18

Bennet	Harris	Perdue
Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sasse
Daines	Klobuchar	Toomey
Duckworth	Markey	Warren
Graham	Merkley	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 6.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume legislative session on the conference report to accompany S. 1790.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we are here today to pass the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act. It has just passed the procedural vote so we are ready for the vote that is going to take place tomorrow.

It is the 59th year in a row that we will be passing the NDAA, and that is because it is the most important bill Congress will be doing all year and one that fulfills our constitutional responsibilities, and that is to defend America.

There is a document nobody reads anymore that is called the Constitution. If you read that document, it tells you what we are supposed to be doing here, which is providing for the common defense or, simply put, defending America and all who call it home.

This conference report does exactly that. It is a testament to the good work we can accomplish when we work together, and I am talking about Democrats and Republicans of both parties in the House and Senate. The bill has been a long time coming. We started working on it last January, 11 months ago, holding hearings with military leaders about what resources they needed around the world. We started drafting it not long after, and in May we passed the bill out of our committee. We passed the bill out of committee by a 25-to-2 vote. That doesn't happen very often on big bills.

In June, we debated on the floor and incorporated more than 90 bipartisan amendments before it passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 86 to 8. Then we started the conference where we have been working day in and day out since September. This year, we had twice the number of Big 4 meetings. Now, Big 4 meetings are with a Democrat and Republican from both the House and Senate getting together to iron out some of these problems, and there were a lot of problems with this bill. Anytime we have 90 bipartisan amendments we are considering while putting the bill together, that is a big deal. We had twice the number of Big 4 meetings and more than twice the number of staff-level meetings that we normally have working our way through over 1,500 provisions within the bill.

I say this to remind everyone that our committee and staff have been working on this bill tirelessly for nearly a full year, and now we are going to pass it. If I had to break it down, I would say this year's NDAA has two big overarching principles. First, it resources and aligns priorities to implement the blueprint for the National

Defense Strategy Commission. This is it, the publication here, and this was put together by Democrats and Republicans a few years ago, laying out exactly what we have to have to adequately defend America.

We follow this blueprint. We are still following it today, and it is working. This bipartisan document outlines the challenges we need to be prepared to meet, namely, strategic competition with China and Russia. This is something—and I don't say this critically of the previous administration, but President Obama's priorities were not the same as the priorities we normally had. It was not defending America. There were other projects he was concerned with, and as a result of this, if you take the last 5 years from 2010 to 2015, the amount of money going to the military from President Obama's budget was reduced in that 5-year period by 25 percent. Keep in mind, while that was reduced by 25 percent, China was increasing their spending by 83 percent. That has never happened before.

Accordingly, the conference report funds the military at \$738 billion, in line with the bipartisan agreement I just described. So we are sticking with that. It is a good thing when you get a chance to get everyone together. There is always partisanship and all that, but when you get an outline like this, it is something that has worked and worked well.

In addition, the NDAA authorizes \$5.3 billion in emergency disaster recovery to help military installations. Occasionally, we have natural disasters. We had them in Nebraska, Florida, and North Carolina that inflicted great damage on our military bases in those areas.

The Space Force is the President's big deal. It will help protect space and ensure America's dominance in this warfighting domain for years to come. It is interesting also. There are those who are criticizing it, and I had some reluctance at first because we are doing a good job in space. We have been doing a pretty good job in space for quite a while, but it is not all in one area. There is a psychological component. Our chief problems out there are China and Russia. China and Russia have their own space dominance in this Space Force, and just the fact that we don't have one is something that made people believe we didn't have an interest in the Space Force, and we are going to dominate Space Force. This is the first time we will have a new branch in government in over 70 years. The Space Force will help us protect space and ensure American dominance in the warfighting domain for years to come.

To implement the national defense strategy, the NDAA reframes its priorities. It accelerates investment in efforts to modernize our Armed Forces, including creating hypersonic weapons, 5G, cyber, long-range missiles, and areas where we are at risk.

I mention the hypersonic weapons. That is the state of the art and what

we are doing right now. Prior to the last administration, we were ahead in hypersonic weapons. At the end of that administration years later, China and Russia were ahead. Now we are catching up. We are going to pass them. This bill is going to be a way to do this.

The NDAA has strong support for nuclear modernization, preserving all three legs of the triad to maintain maximum deterrence against our adversaries. Our triad has been controversial for a long time, but it has worked, and there are some who would like to drop it down to just two forces as opposed to three, but we want to make sure we have the best. We want to make sure we can win in a nuclear battle.

It also provides needed reforms to the way the Department of Defense does business. An efficient, effective Pentagon will help America retain and, in some cases, regain the competitive edge. We don't have the competitive edge around the world.

I talk to people around the country. They always assume that America has the best of everything, and there was a time when we did. I think ever since World War II we were in that situation, but we have lost some of that edge, and this is what we are going to do; we are going to regain it.

The legislation also keeps President Trump's promise to continue rebuilding the military. The legislation invests its equipment, resources, and training needed to restore American readiness. These investments mean we will have a larger Army, larger Navy, a more agile Air Force and a more lethal Marine Corps—a force that is ready to deter or, if necessary, defeat any threats that might come our way.

That is something a lot of people think is extreme, but we are used to that. We learned our lesson in World War II. We have gone through several conflicts since that time, and we are not going to allow that to happen again. We are going to keep all of these forces strong. That is what the bill does to rebuild our military and realign to be able to compete with Russia and China.

You go through and see the changing scenes all around the world. You go to the South China Sea and see China building islands out there. It is as if they are preparing for World War III, and some of our allies in that part of the world are wondering what we are doing. They don't see us out there, but we are. Now this bill puts us back in the running.

I said this bill does two main things. The second part is the bill really looks out for our servicemembers and their families. To tell the story of what we do in that area is really to tell the story of two courageous military spouses. Those two military spouses are Janna Driver and Jane Horton.

I have had the honor of knowing both of these women who represent hundreds of thousands of military spouses around the country. About 1 year ago,