



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

No. 28

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires known, we put our trust in You.

Today, abide with our lawmakers. Teach them to speak the right words at the right time. Make their speech like precious gold set in silver. May they seek to persuade with patient and gentle words. Lord, give them the wisdom to be friends of that which is eternal and abiding. Fill them with reverence for the transcendent as You induce them to ascribe all good things to You.

We pray in Your gracious 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, our colleague Senator MARTHA MCSALLY, of Arizona, announced her support yesterday for the bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act. I like to refer to it as the Grassley-Wyden prescription drug bill, reducing prices. Senator MCSALLY and I

worked together on several parts of the bill. Her Arizonans should know that Senator MCSALLY's leadership is making all the difference in moving this bill forward. I thank her for her co-sponsorship.

President Trump, Vice President PENCE, and nearly a dozen Senate Republicans have, so far, endorsed this bill. Several other Senate Republicans will soon announce their support as well. I expect to introduce an updated version in the coming weeks.

I am confident that, if this bill were to be brought up for a vote, it would pass overwhelmingly. Let's not miss an opportunity then to deliver real progress for Americans. This always shows up—in other words, drug pricing legislation—as one of the three, four, or five top issues of the upcoming election.

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. MCCONNELL. Madam 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.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, with the impeachment trial behind us, the Senate can now get back to the business of the American people.

As the President laid out in his bold speech last Tuesday, the state of our Union is strong. Over the past 3 years, a combination of major Republican policy victories and important bipartisan achievements have helped to cre-

ate a historic economic moment for working Americans and middle-class families.

Unemployment remains right around its lowest point in half a century. The percentage of Americans aged 25 to 54 who have jobs is the highest it has been in 20 years. The market for American workers is hot, and it is pulling people off of the sidelines. As the New York Times recently explained, "Employers are hiring candidates with disabilities, criminal records and other barriers to employment, and are offering perks to attract workers." No wonder the percentage of Americans who say they are financially better off now than they were a year ago just hit a 44-year high.

We have finally seen a drop in opioid deaths. In my home State of Kentucky, we recently saw the largest decrease in fatal drug overdoses in a decade. We are rebuilding and modernizing the world's greatest military, and we are continuing to renew our Federal judiciary with thoroughly qualified men and women who understand that a judge's job is to interpret our laws and our Constitution as they were actually written.

There is plenty more for the Senate to do to keep up this momentum for the American people, so we are glad to get back to business.

We will start this week by confirming more of President Trump's well-qualified nominees to lifetime judicial appointments. The first up is Judge Andrew Brasher, of Alabama, to serve on the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Brasher currently serves on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. He is a Harvard Law graduate who previously clerked on the Eleventh Circuit, excelled in private practice, and found his way into public service as solicitor general for his home State. In that role, he was recognized by the National Association of Attorneys General for his legal writing, and his nomination earned a unanimous "well-qualified" rating from the ABA.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S971

I look forward to confirming Judge Brasher to his next post this afternoon.

#### WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week, we expect the Senate will take up a War Powers Resolution by the junior Senator from Virginia that would severely limit the U.S. military's operational flexibility to defend itself against threats posed by Iran. I will strongly oppose our colleague's effort and urge the Senate to defeat it.

First, let's discuss what prompted this: the President's successful decision to remove Soleimani from the battlefield last month. This limited yet decisive precision strike eliminated the terrorist mastermind who had been responsible for more American military casualties than anyone else alive.

This was not some reckless act. It was a calculated and limited response to a significant, growing threat of attack against U.S. personnel in Iraq by an emboldened adversary. Years ago, Soleimani had concluded America was a paper tiger whose people he could kill with relative impunity. It was a strike designed to stop an escalation cycle we all knew was underway and to restore deterrence and reduce the risk of war.

Yet, when Soleimani's record of brutality was brought to an end, some Washington Democrats immediately suggested President Trump was leading us into World War III. While the Middle East masses rejoiced at the death of a principal architect of Iran's campaign of terror, the Washington elites fretted.

Yet, thus far, it appears the Soleimani strike has, indeed, had the intended effect. As I observed back in January, "We appear to have restored a measure of deterrence in the Middle East. So let's not screw it up." Well, I am afraid that is just what our colleague's resolution would do. Just as we have successfully sent Iran the strong signal of our strength and resolve, a blunt and clumsy War Powers Resolution would tie our own hands.

With China's and Russia's watching, is it really a good idea to suggest that we are willing to let a meddling power like Iran push us around? This self-flagellation and self-limitation would be tantamount to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

For 8 years, President Obama and Senate Democrats, like my friend the Democratic leader himself, frequently said that, when it comes to Iran, we should never take the military option off the table. Yet, now that someone else is in the Oval Office, they seem to want to remove all options from the table. Lest we forget, the fact is that we are not conducting ongoing hostilities with Iran. This was a one-off operation to disrupt and deter planned attacks—not a campaign, not a conflict, not a war.

This discrete and limited exercise of American power pales in comparison to

the ways in which past Presidents of both parties have routinely used Presidential authorities to utilize our military might without their having the prior consent of Congress—President Clinton in Kosovo, President Obama in Libya, and so on.

Do most of my distinguished Democratic colleagues really agree with several of their party's leading Presidential candidates who have suggested President Trump made a mistake by taking this sort of Executive action to eliminate this brutal terrorist?

Do my colleagues really agree with the prominent voices on their side who have proposed to exit the Middle East altogether rather than to continue to work to support our local partners and defend our national security and national interests in this critical region?

I have been trying to have this broader debate for more than a year now. I have repeatedly sought to give my Democratic colleagues the opportunity to go on record about their actual, big-picture strategic vision for the Middle East.

Are they willing to support a continued military presence in Syria? in Iraq? Do they believe we can magically support our partners, like the Kurds, without having a military presence; that we can counter Iranian and Russian influence if we are nowhere to be found in the region? Do they believe Israel will be safer in a region without American influence?

Ill-conceived potshots at Presidential authorities—in the wake of a strike that succeeded—by using the blunt instrument of a War Powers Resolution is no substitute at all for answering these broader questions.

I will oppose my colleague's resolution tomorrow, and I encourage our colleagues to do likewise.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5687

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5687) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, 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. SCHUMER. Madam 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 MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the 2020 primary elections are ongoing. The national election is only 9 months away. If there is anything we can say for certain about our elections at this point, it is that foreign entities—Putin, China, perhaps others—are already implementing their schemes to undermine the public confidence and the integrity of those elections and to bend social media in favor of their chosen outcome. FBI Director Wray, former DNI Coats—virtually every member of our national security and intelligence community has warned us of this danger.

As we have heard over the past weeks, the threat of foreign interference in our election dates back to the founding days of the country. George Washington warned that foreign interference is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. Adams wrote that as long as elections happen, the danger of foreign influence recurs.

The warnings of our Founders hold a new and startling relevance today. The current President of the United States, far from having the same fears about foreign interference as our Founders, has been very public about his openness to foreign assistance and manipulation in support of his election. If a foreign power had dirt on one of his opponents, the President said, "I think I'd want to hear it." At different times, the President has invited Russia, Ukraine, and China to investigate his political opponents.

Of course the President was just impeached over this issue, and the Senate just concluded a trial in which it appeared a bipartisan majority of Senators broadly accepted the fact that the President leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars of military assistance to Ukraine to compel its government to investigate one of his political rivals.

The trial of President Trump exposed in great detail the President's willingness to accept foreign help in the elections. It also revealed just how little Senate Republicans were willing to do about it. Senate Republicans wouldn't even fairly examine the charges against the President by allowing witnesses and documents in his trial.

The end of the President's impeachment trial does not mean that the end of the issue of election security is somehow over—far from it. We now have even a greater need to safeguard our elections than we had before.

The President tried to cheat in our elections, and the Senate majority of

his party decided to look the other way. What do you think the President will conclude? He will conclude that he can get away with anything. He could try to cheat again—ask China or North Korea or Russia to investigate the Democratic nominee, whoever it is.

We know we can't trust this President to stand up for the integrity of our elections, so Congress must. Democrats are not going to stop fighting to put up additional safeguards before the 2020 elections.

Later today, a group of my colleagues will come to the floor to ask unanimous consent to pass crucial election security legislation. Much of this legislation is bipartisan. Some of it has already passed out of committee. Some of it has passed the House, but it has languished for years—years—because Majority Leader McCONNELL has refused to bring any of these bills to the floor.

Senator WARNER and Senator BLUMENTHAL have duty-to-report bills—commonsense measures to require Presidential campaigns to report offers of foreign help to the FBI. Senator WYDEN and Senator KLOBUCHAR have the SAFE Act—another commonsense measure to authorize funding to harden election infrastructure and protect voting machines from hacking and other intrusions.

Neither of these bills should be controversial. There is nothing partisan about them—nothing at all—but they have consistently been blocked by Senate Republicans and denied time and consideration on the floor by Republican Leader McCONNELL. That doesn't mean Democrats are going to stop trying. Later today, we will try again to pass these bipartisan, noncontroversial bills. We will see if our Republican colleagues are willing to do what is necessary to protect our elections.

#### NOMINATION OF ANDREW LYNN BRASHER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the nomination of Andrew Brasher for the Eleventh Circuit, the nomination is truly a disgrace—a disgrace—to our judiciary. I urge every single Senator to reject it.

Mr. Brasher is laughably inexperienced. He was confirmed as a district court judge only 9 months ago. That is the sum total of his experience as a judge at any level—9 months. Now Leader McCONNELL wants to elevate him to an appellate court. In Leader McCONNELL's desperate rush to pack the courts with hard-right judges, his party is asking the Senate to confirm judicial novices to the most austere and important seats on the Federal bench.

