

(C) *multilateral peer review anti-corruption compliance mechanisms, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, done at New York October 31, 2003, to further highlight expert international views on country challenges and country efforts.*

(d) *TRAINING.—The Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall incorporate anti-corruption components into existing Foreign Service and Civil Service training courses—*

(1) *to increase the ability of Department of State and USAID personnel to support anti-corruption as a foreign policy and development priority; and*

(2) *to strengthen their ability to design, implement, and evaluate more effective anti-corruption programming around the world, including enhancing skills to better evaluate and mitigate public corruption risks in assistance programs.*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we need to pass the Combating Global Corruption Act. Today, I join with my colleague Senator YOUNG to reaffirm bipartisan support for this important legislation.

Corruption threatens international stability and security and poses a serious threat to democracy and democratic values. Ten days ago, December 9, was International AntiCorruption Day. This day provides an annual reminder of the dire need to prioritize combatting corruption here in the United States and around the world.

Corruption undermines democratic institutions, it compromises the rule of law, and it erodes human rights protections. It damages America's global competitiveness and hampers economic growth in global markets. It fosters the conditions for violent extremism and weakens institutions associated with governance and accountability. These are direct threats to our national and international security.

Earlier this year, Transparency International published its Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018. It underscored that the failure to curb corruption is contributing to a worldwide crisis of democracy. Not surprisingly then, Freedom House similarly reported that 2018 was marked by global declines in political rights and civil liberties for the 13th consecutive year. Sixty-eight countries suffered net declines in political rights and civil liberties during 2018, with only 50 nations registering gains.

We have all seen the headlines in recent years—from scandals in Liberia, Hungary, and Guatemala, to the doping by Russian athletes and their subsequent ban from the 2016 Summer Olympics and using aid to influence other nations' behavior.

It is clear that where there are high levels of corruption, we find fragile states, authoritarian states, or states suffering from internal or external conflict—in places such as Lebanon, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Nigeria, and Sudan.

Different domestic issues may have sparked the wave of massive protests we are observing today—whether they be increases in gas prices or metro

fares—but many of these uprisings have been sustained by public desire to weed out leaders' corruption. Corruption is no longer being tolerated or excused.

Corruption operates via extensive and entrenched networks in both the public and private sectors. It is ubiquitous and pervasive, but we must address it. The costs of not addressing it or rooting it out are just too great.

Mr. President, we must be clear-eyed—any fight against corruption will be long-term and difficult. It is a fight against powerful people, powerful companies, and powerful interests. It is about changing a mindset and a culture as much as it is about establishing and enforcing laws.

While previous anti-corruption legislation has been crucial, the Combating Global Corruption Act takes our commitment to this value further by bringing a whole-of-government approach to the issue and bringing more transparency to the instances of corruption going on unnoticed in every country around the world.

The Combating Global Corruption Act requires the State Department to produce an annual assessment, either by a briefing or by a report, similar to the Trafficking in Persons Report, which takes a close look at each country's efforts to combat corruption. The assessment will measure indicators such as transparency, accountability, enforcement of anti-corruption laws, and the extent to which public power is used for private gain.

That model, which has effectively advanced the effort to combat modern-day slavery, will similarly embed the issue of corruption in our collective work and make other nations more conscious of their corruption levels.

The bill includes clear definitions of corruption and corrupt activities and underscores the importance of prioritizing corruption into strategic planning—across our agencies, bureaus, and our missions overseas.

It specifically increases coordination on anti-corruption efforts between the Department of State and USAID and formally engages our embassies in the fight against corruption by establishing anti-corruption points of contact at our Embassies in critical countries.

We work across multiple agencies and in multiple offices to combat corruption. The roles of these points of contact, comprised of either the chief of mission or personnel designated for the role by the chief of mission, will foster greater coordination on anticorruption efforts within the U.S. government.

It is time for the U.S. Congress to send a strong message to our Nation and to the world that corruption cannot be accepted as the status quo.

It is time that we back up our words—our commitment to supporting democratization, human rights, and fairness globally—with action to protect those critically important values.

Let's pass the Combating Global Corruption Act.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Cardin substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported substitute amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1275), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 1309), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### NATIONAL ONE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 462, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 462) designating January 2020 as "National One Health Awareness Month" to promote awareness of organizations focused on public health, animal health, and environmental health collaboration throughout the United States and to recognize the critical contributions of those organizations to the future of the United States.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 462) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that 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 preamble was agreed to.

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

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3148

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand is there a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3148) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills for the joint resolutions through Monday, December 23, 2019.

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

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Roy Kamphausen of Connecticut for a term expiring December 31, 2021 (reappointment); the Honorable James M. Talent of Missouri for a term expiring December 31, 2021 (reappointment).

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Honorable Carte P. Goodwin of West Virginia for a term beginning January 1, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021 (reappointment).

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 548.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean O'Donnell, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no in-

tervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motion be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the O'Donnell nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 507, 508, and 509.

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

The clerk will report the nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Dana S. Deasy, of Virginia, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense (New Position); Lisa W. Hershman, of Indiana, to be Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense; and Robert John Sander, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Deasy, Hershman, and Sander nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

##### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2019, THROUGH THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, December 23, at 10 a.m.; Thursday, December 26, at 3:15 p.m.; Monday, December 30, at 2 p.m.; and Thursday, January 2 at 6:30 p.m.

For the information of all Senators, when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, January 2, 2020, it will next convene at 12 noon on Friday, January 3, pursuant to the Constitution; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. Finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate 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.

##### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:47 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:34 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HOEVEN).

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive Session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive calendar 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, and 411.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, that no further motions be in order, and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that nomination 525 be removed from the list.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of David T. Fischer, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of