Worse than this nominee's inexperience, though, are his views, which are so far outside the American mainstream.

In his 5 years as solicitor general in the State of Alabama, Brasher defended the indefensible on issues rang-

ing from women's reproductive rights, to marriage equality, to gun safety. Mr. Brasher has also amassed a career's worth of experience undermining voting rights. Brasher signed on to an amicus brief that argued in favor of gutting the Voting Rights Act—arguably the most important piece of civil rights legislation in our Nation's history. His arguments in defense of an Arizona voter ID law were roundly rejected by the Supreme Court, including Justice Scalia. As the solicitor general for Alabama, Brasher defended the State's voter suppression efforts, including State district lines that courts later concluded were drawn explicitly to discriminate against African-American voters. This is who the Senate Republicans want to put as a circuit court of appeals justice.

Whether it is covering up for President Trump and his attempts to cheat in our elections or confirming judges like Mr. Brasher with a history of race-related voter discrimination, Senate Republicans are showing outright contempt for the very wellspring of our democracy—the right of American citizens to vote in free and fair elections.

Mr. Brasher clearly, obviously, and certainly does not belong on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I urge every Senator to vote against his nomination.

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. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last Tuesday, the President delivered his State of the Union Address. He discussed some of our biggest accomplishments over the past 3 years, and, of course, chief among those accomplishments is the economic progress we have made.

During the Obama administration, our economy spent years in the doldrums. American families and American workers struggled to advance in a historically slow recovery that left some experts predicting that a weaker economy would be the new normal. Yet Republicans didn't believe we should be resigning ourselves to that future. In fact, we knew that the real strength of the American economy, American business, and American workers was still there.

But we also knew that burdensome regulations and an outdated tax code were preventing our economy from thriving the way it should, so we took action. We cut burdensome regulations and passed historic reform of our Tax Code. We cut tax rates for families, doubled the tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction.

Then we took aim at the parts of the Tax Code that were holding back American workers and American businesses. We lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. We lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate, which was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. We expanded business owners' ability to recover the costs of investments they make in their businesses, which frees up cash they can reinvest in their operations and their workers. We brought the U.S. international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses are not operating at a competitive disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts.

Tax reform is working. Unemployment is near its lowest level in 50 years—50 years. Think about that. For the past 12 months, unemployment has been below 4 percent, a record that was last achieved in the 1960s. African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans all saw record low unemployment in 2019. Strong economic growth has also given discouraged workers the confidence to come off of the sidelines and to join the workforce.

Currently, the labor force participation rate is at its highest level in 7 years. Last month, the economy created 225,000 jobs, well above market expectations. All told, the economy has created an average of 171,000 jobs per month over the past 12 months—a strong number.

Wages are growing. For the past 18 months, wage growth has been at or above 3 percent. And as the President said in his State of the Union Address, this is a “blue-collar boom.” In contrast to the Obama administration, in this economy, it is blue-collar workers who are seeing the strong wage growth.

Gains in the stock market have been good news for American workers' 401(k)s and pensions. The list goes on.

Of course, while we have made a lot of progress, our work isn't done. While our economy as a whole has thrived, our Nation's farm economy continues to struggle. Low commodity and livestock prices, natural disasters, and protracted trade disputes have made the last few years challenging ones for farmers and ranchers.

One of the most important things we can do to help the farm economy is negotiate trade deals that expand markets for American agriculture products and give our farmers and ranchers certainty about what markets will look like going forward. That is why I pushed for passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, which the President signed last month. This agreement will maintain and expand farmers' and ranchers' access to the two biggest markets for American agricultural products and provide certainty about what these markets will look like for the foreseeable future.

I am particularly pleased about the improvements the agreement makes

for the dairy industry, which is a growing industry in my State of South Dakota. We need to conclude more strong trade agreements going forward that will expand markets for American agriculture products.

The President also mentioned the trade agreement we are negotiating with China. The President recently signed phase one of the agreement, which includes a pledge from China to substantially increase its imports of American agriculture products. That is excellent news for farmers and ranchers, but we need to make sure that China actually lives up to its commitments. As we know, China doesn't have the best record in this regard, and it is important that the United States make clear that any agreements must be honored.

We have made a lot of progress for the American people over the past 3 years, but, as I said, there is more work to be done. I hope to work with my colleagues of both parties this year to continue to build on the economic progress we have made and create more opportunities for American workers. I will continue to make the needs of our Nation's farmers and ranchers one of my top priorities. I am committed to seeing our Nation's farm economy catch up to our economy as a whole.

I am proud that Republican economic policies have made life better for American workers. I will continue to work to ensure that every American has access to the benefits of our strong economy.

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 the call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING BILLIE SUE HOGGARD

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, our Nation functions thanks to the extraordinary devotion and patriotism of the American people. Every city, every county, every State, and every party has a few patriots who go above and beyond, dedicating their whole lives to making sure that our system works and that our way of life is preserved so that we can pass on our Republic as a precious inheritance to our children and our grandchildren.

Billie Sue Hoggard was just such a patriot. She devoted her life to her neighbors and fellow citizens in Jonesboro in northeast Arkansas. Billie Sue went home to be with the Lord on Sunday at age 76.

Billie Sue loved America, she loved Arkansas, she loved the Republican Party with all of her heart, and she devoted all of her energy to making them great.

As a young child, sadly, Billie Sue knew the meaning of sacrifice. Her adoptive father was killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. Although they had not met, he kept her baby photo in his wallet. No doubt, he was proud to know the baby girl he adopted grew up to carry on his legacy of service to others. I bet he told her that on Sunday when they were reunited.

Billie Sue worked as a teacher in northeast Arkansas for decades, helping young people grow up to become better citizens. Her career as an educator was just one part of her commitment to public service. She also served as a justice of the peace and the Republican Party committee chair for Craighead County, where she brought energy and joy and a little bit of feistiness to every meeting and every local gathering.

Billie Sue was also a Republican well ahead of the pack, back in the day when many counties didn't even have committees and some counties could probably meet in a telephone booth. Her energy and commitment were instrumental in helping our party win the trust and support of our candidates in Jonesboro, in Craighead County, in northeast Arkansas, and all around our State. It is thanks in no small part to her efforts that RICK CRAWFORD now represents northeast Arkansas in the House of Representatives, the first Republican to hold that seat since reconstruction.

I met Billie Sue shortly after my election to the House. She encouraged me to run for the Senate. She promised to deliver Craighead County if I did, and I can tell you, she kept that promise and then some, as she always did.

Of course, Billie Sue was most committed of all to her family. Her four children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren were the loves of her life. In a fitting turn of fate, Billie Sue, the adopted daughter of a servicemember, served herself as guardian to two of her young granddaughters in her later years. She was in her seventies when she raised those two young girls. In an act of love, she stepped up for her family in its hour of need.

Billy Sue's health declined over the last year of her life. We all know how the battles of illness can rob people we love of their vitality in their final days. But while cancer could ravage her body, it could never dampen Billy Sue's spirit. When I called her over this last year to check on her, I always heard the same energy and passion—and, yes, feistiness—as she wanted to skip over quickly how she was doing and talk about the latest legislative battles here in Congress and political campaigns in Arkansas.

Now Billie Sue has gone back to be with the Lord, but she is not forgotten. Arkansans will remember her as a local leader and a patriot who made her community and our State better through decades of tireless service. May she rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### 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 and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

#### ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the 2020 primary elections are already underway, and the national election is only 9 months away. We know that foreign entities—Putin, China, perhaps others—are already scheming to undermine the public confidence in our elections. The threats to our next elections are real and growing nearer each day.

Last week the Senate concluded an impeachment trial of the President, who was accused of abusing the powers of his office to solicit the help of a foreign power in his reelection—solicit the help. It didn't just happen. He was soliciting it.

My Republican Senate friends refused to hold the President accountable for his misconduct—refused to even hold a fair trial. Now, what do we think the President will conclude after the Senate Republican majority let him off the hook for trying to cheat in our elections? He will conclude that he can try to do it again. Anyone who knows him knows that is what he will do.

Because Senate Republicans chose to look the other way, the need for election security legislation is greater now than ever before. We cannot trust this President to stand up for the integrity of our elections. So Congress must stand up in his stead.

In a few moments, my colleagues Senator WARNER, Senator WYDEN, and

Senator BLUMENTHAL will ask for unanimous consent to pass crucial election security legislation. They will talk about what their legislation will do. But know this: Protecting our elections should not be partisan. It should not be controversial. It should earn the unanimous support of every Member.

The very wellspring of our democracy is the principle of free and fair elections. Will our Republican colleagues stand up for free and fair elections today or will they once again block commonsense legislation to defend our democracy?

I yield to the Senator from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the Democratic leader.

I am here today because I think, as we all know, our elections remain vulnerable to foreign election interference. Russia attacked our democracy in 2016, with the goal of undermining confidence in our system, a system of free and fair elections—literally, the bedrock of our democracy.

Their cyber attacks and disinformation efforts continue to this day, and our own FBI Director, Christopher Wray, has reassured or, potentially, warned us that they will be back in full force this year. Not only that, but we will have to contend with potential interference from China, Iran, North Korea, and others who have basically copied the Russia playbook.

The threat is real, it is ongoing, and we are not doing enough to be ready. Time and again we hear these same warnings from our intelligence community leadership, from companies like Facebook, from the special counsel, and many others. The truth is that the alarm bells are going off, and we are running out of time to actually do something about it.

Unfortunately, the White House and the U.S. Senate seem to be the only ones not taking this threat seriously. Since 2016, this body, which we all have the honor to serve in, has failed to vote on a single piece of standalone election security legislation. Three times last year I came to the floor in an attempt to pass bipartisan election security legislation by unanimous consent, and each time these efforts were blocked by some of my Republican colleagues—blocked and actually earned applause from the President on Twitter for their actions.

Well, I am back again today because the security of our elections cannot wait. In a moment, I will ask unanimous consent to pass my legislation known as the FIRE Act. This bill would simply say to all Presidential campaigns going forward that if a foreign power reaches out to your campaign offering assistance or offering dirt on a political opponent, the appropriate response is not to say thank you. The appropriate response is to call the FBI.

I introduced this bipartisan legislation months before the facts came to

light about the President pressuring Ukraine into announcing a politically motivated investigation into the Bidens.

Now, I am not here to rehash the impeachment trial, but I do want to note one thing. A number of my Republican colleagues justified their votes by saying that, while not impeachable, it was wrong for the President to solicit foreign interference in our elections. I take my colleagues at their word that they believe foreign interference has no place in our elections, but if I take you at your word, you have got to put your money where your mouth is. We are under attack from our adversaries, who see this new era of cyber warfare and disinformation as a unique and golden opportunity to undermine American democracy.

We cannot afford to have a system that allows any Presidential candidate to welcome this kind of interference with open arms. If we can't trust the President of the United States and his campaign to do the right thing and report foreign interference, then we need to require it by law.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2242

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2242, the FIRE Act; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I would like to articulate the reason for the objection to the legislation brought forward by the minority.

You would think that, after spending weeks in this Chamber litigating the finer points of their disagreements with the President's foreign policy, our friends in the minority would be weary of picking another partisan fight. But here we go again.

They are attempting to bypass this body's Rules Committee on behalf of various bills that will seize control over elections from the States and take it from the States. And where do they want to put it? They want it to rest in the hands of Washington, DC, bureaucrats.

As I have said on this floor before, I served on a local election commission. I know how hard our friends and neighbors and our local election commissions and our State election commissions work to ensure the integrity of the ballot box.

What would these bills that are going to be brought forward this morning do? They would centralize control over the vote, and what we have seen is big centralized out-of-control government. We

would end up having a less safe electoral process. It would be more vulnerable to attack.

It is absolutely baffling to me that the minority would fight so hard for such a disastrous vision, but, as I said, here we go again. Their actions show complete contempt for the progress that Congress, the intelligence community, and State-level authorities have made to protect our elections without resorting to a Federal power grab.

Since fiscal year 2018, Congress has invested \$805 million in protecting the vote. This is the largest investment in elections since the 2002 Help America Vote Act. And do you know what? It is making a difference. It is making a difference.

Why, then, would the minority continue to demand changes that would redirect that investment to support groups like the Iowa Democratic Party, whose mishandling of their own caucus ended in what has been termed by everyone as an unmitigated disaster?

They know it is not necessary, and yet time and again they are trying to force this issue. They feel like only the bureaucrats in Washington, DC, can handle this.

So in response to this gross hypocrisy, today I am filing my own bill directing the Government Accountability Office to look into the debacle in Iowa.

I send a bill to the desk, and I ask that it be appropriately referred.

This is not an attack. This is a recognition that any complex process comes with the risk of mistakes or mismanagement. We are all vulnerable. We must recognize this. We must investigate allegations of fraud and mismanagement, and, of course, there should be lessons learned from the past. To ignore these problems is to resign ourselves to a fatally flawed democratic process.

On that note, I do object to the motion, and I ask my colleagues to remember that we have reached a bipartisan consensus on the importance of securing our elections. We are all against election interference. We are all against foreign interference in elections. We are all for free and fair elections, and we are all for protecting the ballot box.

So I hope my Democratic colleagues do not resort to sending out more fundraising letters saying that the Republicans are opposed to a secure election process, because that is a falsehood. We are not. We are for a fair process. We do not believe federalizing that process and taking the power away from local governments and State governments is the way to do that.

So let's focus on the bipartisan consensus, and let's not throw that away in the name of having another partisan grudge match.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's comments about

State and local election security, which I support.

I see two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee on the floor, and I am extraordinarily proud of the bipartisan, unanimous work that we have done to point out what happened in 2016 and to lay out with a great deal of specificity what we need to do as a nation to protect ourselves in 2020.

This legislation I am proposing today is really kind of the simplest, lowest hanging fruit. I think we all say that we don't want foreigners interfering in our elections. All this legislation says is if a foreign government or foreign agents interfere to try to help or hurt any Presidential candidate, we ought to make sure there is no ambiguity that the appropriate response is not to say thank you but the appropriate response is to call the FBI.

That is the message we have heard from Director Wray. That is the message we have heard from the intelligence community. If we can't agree on that, gracious, where are we?

And, candidly, in other times we might not have needed this kind of legislation. It seems so patently obvious.

I am disappointed with the objection. We will keep trying.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2238

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to thank the vice chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence and pick up on his remarks.

For my colleagues, I believe they have asked that I give my remarks before I offer my unanimous consent request, and that is what I will do.

Mr. President, America is 266 days away from the 2020 elections, and Majority Leader McCONNELL has yet to take any concrete steps to protect our foreign elections from hacking or foreign interference. Thanks to this legislative blockade, the Senate has been totally derelict in its duty to stop foreign cyber attacks on our election.

I want to give just one concrete example, having listened to my colleague from Tennessee. There is not one single nationwide, mandatory election cyber security standard on the books. That means there is not even a prohibition on voting machines having an open connection to the internet. Colleagues, that is the equivalent of stashing our ballots in the Kremlin. There is no such cyber security prohibition.

The election security debacle of 2016 was 4 years ago, but still this body has refused to act. We know Russian hackers probed all 50 State election systems. They hacked at least one election vendor. Russians penetrated two Florida county election systems, according to Florida's Governor. That is just what we know about.

Despite all the ways foreign hackers have already made it into our election infrastructure, the Congress has re-

fused to arm State and county officials with the knowledge and funding they need to secure their systems.

I will state what I tell my constituents at townhall meetings at home—and I have more of them scheduled this weekend—I believe, as of today, the 2020 election is going to make 2016 look like small potatoes. The list of threats and vulnerabilities ought to be a wake-up call—a wake-up call—for every Member of this Senate. There were the ES&S voting machines that for years came with preinstalled remote-access software. There is the fact that Russia hacked an election vendor called VR Systems in the summer of 2016. VR Systems electronic poll books in North Carolina malfunctioned on election day that year, and one polling place had to shut down for hours. It was 2½ years before the Department of Homeland Security even investigated what had happened, and the government still has not adequately responded to questions I and Senator KLOBUCHAR have asked about this.

Right now, many election officials across the country are buying election systems that they believe in good faith are high tech, but they are in fact vulnerable to hacking and are outdated the moment they come out of the box. There is the alarming trend of states using mobile voting apps, like Voatz, that haven't been vetted by top security experts.

This is the reason why so many cyber security experts have been sounding the alarms for years, warning that putting computers between a voter and their ballots is a prescription for disaster. What happens when a "glitch" changes a candidate's vote totals by just 2 percent or 5 percent instead of 50 percent? What happens when a glitch shuts down machines in some precincts and not others, disenfranchising voters and skewing election results?

Five States still exclusively use hackable, paperless voting machines, and nine other States still use paperless machines in some counties.

These are serious problems, but there are some clear solutions. I proposed a bill called the PAVE Act, which has three key priorities that are universally supported by people who are knowledgeable in the election security field: paper ballots, routine post-election risk-limiting audits, and mandatory Federal cyber security standards for election systems.

Last year, the House passed a major election security bill called the SAFE Act, which included most of the PAVE Act. Senator KLOBUCHAR and I, on behalf of colleagues on this side of the aisle, introduced the Senate version of the SAFE Act. The SAFE Act has all three key elements recommended by our Nation's top cyber security experts—paper ballots, security standards, and postelection audits—as well as the funding necessary to make sure States can live up to the new standards.

The SAFE Act, in my view, represents the most comprehensive com-

monsense defense against foreign election hacking. I strongly urge my colleagues to reconsider their opposition to this vitally important legislation.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules and Administration Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2238, the SAFE Act; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Just to give a brief response, I think it is unfortunate that my colleague is not even willing to engage in this discussion with respect to this.

I just want my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to think about their claims. They are saying, for example, that, well, they are sympathetic to the idea that there should be more money for election officials. The recent appropriations funding doesn't even have a requirement that it be spent on election security. States can buy brand new, insecure paperless voting machines that are pretty much useless when they come out of the box. They can even use the money to buy office chairs or a water cooler for the election office.

Again, I come back, and I hope my colleague from Tennessee will reflect on this because she is somebody who has spent a lot of time on technology issues.

The idea that this Senate is willing to say "You know, we are not even going to do something. We are not even going to act" when you can have voting machines with an open connection to the internet—it is just like stashing our ballots in the Kremlin. Something really is out of whack, and we ought to be coming together and passing the SAFE Act. We at least ought to be talking about it. What we have is a specific, documented case for an important piece of legislation, and the majority just says: That is the way it is. We are happy to say that you can have voting machines with an open connection to the internet. We are not even going to talk about it.

I think it is very unfortunate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1247

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules and Administration Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1247 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and

passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I really regret there is an objection again to this bill which we have been seeking for floor consideration in this body to debate and pass.

We have been asking for floor consideration of various election security bills in the last several months—the PAVE Act, the Honest Ads Act, and the SHIELD Act—but, sadly and unfortunately for the country, the majority continues to stonewall. Our decisions are under attack, our elections are under siege, and 2016 was only a dress rehearsal.

Just yesterday, Attorney General Barr announced that Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, is going to be feeding the Department of Justice unverified dirt from Ukraine on the President's political rival. In effect, the Department of Justice will become a political tool for the President. He is weaponizing law enforcement for his personal political end, and the Attorney General of the United States is becoming an aider and abettor to that polarization and politicization of the Department of Justice.

Only last week, for the first time in our Nation's history, we saw bipartisan support for removing the President from office. The basis for that bipartisan vote was, in fact, President Trump's illegal solicitation of election interference from a foreign government.

As Senator ROMNEY put it last week, Trump's demands of Ukraine constitute a "flagrant assault on our electoral rights, our national security and our fundamental values," noting that "corrupting an election to keep oneself in office is perhaps the most abusive and destructive violation of one's oath of office that I can imagine." He is right. We cannot allow this abuse to become the new normal, and it is fast becoming normalized.

My other Republican colleagues are running out of time to be on the right side of history. Others have conceded that what the President did was "wrong. Inappropriate . . . crossing the line," as Senator ALEXANDER put it.

Senator MURKOWSKI stated that she believed that "the President's behavior was shameful and wrong. His personal interests do not take precedence over those of this great nation."

Senator COLLINS, who first claimed that Trump learned his "lesson," has since admitted that she "may not be correct on that" after the President refused to admit any wrongdoing.

Now that Senate Republicans have let President Trump off the hook, there is no doubt that he will only be

emboldened in his efforts to illegally enlist foreign governments in his re-election campaign.

What is happening with Rudy Giuliani, Senator GRAHAM has said, may be that he has been "played by the Russians." That, in fact, is likely what is happening, but the President's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, may also be playing the President, and the President most certainly will be playing the country if he uses the Department of Justice for his personal political aims and enlists foreign interference in our election.

That is why this bill is so critically important. The Duty to Report Act offers my Republican colleagues the opportunity to start redeeming themselves for their votes last week.

If they really believe the President's actions were wrong, they should support this legislation. It is a very simple idea. Really, it is so simple that a lot of people believe it is already the law—if you see something, say something. If you see a violation of law with a foreign government interfering in our election, if you see an attempt to enlist that foreign government, if you see an acceptance of assistance, report it.

The Duty to Report Act would require campaigns, candidates, and family members to immediately report to the FBI and the Federal Election Commission any offers of foreign assistance. Simple. It codifies into law what is already a moral duty, a patriotic duty, and basic common sense.

It is already illegal to accept foreign assistance during a campaign. It is already illegal to solicit foreign assistance during a campaign. All this bill does is require campaigns and individuals to report what is already illegal to the FBI so law enforcement can protect our great Nation. This legislation would ensure that if the Trump campaign or any campaign were offered assistance from a foreign, hostile government in a future election, the FBI would be informed and could act to protect our country.

Let me repeat: 2016 was a dress rehearsal for what our intelligence community is already reporting as ongoing right now in election interference, and it is more than Russia. It is other nations. Already, Iran has proved to be an active and present disrupter, and other nations will follow their lead.

With the 2020 election looming, we need to stop this kind of foreign interference and ensure that it is the American people, not Russia, China, Iran, or any other nation, who decides who our leaders will be and the direction of our democracy—and not just decide but also influence and impact in ways that are opaque and concealed, pernicious and insidious. We need to act to provide a duty to report.

I regret the objection to our unanimous consent request, and I, certainly, along with my colleagues on this side of the aisle, will continue this effort to fight to protect our Nation against foreign interference.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that before we recess, I be allowed to finish my remarks.

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

NOMINATION OF ANDREW LYNN BRASHER

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in the U.S. Senate in support of Andrew Brasher of Montgomery, AL, whom I recommended and was later nominated by President Trump to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, a very important post.

I believe Judge Brasher to be an esteemed choice for this high honor. Formerly Alabama's solicitor general and currently a U.S. district judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Judge Brasher is no stranger to the courtroom. I have the utmost regard for his vast legal ability and his commitment to the rule of law, and I believe he is well suited for this respected position.

Judge Brasher excelled academically from a young age. He earned his bachelor of arts with honors from Samford University in Birmingham, AL, where he graduated summa cum laude and met his wife Julia there. He currently serves on the school's board of overseers.

Judge Brasher went on from Samford University in Birmingham to graduate cum laude from Harvard Law School and was the first in his family to receive his juris doctorate. While in law school at Harvard, he was a member of the Harvard Law Review and received the Victor Brudney Prize. The Presiding Officer probably recalls this, but this is a high honor at Harvard granted annually at the law school to the best student paper on a subject associated with corporate governance. This is a very high honor.

Upon graduation, Judge Brasher served as a law clerk to Judge William H. Pryor, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, making him neither a stranger to the courtroom nor to the Eleventh Circuit. Following his clerkship with Judge Pryor, Andrew Brasher practiced law in Birmingham, AL, with the law firm Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings. During his time with Bradley Arant, he worked in the firm's litigation and white-collar criminal defense practice groups. He eventually joined the Alabama attorney general's office, serving for several years as the deputy solicitor general and then went on to become the solicitor general for the State of Alabama.

Judge Brasher's experience speaks for itself. He has argued and won cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Supreme Court of Alabama. While serving as solicitor general of the State of Alabama, Judge Brasher won two Best Brief Award honors from the National Association of Attorneys General. This accomplishment, as the Presiding Officer knows,

is no easy feat. He proved to be an exceptionally skilled attorney, but his ambitions did not stop there.

In 2018, the Presiding Officer probably will remember, I recommended and President Trump nominated Andrew Brasher to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. Last year, he was confirmed by the full Senate to sit on the court as a Federal district judge.

Since his confirmation, Judge Brasher has served the State of Alabama and the Nation with integrity and purpose. I am confident that in his new capacity, he will continue to do so. I believe Judge Brasher is very worthy of this nomination. His judicial temperament and respect for the law, as it is written, will help him exhibit, I believe, impartiality and fairness with tact.

President Trump, I believe, has made the right decision in selecting Judge Brasher for this important job. I believe he will be an asset to our judicial branch on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

I am hopeful that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will vote to confirm Andrew Brasher without reservation later today. I remain confident that his dedication to justice will contribute to the respected standards of our Nation's judicial system. I wish Judge Brasher and his wife Julia—along with their two boys, Hank and Drew—all the best as they take on this new opportunity and responsibility.

I yield the floor.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, Senator MCCONNELL has scheduled votes on five judicial nominees.

Some of these nominees, I will oppose, including 11th Circuit nominee Andrew Brasher. Some, I will support, including John Kness, a nominee for the Northern District of Illinois, who was part of a bipartisan package of nominees in my State.

But first, I want to point out that, under this Republican majority, the Senate simply doesn't do legislation any more. There are literally hundreds of bills that have passed the House of Representatives and are gathering dust on the Senate desk.

These bills deal with critical issues like reducing prescription drug prices, protecting pensions, securing our elections from foreign interference, and closing gaps in our gun background check system, but time and again, when Senate Republicans have the opportunity to bring bills to the floor, they take a pass. They just don't want to do the hard work of legislating. Last year, the Senate voted on only 22 amendments all year. I remember when we used to vote on that many amendments in a single day.

Sadly, under this Republican majority, the Senate is becoming an appendage of the White House and no more than a conveyor belt for President Trump's judicial nominees. We are abdicating our responsibility to legislate

on matters of importance to the American people.

The Constitution assigns the Senate important roles as part of a coequal legislative branch. We are not rising to meet these challenges. When we look at this week's nominations votes, we are reminded yet again of how the Senate is abdicating its authority.

Andrew Brasher is the 18th Trump circuit court nominee who has been moved through the Senate Judiciary Committee without blue slips from both home State Senators. For a century, blue slips served as a critical check in the system, helping ensure that Senators, as the elected representatives of their State's citizens, have a role in choosing the Federal judges who will serve lifetime appointments in their State.

But Republicans, who used blue slips to obstruct many of President Obama's nominees, cast aside the blue slip once President Trump came into office. Now, circuit court nominees are routinely being rammed through the Senate over the objections of home State Senators. Some of these nominees are lightly qualified, to put it nicely. Some have barely practiced law in the State in which they have been nominated to serve. Some have barely seen the inside of a courtroom.

Today's nominee, 38-year-old Andrew Brasher, was confirmed as a district court judge last year without bipartisan support. Less than a year later, he is being put forward for the 11th Circuit. A former solicitor general of Alabama, he worked on controversial efforts to restrict voting rights, limit reproductive rights, and undermine gun safety laws.

But beyond the controversial advocacy that he undertook on behalf of his clients, Andrew Brasher also made comments in his personal capacity that call into question his impartiality and temperament. This includes a 2015 blog post he wrote in opposition to same-sex marriage and a speech he gave at a 2014 pro-life political rally where he said, "The ACLU and Planned Parenthood want a fight and we will give them one."

I will oppose the Brasher nomination, and I will also oppose Alaska district court nominee Joshua Kindred, who has a lengthy record of opposition to environmental protections. Mr. Kindred once described environmentalists as being driven by "passionate ignorance."

I will vote in support of the nomination of John Kness to the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Kness is the final part of a package of four Illinois district court nominees that was agreed upon between myself, Senator DUCKWORTH, the Illinois Republican congressional delegation, and the White House. It is a good bipartisan package.

Mr. Kness is a graduate of Northwestern and Northwestern Law and a former Assistant U.S. Attorney. He is currently the general counsel for the

College of DuPage. He is diligent, thoughtful, and principled, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:38 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### NOMINATION OF ANDREW LYNN BRASHER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Andrew Brasher for an Alabama seat on the 11th Circuit. This is over the objection of Senator JONES, who was not meaningfully consulted by the administration and did not return a blue slip. Senator JONES is as reasonable as they come; the fact that he was denied a voice in this process shows just how disinterested the White House is in being reasonable when it comes to selecting judges who will shape the laws in our States for decades to come.

It is clear the President views the courts as a mere extension of his power, not as an independent body critical to the checks and balances of our constitutional system. The President knows that no matter who is nominated, whether or not qualified or within the mainstream, the Judiciary Committee of today and the Senate of today—led by a majority leader who describes the Senate's role as a mere conveyor belt for President Trump's nominees—will confirm them.

The President likes to brag about the number of judges that have been confirmed under his administration. Less attention is paid to the cost. Of the last 20 circuit court nominees the Judiciary Committee has reported, 15 have been along party lines, and 13 had a negative blue slip. My friends across the aisle apparently no longer care about the constitutional principle of providing advice and consent to nominees in your home State, a tradition that, until recently, had been guarded by members of both parties.

Blue slips aside, Andrew Brasher had served as district court judge for just 7 months before receiving this Presidential promotion. Every single Democrat opposed his nomination when it was reported out of the Judiciary Committee and again when it was considered on the Senate floor. During his short tenure as a district court judge, he has presided over only three cases that have gone to verdict or judgment. In his questionnaire, when asked what significant opinions on Federal constitutional issues he has written, he simply wrote "none."

But of course, the President did not select Brasher for his judicial experience. A partisan judicial philosophy, along with youth, seem to be the only qualifications of many of this administration's nominees. Before becoming a judge, Brasher spent his short legal career systematically restricting the



rights of vulnerable populations, including opposing voting rights and LGBTQ rights and supporting an unconstitutional law mandating universal drug testing for food stamp applicants, which the 11th Circuit slapped down as stripping away peoples' privacy simply because they are poor.

Brasher is opposed by literally hundreds of civil and human rights groups who represent millions of Americans. They all are afraid that with this elevation, he will continue to be a rubberstamp for the President's radical agenda and negatively impact 37 million residents of Alabama, Florida and Georgia—States that have often been on the frontlines of systemic voter disenfranchisement for years.

For these reasons, I will oppose the nomination of Andrew Brasher. We all must commit to considering each nominee carefully and on his or her individual merit. I hope this body can reverse course and return to its historic roots: tackling our Nation's most serious problems in a bipartisan way, displaying comity even when we disagree, and treating our unique role in approving lifetime judgeships with the seriousness of purpose required by the Constitution.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. SASSE. 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 senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), 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 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 36 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Cramer	Inhofe
Barrasso	Crapo	Johnson
Blackburn	Cruz	Kennedy
Blunt	Daines	Lankford
Boozman	Enzi	Lee
Braun	Ernst	Loeffler
Burr	Fischer	McConnell
Capito	Gardner	McSally
Cassidy	Grassley	Moran
Collins	Hawley	Murkowski
Cornyn	Hoeven	Paul
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Perdue

Portman	Sasse	Tillis
Risch	Scott (FL)	Toomey
Roberts	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Romney	Shelby	Young
Rounds	Sullivan	
Rubio	Thune	

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—5

Bennet	Klobuchar	Warren
Graham	Sanders	

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.

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 senior assistant 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 nomination of Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John Boozman, David Perdue, James E. Risch, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET),

the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 37 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Loeffler	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	McSally	Warner
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Enzi	Paul	
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Sanders	Warren
Graham	Tillis	
Klobuchar	Udall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

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 Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John Boozman, David Perdue, James E. Risch, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). 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 Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District

Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 38 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Burr	Inhofe	Rosen
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Carper	Jones	Rubio
Cassidy	Kaine	Sasse
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	King	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Shaheen
Cotton	Leahy	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sinema
Crapo	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Tester
Daines	McConnell	Thune
Duckworth	McSally	Tillis
Durbin	Moran	Toomey
Enzi	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—22

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schatz
Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Booker	Heinrich	Smith
Brown	Hirono	Stabenow
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Cardin	Menendez	Wyden
Casey	Merkley	
Coons	Murray	

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	Klobuchar	Udall
Graham	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 72 and the nays are 22.

The motion is agreed to.

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 senior assistant 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 nomination of John Fitzgerald Kness, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat

Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

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 John Fitzgerald Kness, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 39 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Alexander	Fischer	Peters
Baldwin	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Blackburn	Hassan	Risch
Blumenthal	Hawley	Roberts
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sasse
Cardin	Jones	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Casey	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	King	Shaheen
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Coons	Leahy	Sinema
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Moran	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Young
Enzi	Murphy	
Ernst	Paul	
Feinstein	Perdue	

NAYS—12

Booker	Harris	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Stabenow
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	Klobuchar	Udall
Graham	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 82 and the nays are 12.

The motion is agreed to.

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 senior assistant 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 nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

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 Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 40 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Brown	Inhofe	Rounds
Burr	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Jones	Sasse
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	King	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shaheen
Coons	Leahy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sinema
Cotton	Loeffler	Stabenow
Cramer	Manchin	Sullivan
Crapo	McConnell	Tester
Cruz	McSally	Thune
Daines	Menendez	Toomey
Durbin	Moran	Van Hollen
Enzi	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—18

Baldwin	Duckworth	Merkley
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Murray
Booker	Harris	Rosen
Cantwell	Heinrich	Schatz
Casey	Hirono	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Sanders	Warren
Graham	Tillis	
Klobuchar	Udall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 75, the nays are 18. The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Philip M. Halpern, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

## THE 2020 ELECTION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor as the Democrats seem to be in complete disarray with the voting right now that is underway in New Hampshire. For all of their anger and for all of their outrage, they have failed to tap into all of the great things that I and the people of Wyoming see happening all across America. The Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire seem to be on the verge of nominating a Socialist for President of the United States. Any way you look at it, we have a strong, healthy, and growing economy, and a Socialist is now the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for President.

Socialist policies would bankrupt our country. What is the Democrats' top priority? It seems to be a complete government takeover of healthcare in America. That means, for the 180 million Americans who get their health insurance through their jobs, each and every one of them would lose it. Also, to pay for it, taxes would go up. They would go up significantly. This would be a crushing blow to the economy.

The Democratic Party's sharp left turn has President Clinton's long-term strategist James Carville "scared to death."

On Friday, James Carville said: "We have candidates . . . talking about open borders."

He said: "They're talking about doing away with nuclear energy and fracking."

Then he added: "You've got BERNIE SANDERS talking about letting criminals and terrorists vote from jail cells."

During Friday's debate in New Hampshire—the one that was nationally broadcast—there was hardly a positive word from the Democrats about our country. Our booming economy continues to create jobs at a record pace—millions of jobs. In the last month alone, there were 225,000 new jobs. We have a 50-year low in unemployment in our country right now. It is a historical number. We have created opportunity for all Americans. Everyone is better off. Middle-class wages and blue-collar wages are way up. We have a middle-class and a blue-collar boom in this country. Americans realize it, and they have high hopes for the future.

Still, the 2020 Democrats seem to have nothing positive to say about our economy and our country—no positive ideas, no positive vision, no positive agenda for the American people. Clearly, when I listen to them, it is all about grandstanding, not about governing.

The Republicans, however, have a results-driven agenda. The economic renaissance that we are seeing is a direct result of Republican pro-growth policies. Tax and regulatory relief is what has mattered to this economy. Energy independence is what has mattered to this economy. Pro-worker and pro-farmer trade deals are what have made a difference for this economy. We remain focused on priority issues, like lowering the cost of healthcare, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, securing our border, and building and rebuilding our aging roads and bridges.

As the President said just last Tuesday night during the State of the Union Address, "The best is yet to come."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

## TAX REFORM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, since tax reform was enacted in December of 2017, our economy has grown and strengthened with American families' and businesses' seeing real benefits, and you just heard Senator BARRASSO say some of the same things about how the economy is booming.

Unemployment rates have dropped dramatically, with unemployment among Hispanic, Latino, and African-American workers at record lows. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, average hourly earnings have grown at a rate of 3 percent or higher for 16 consecutive months, with the largest wage gains being concentrated in the bottom quarter of the wage scale. We should duly note that production workers' wages are growing much faster than are the wages for the manager class. In short, lower income workers are seeing the highest wage growth.

Yet, instead of looking at the positive economic effects of tax reform, our Democratic colleagues insist that large corporations have received a massive giveaway and that only the wealthy have benefited. That is simply not true. Tax reform has addressed a number of issues that have been frequently highlighted by both political parties. In particular, tax reform has made enormous progress toward creating a more competitive environment for American companies. Before tax reform, the combined U.S. Federal and State corporate tax rate was the highest in the developed world—15 percentage points higher than the average of the other 35 advanced economies that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which we commonly refer to around here as OECD.

Over the last few years and before the tax bill, you heard of companies

going overseas. We had inversions, foreign acquisitions of U.S. companies, and the erosion of the U.S. tax base. These were all very significant problems that we addressed in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. With our worldwide tax system, companies were actually incentivized to store corporate profits in low-tax jurisdictions overseas rather than to reinvest them back here in the United States.

How can that help the U.S. economy?

We had perverse incentives to keep wealth out of this country. Ironically, even the Democrats highlighted these same issues in the lead-up to tax reform—a bipartisan recognition that we shouldn't have a tax system that encourages the storing of money overseas but rather one that brings that money and capital back to the United States to create jobs here. They are only partisan issues now, as it turns out, because tax reform was a Republican effort, but both sides of the aisle knew that these issues had to be addressed in order for U.S. companies to remain competitive and for the U.S. economy to continue leading the world.

Critics of tax reform complain that the 21-percent rate is too low, but with the average corporate tax rate of 21.7 percent among the OECD countries today, the United States is finally in line with its peers. In other words, we can be competitive.

As a result, U.S. companies are competitive, and investments in the United States are more attractive not only to foreign companies but to U.S. companies that used to store money overseas. After tax reform legislation passed in 2017, business investment rose by 6.4 percent in 2018.

While a weaker global economy, tariffs, and other factors subdued growth last year in 2019, business investment in 2018 and 2019 combined was still \$5.7 trillion, hitting record highs.

Capital expenditures of S&P 500 companies have risen by 17 percent since tax reform, and research and development expenditures of S&P 500 companies rose by 18 percent. All of this is showing that our law accomplished what we wanted it to accomplish. It is hardly, then, the anemic response to tax reform that the Democrat critics would have us believe.

Tax reform has changed our international tax rules to remove barriers that previously prevented companies from bringing foreign earnings home. In the seven quarters since enactment of tax reform, U.S. companies have brought back to the United States more than \$1 trillion of foreign earnings.

Obviously, U.S. companies are using these earnings to finance new capital expenditures, increase research and development, increase payrolls, pay down debt, and return cash to shareholders and retirement accounts. Companies are putting those earnings to work in this country, not leaving them abroad. That economic gain and the jobs created as a result of it are because of the 2017 tax cut legislation.

But we also took care to ensure that companies wouldn't be able to take advantage of the new U.S. tax system. Tax reform made signature strides to address inversions, foreign takeovers of U.S. companies, and base erosion. You will remember the outrage we had before the tax bill when there were inversions and foreign takeovers of U.S. companies, and then the result of the erosion of our tax base.

Together, the lower tax rate and new international rules have changed the way that companies structure their business operations. For example, Assurant, a global insurance company, changed its acquisition agreement so that its new parent company remains here in the United States.

Broadcom, a technology firm, announced that it would return its headquarters to the United States, and this came after tax reform.

Similarly, several energy and pharmaceutical companies that had previously moved out of the United States also made the decision to return, primarily because of tax reform.

You know, the old, old saying can apply to this tax legislation. What we wanted to accomplish was accomplished, and that old saying is: The proof is in the pudding.

So tax reform has leveled the playing field and made the United States a far more attractive place to do business—hardly the dire consequences that critics would have us believe. Now, you know critics never give up. Not to be deterred, the critics continue to look for misleading information to distort the picture.

Most recently, they pointed to the Congressional Budget Office projections as evidence that tax reform and recently issued U.S. Treasury Department regulations have provided a windfall to corporations. I hate to see the Congressional Budget Office's professional work and nonpartisan work manipulated to say something it clearly does not—and I meant to use the word "manipulated."

First and foremost, CBO's—that is the Congressional Budget Office—downward adjustment of expected corporate tax receipts does not imply that CBO scores particular Treasury regulations or that a regulation departs from congressional intent. Rather, CBO's adjustments broadly reflect significant economic factors and changes in government data.

In particular, CBO adjusted its projections because we now know that Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates of corporate receipts between 2016 and 2018 were actually overstated. So you have to make adjustments for that. In short, even pretax reform projections of corporate profits were really too high. So when the estimate of corporate profits is corrected, it translates into lower tax receipts, but the other side doesn't seem to acknowledge this.

CBO also took into account current economic factors, like recent trade ac-

tions and tariffs, strengthening of the U.S. dollar, and the softening of foreign economies, all of which affected expected corporate profits and ultimate tax receipts. But our critics don't seem to acknowledge that fact.

In addition, the Congressional Budget Office revised its projections to reflect everything that we are learning about implementation of the new tax rules, including regulatory guidance, new forms and instructions that go with the tax forms, and modeling improvements to better reflect updated economic projections.

CBO is only beginning to take into account how U.S. businesses are responding very positively to the new tax rules and Treasury guidance.

As many regulations are still being finalized, businesses are only starting to have needed certainty to invest in new property and equipment, to engage in mergers and acquisitions, and to enter into new business transactions.

The Congressional Budget Office's projections are also based upon preliminary data. Tax returns for the first year of the new law were filed less than 6 months ago, but the critics don't take that into consideration. The final data will not be available from the IRS until later this year, and, even then, it will still take time to fully analyze, but our critics don't recognize that.

All of these factors go into CBO's revised projections of corporate tax receipts, and none of them support the claim that Treasury provided a windfall to corporations. I think the critics ought to go the extra mile to study and understand the impact of the tax cut law.

There simply is no basis, then, for the critics' claim that the revision to CBO's estimate of corporate receipts means that Treasury has given away the store to big corporations through its regulations.

Despite the critics' relentless attacks, the benefits of tax reform are, in fact, proving out. All you have to do is look at the good economy to know that that is the case.

I am encouraged by the promising economic data that I just referred to that suggests that American workers, American families, and American businesses are seeing positive effects.

Now, we must continue to promote policies that encourage U.S. businesses to keep operations on American soil—the 2017 bill does that—increase wages—the 2017 bill did that—and reinvest foreign earnings in the United States, instead of leaving them overseas—and the 2017 tax bill does that.

I hope that my Democratic colleagues will stop criticizing the policies that have strengthened our economy and, in fact, consider how we can work together to make our tax laws work even better for American businesses and workers.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here again, as the Senate returns to regular business, to call us again to respond to the threat of climate change. Here on the floor today, things seem back to normal. The floor is empty. We have a Senator instead of a Chief Justice in the chair. The quorum calls descend between the speeches. Our new pages are figuring out the nonimpeachment routines of the floor.

Outside of the Senate, things are anything but normal. The threat of climate change worsens by the minute. Carbon emissions continue to rise globally. We hurtle toward calamity. Yet we do not act. What is stopping us? The biggest, most powerful, most motivated force preventing climate action is the fossil fuel industry, and, of course, it would be. The fossil fuel industry reaps the biggest subsidy in the history of the planet. The International Monetary Fund estimates the global subsidy for fossil fuel in the trillions of dollars every year. In the United States alone, the fossil fuel industry got a \$650 billion subsidy in 2015, according to the most recent report from the IMF. That is about \$2,000 from every woman, man, and child in the country.

You wrote the check, and they will spend big bucks to defend that subsidy. In fact, to maintain their grip on that subsidy, fossil fuel companies deploy lots of propaganda on the American people. They swamp us in advertising. The game isn't just to sell you more gas. It is much bigger than that.

Professor Robert Brulle of Drexel University—now in Rhode Island at Brown University—together with his coauthors, wrote a recent article, "Corporate Promotion and Climate Change," looking at oil companies' carefully crafted public relations campaigns deployed way back since legendary muckraker Ida Tarbell chronicled the greed and cruelty of the Standard Oil Company. To offset their reputation for greed and nastiness, "fossil fuel companies have attempted to burnish their image in various ways." Brulle and his colleagues write, "[including] contemporary multimedia promotional campaigns . . . to project the corporation as a positive, responsible, and legitimate social actor." Hah.

The public began to catch on to the harms of industrial pollution in the 1960s and 1970s, and Big Oil deployed public relations campaigns to stem the public opinion tide.

One example Brulle uses is Mobil Oil, pre-ExxonMobil merger. In 1970, Mobil began buying space on the opinion page of the New York Times. They called these things advertorials—not advertisements, not editorials, but

advertorials. They ran in the same section as real opinion pieces. Every Thursday, those ads promoted Mobil's image as a good corporate citizen and boosted its public policy priorities, like reduced regulation of Mobil's operations. Meanwhile, Mobil worked hard to place rosy "earned media" stories on airwaves and in print. "Between 1975 and 1977 alone, Mobil representatives appeared on 365 TV shows, 211 radio shows, and gave 80 newspaper interviews," the study authors observe.

I will pause to note some good news, which is that, just recently, The Guardian announced that it will no longer accept advertising that props up fossil fuels like oil and coal. The Guardian urged its colleagues in the media to do the same. Acting chief executive Anna Bateson and chief revenue officer Hamish Nicklin said in a statement: "Our decision is based on the decades-long efforts by many in that industry to prevent meaningful climate action by governments around the world."

Welcome to our experience here in the Congress. As we have seen here in the Congress, the fossil industry companies have done that with dark money, they have done that with raw political muscle, they have done that through fake science, and they have done it through advertising campaigns. So bravo to The Guardian for shutting off that spigot of fossil fuel nonsense. I hope American media outlets follow suit.

Dr. Brulle then turns to recent decades. Using spending figures from 1986 to 2015, he and his scientists find that corporate promotional spending for the five major oil companies in the United States—ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron-Texaco, BP, and ConocoPhillips—totaled nearly \$3.6 billion. That is an average of \$120 million per year, and the trend is upward.

After \$35 million in spending in 1996, from 1997 to 2004, annual spending rose to an average of \$102 million per year. Then Brulle and his team chronicled that spending averages leaped again between 2008 and 2016 to an average of \$217 million per year.

These spending figures themselves are pretty eye-popping, but what is important here is the patterns of spending. Brulle and his coauthors write:

The bulk of this spending . . . corresponds to the increased public and congressional attention to climate change in recent years. Not unexpectedly, the major oil companies spent \$315 million in 2010 alone, which is when the highest possibility of binding climate legislation occurred.

That is no coincidence. Here in this building, something was occurring that the fossil fuel industry saw as a threat.

Brulle and his colleagues continue:

This high level of corporate promotional spending took place in response to the legislative battle from 2009 to 2010 over the House of Representatives' passage of the Waxman-Markey climate bill and the subsequent Senate consideration of the Kerry-Lieberman climate legislation.

This pattern shows Big Oil's purpose: to block climate action in Congress.

While we are talking about that period, right over there in the Supreme Court, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others, on behalf of their Big Oil funders, urged the Supreme Court to open up our politics to unlimited special interest spending, and the five Republican Justices on that Court, led by Chief Justice Roberts, did. From that decision forward, we have seen a disaster in the Senate on climate legislation. Before that decision, we had four or five bipartisan climate bills going in the Senate at any given time. We had a Republican candidate for President—John McCain—who campaigned for President on a strong climate platform. But right after that decision came out, right after the fossil fuel industry got handed that huge new hammer to knock any dissent on climate out of the Republican Party, they did so. We have had a lost decade since then. So it is not just their advertising, but their PR spending certainly helped the fossil fuel industry block the Waxman-Markey bill and obstructed efforts since to solve the climate crisis.

Another study by Professor Brulle just last month chronicled the full sweep of this industry's fight against climate legislation. Brulle describes how this polluting industry used ads, webs of phony front groups, bogus science, and that massive Citizens United political and PR artillery to fend off any meaningful action by Congress.

Professor Brulle breaks this process down to its component parts; one, shaping the direction of research efforts into nonthreatening areas; two, concealing information about the harmful aspects of a corporate product; three, attacking scientific findings and the scientists who produce research that threatens corporate interests; four, packaging their own carefully constructed interpretations of the science to appear legitimate; and, five, aggressive efforts at spinning the media to promulgate favorable press.

A typical example of the first tactic is oil company ads touting research and investments in alternative low-carbon fuels or renewable energy. For instance, we have seen ExxonMobil ads touting ExxonMobil's research into algae biofuels, and we have seen BP ads touting renewable energy under its label "Beyond Petroleum." "Badly Polulating" would be a better term.

So how much do these renewable investments represent? According to Reuters, Exxon will spend roughly \$30 billion this year—\$30 billion this year—in capital expenditures. That is Exxon's capital budget. Investments in green technologies round to zero percent of Exxon's 2020 capital expenditures. You see the ads, but that investment, they call it, rounds to zero percent of ExxonMobil's capital investments.

BP will spend more than \$15 billion in capital expenditures. Its renewable energy investments is 3 percent—3 percent—of that.

I challenge Exxon to disprove that it spent more on advertisements touting its renewable investments than it does on the renewable investments themselves. These investments are a prop for an advertising campaign, like the Potemkin villages that were built for the czar when he was taken out of Moscow to go see how happy the peasants were, and they built phony villages near the railroad with dressed-up peasants to dance and wave at the czar so he wouldn't know that revolution was coming and that fury and anger raged through his country. This is a TV version of a Potemkin village.

You go through National Airport right now, you will see the most foul nonsense up on the walls of that airport designed to convince people passing through National Airport at our Nation's Capital that these companies are responsible about climate change. People walking in forests looking natural, the phony-baloney investments designed to prop up ad campaigns, they are immense in the PR space. You can see why the Guardian will not take this poison any longer.

For decades, these ads blared these phony articles at the newspapers. Their paid-for pundits populated the talk shows, just as the fossil fuel companies polluted our atmosphere and our oceans. While they did this, they knew better than anyone what they were causing.

Back in 1982, Exxon projected that by 2019, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> would reach between 390 and 420 parts per million. Sure enough, as 2019 drew to a close, guess where carbon dioxide in our atmosphere was. It had just crossed 410 parts per million. They predicted this, and they were right. But instead of acting on what they knew, they rammed all this public relations nonsense—this has been the atmospheric carbon dioxide climb. But instead of reacting to this in a responsible way and trying to really do something with renewable fuels, they did fake renewable investments to prop up advertising campaigns to convince the public that they were on it. These are the phrases right now from the American Petroleum Institute: We are on it. Don't worry. Don't get mad. Don't get involved. We are on it.

And then they shower this body with money and with threats, powered up by Citizens United from the five Republican judges across the street there.

Not only did Big Oil correctly model this increase in CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere that their product would cause, they also understood what this meant. They predicted the hotter temperatures. They predicted the melting ice sheets. They predicted the rising seas that Louisiana and Rhode Island are so menaced by. They predicted the massive damage that climate change would cause. Exxon knew its business was ultimately toxic to our planet. And the Exxon CEO who led them through this, the craftsman and CEO of so many of these campaigns of lies, now sits happily on the board of J.P. Morgan—J.P.

Morgan which claims to be seriously and sincerely interested in climate response. J.P. Morgan, a major investor that has been warned over and over again by now more than 30 sovereign banks of the danger of an economic crash from this carbon bubble popping—they give the man who led this campaign of lies sanctuary and fees on their board.

So what is the purpose of spending all that money? The reason Big Oil spends billions on its ads is to implant favorable perceptions of fossil fuels into what Robert Brulle calls the “collective unconscious,” and it does that to support its other great influence project, which is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on lobbying and on elections to control the politics of climate change and to ensure that Republicans block any serious efforts to limit carbon pollution. That is a scheme that deserves infamy, and it is a scheme being perpetrated as I speak, right now, today.

Right now, the American Petroleum Institute—the largest trade association for the oil and gas industry—has a seven-figure ad campaign called “We’re On It.” They run ads on the internet, on TV, and on billboards—the ones I mentioned all over the DC airport—designed to fool the public and policy-makers that the oil and gas industry is “on its” carbon and methane emissions problem. Not only are they not on it, they are cheating about even reporting their methane leaks.

This is an ad in the Washington Post’s “Energy 202” newsletter just last week. It reads: “Let’s create climate solutions together.” Content from the API.

Seriously? What a joke. API, the same trade association that is furiously lobbying against efforts to control methane pollution from oil and gas facilities don’t even want to report it fairly. When Trump got in, job one was to take down the methane leakage reporting regulation that was coming. They are lobbying for expansion of off-shore drilling, and they are lobbying against any price on carbon to offset that \$650 billion subsidy, and they want to create climate solutions together? It is unreal—unreal.

Let’s take a walk back into history. In 2006, here in Washington, in the U.S. district court, a judge named Gladys Kessler wrote a long, long opinion—well over 100 pages. It was a commanding opinion, and it was an opinion that was upheld afterward by the U.S. court of appeals. It was an opinion in relation to a case that had been brought by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The U.S. Department of Justice had sued the tobacco industry, and they had asked Judge Kessler to find the tobacco companies’ PR efforts fraudulent and to order them to knock it off. They were committing fraud. Stop it. You are lying to people, enough already.

In her opinion, Judge Kessler found in favor of the U.S. Department of Jus-

tice. Indeed, she found the tobacco companies’ fraudulent PR campaigns to have amounted to racketeering. It was a civil racketeering lawsuit. I will quote her decision here. She said the tobacco industry “coordinated significant aspects of their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective—to . . . maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for cigarettes through a scheme to deceive the public.”

So swap out “cigarettes” and plug in “fossil fuel,” and you have described exactly what big oil companies do: coordinate their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective to maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for fossil fuel through a scheme to deceive the public.

What the fossil fuel industry is doing is precisely the conduct that was racketeering activity when done by the tobacco industry, but don’t expect Bill Barr’s Department of Justice to pursue any type of legal action like that. The fossil fuel industry is too strong, and the fix is too far in.

This is all rotten stuff. It is gross. It is banana republic behavior. It is not what we expect here in the United States of America.

It is on us. It doesn’t have to be this way. We can stop it. We have the power here in the Senate to shake off the malign influence of a desperate and greedy industry and actually tackle the defining issue of our time, like Americans should.

So let’s have a real debate on a real climate change bill. Let’s surprise the world and pass something big and bold. Let’s wake up to the threat of climate change and get ahead of its consequences before the situation becomes irretrievable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Alaska.

NOMINATION OF JOSHUA M. KINDRED

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I have come to the floor this evening to speak in support of the nomination of Joshua Kindred to be a U.S. district court judge for the District of Alaska. We were able to move forward with the first step toward the confirmation of Mr. Kindred, but I just wanted to take a couple of minutes and speak as to why I believe he is well qualified to serve in this capacity and deserves to be confirmed by the Senate with, hopefully, broad bipartisan support.

I am glad and I am pleased that he has been willing to step into a new role for our State. Josh Kindred comes from Anchorage, where I am living. He currently serves as Alaska’s regional solicitor for the Department of the Interior. He has been doing a good job, a strong job, for us there. Before joining the Department, Mr. Kindred served as the environmental counsel for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, as well as an assistant district attorney and

violent unit supervisor for the State of Alaska. He also served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Paul De Muniz of the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon.

One way that you know that Mr. Kindred has good judgment is that he went to the same law school I did. So it can’t be all bad there. He earned his juris doctorate from Willamette University College of Law. He served as editor in chief of the Willamette Law Review and certainly demonstrated great skills and abilities at that level.

I think it is important to speak to Mr. Kindred’s biographical details to illustrate that his experience is both considerable and is really relevant. It is directly relevant for this new role that he is seeking. It is that experience in a host of different areas that matters for our State, and I believe that will help him as a Federal jurist.

Mr. Kindred’s experience in civil, criminal, and administrative law at both the State and the Federal levels, in both the public sector as well as the private sector, is exactly what we should be seeking in a nominee for a court of original jurisdiction, such as the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.

Josh Kindred is no stranger to the courtroom. He has extensive trial experience, which is, of course, important for operating in the courtroom. His background also brings a welcomed and valuable understanding of Alaska’s unique Federal laws and landscape. He has extensive experience in Federal lands, mining, natural resources, oil and gas laws, and environmental laws and permitting. These are all things—all things—that are constantly litigated back home and that apply to so many of the important priorities that we have in Alaska.

You often hear me talk about the fact that Alaska is different. It is unique, and, certainly, some of our laws—many of our laws—reflect that. Not many are truly knowledgeable about ANCSA, about ANILCA. These are critically important to understand, and Mr. Kindred certainly understands them. That skill set, that operational base of knowledge on Alaska-specific laws and matters, is really vital for our State.

In addition, and perhaps of equal importance, Mr. Kindred has long called Alaska home. He was raised in our local schools. He is raising his young family there. He comes from good family. He married into good family. He is a good Alaskan. He knows Alaska. He understands our State well.

I am proud of Mr. Kindred’s continued commitment to public service and his willingness to serve our State. So, again, I would urge the Senate to confirm Josh Kindred. I know that he will do well in his new role, as he has done in all his others.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 558, 559, 560, and 561.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of John Hennessey-Niland, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Palau; Donald Wright, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania; Dorothy Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic; and Todd C. Chapman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hennessey-Niland, Wright, Shea, and Chapman nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

## BIPARTISAN BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, every day, we are reminded of the dev-

astating toll of gun violence in our Nation. On average, around 100 Americans die each day from gunfire. It is an epidemic of violence. This week marks the anniversaries of three horrific mass shootings.

On February 15, 1 year ago, a gunman shot and killed five coworkers at a warehouse in Aurora, IL, and also shot and wounded five police officers who rushed to the scene. On that day, we lost Russell Beyer, Vicente Juarez, Clay Parks, Josh Pinkard, and Trevor Wehner.

February 14 was the date of the 2008 mass school shooting at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, in which a mentally disturbed gunman killed 5 students and wounded 17 more. On that day, we lost Gayle Dubowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, Ryanne Mace, and Daniel Parmenter.

And February 14 was also the date when 17 students and staff were murdered in 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

These anniversaries and statistics are grim, but they do not capture the true impact of this horrific gun violence—so many funerals, so many families and communities devastated.

And every day we lose still more lives to gun violence in communities large and small. Just this past weekend, at least 23 people were shot in the city of Chicago, nine of them fatally.

We pray for the families and loved ones of those we have lost, and we remember the wounded who bear physical and mental scars from their trauma. We also renew our thanks for the first responders who run toward the sound of gunfire and risk their lives to help others.

There are many people throughout America who are doing all they can to try to reduce our Nation's epidemic of gun violence. This includes parents, community leaders, teachers, faith leaders, law enforcement, public officials, the medical community, and more.

I particularly want to commend a coalition of hospitals that has been working with me in Chicago on the HEAL Initiative. This is an effort to coordinate these hospitals' resources, from economic investment to community programming, to help reduce violence and improve quality of life in their surrounding neighborhoods. There are promising efforts taking place in many States and local communities to address gun violence.

But is the U.S. Senate doing all it can to protect our communities from gun violence? No, not even close.

While there is no single reform that could prevent every shooting, we know there are obvious gaps in Federal gun laws that make it easy for felons, abusers, and mentally unstable people to get guns.

Nearly a year ago, on February 27, 2019, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill to close gaps in our background check system that allow an estimated 22 percent of gun

sales to occur without a check. Around 90 percent of Americans support closing the gaps in the background check system. It is a step that would save lives. Yet the Republican Senate majority refuses to call the bill up for a vote. I can't explain why Senate Republicans won't take up bipartisan, House-passed gun safety legislation that Americans overwhelmingly support. It makes no sense.

There have been too many deaths, too many mass shootings, too many grim anniversaries, and too many excuses for inaction. It is time for Senator McCONNELL to call up H.R. 8, the bipartisan background checks bill, and hold a vote.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. LARRY GOODMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the Chicago area is blessed to have some of the top hospitals and academic centers in the country. Rush University Medical Center and College in Chicago, in particular, has advanced into a comprehensive and leading health care institution. Rush continues to deliver high-quality care to its patients, driving the field of innovative medical research and training the next generation of healthcare practitioners. I would like to celebrate the tenure and accomplishments of the hospital's president and CEO and the leader in the program at Rush, my friend, Dr. Larry Goodman.

In 1976, Larry earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan's Medical School. He completed his residency at the Rush University Medical Center, where he served as the chief medical resident before joining the faculty.

At Rush, Larry served as an infectious disease specialist, working to improve the lives of people affected by HIV and AIDS. He also served as the senior vice president of medical affairs and the dean of the Rush Medical College before the hospital appointed him as its president and CEO in 2002.

Under Larry's leadership, Rush has prospered. The hospital doubled its student enrollment in the last 20 years, training future physicians who will provide top-notch healthcare services in communities around the Nation. The hospital also collaborated to increase its employment of local community members. These efforts, in part through West Side United, have helped to reduce the health inequities that exist between the residents of low-income communities and those in affluent communities. In fact, it was Dr. Goodman who first told me about the alarming 16-year gap in life expectancy between people living in the Loop and in West Garfield Park—just two "L" stops, or 6 miles, apart from each other on the Blue.

More than a year ago, I joined several community leaders to announce the Chicago Hospital Engagement, Action, and Leadership, or HEAL, Initiative to help address many of the root

causes of gun violence, such as economic hardship and spare mental health services. Under this initiative, each hospital made 16 commitments to address these issues. Larry was the inspiration for this undertaking and instrumental in getting it off the ground. It is a testament to his lifelong dedication to those in need.

After decades of service dedicated to improving lives and helping others, Larry has retired with an amazing legacy. He has been key to thinking about the transformative role of hospitals in uplifting communities and through his hard work, vision, and commitment to make it possible. I am especially grateful for our partnership over the years, from his leadership on the Cook County Hospital transition to the Chicago HEAL Initiative.

I am proud to call Larry my friend, and I wish him the very best in retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICK MAGOON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it was more than 50 years ago that a young couple from Springfield, IL brought their baby daughter to then-Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. They drove more than 200 miles each way because they knew Children's Hospital provided the best care for their daughter, and they repeated that trip every 3 months for years. I know this story well because it is the story of my family's relationship with Children's Memorial, now known as Lurie Children's. It also is a story thousands of other children and families could tell about the world-class treatment they received at Children's.

I want to take this time to recognize a person who has been the heart and soul of this hospital for decades: my friend, Mr. Patrick Magoon. Pat served as the president and CEO of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for more than two decades. He retired recently, and I want to take this opportunity to honor his work.

In 1977, Pat started his career at then-Children's Memorial Hospital as a planning department intern while he pursued his master's degree in urban policy and planning from the University of Illinois. When he joined the staff at the hospital, he held a number of administrative positions—even working as the hospital's laundry manager—before he became president and CEO in 1997.

In the last 20 years under Pat's direction, Lurie Children's has come to be recognized as one of the best children's hospitals in the Nation. In the last 8 years, U.S. News and World Report has named Lurie's a top 10 children's hospital in the country 7 times. It also has received four Magnet Award designations, the highest national recognition given for excellence in nursing care.

When Pat was appointed, the hospital faced financial challenges, losing about \$1 million a month. Thanks to his hard

work, vision, and commitment, the hospital is not only financially stable but has become a beacon of hope for children—both within its own walls and in the Chicago community. During Pat's tenure, it has increased the number of children it serves by more than 50 percent, giving thousands of children access to high-quality healthcare services. Lurie Children's has significantly expanded its innovative research and treatment services, including its Nation-leading efforts on trauma-informed care and violence prevention, to meet the increasing needs of its patients.

Pat Magoon has been the key to positioning Lurie Children's as a national leader in the care of kids. I am especially grateful for our partnership over the years and his leadership in protecting and advocating for the youngest, most vulnerable patients. We could always count on Pat and Children's to be a strong ally in the support of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, biomedical research funding, and addressing violence and the social determinants of health.

Pat Magoon's legacy is not just a great children's hospital, which Lurie Children's has become, but the heartfelt appreciation of the children, parents, staff, and volunteers who know he has been an integral part of making their lives better. I salute my friend, Pat Magoon.

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

#### HONEST ADS ACT

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, it has been 1190 days since Russia attacked us in 2016, and we have yet to pass comprehensive election security reform. The next major elections are just 266 days away and primaries are already underway. We must take action now to secure our elections from foreign threats. I applaud my Democratic colleagues for coming to the floor today to urge the Senate to take action.

Our intelligence officials have repeatedly warned that elections remain a target for foreign adversaries and that our election systems remain vulnerable. According to a recent joint statement from our military and intelligence agencies, the administration warned that "Russia, China, Iran and other foreign malicious actors will seek to interfere in the voting process or influence voter perceptions." Our adversaries are emboldened, and we must do more to safeguard our elections.

I have been coming to the floor for years now fighting to get comprehensive election security legislation passed because election security is national security. While we have made progress and secured nearly \$1 billion in election security grants for States, we have been blocked from passing meaningful legislation that would en-

sure our election systems are resilient in the face of attacks, legislation that calls for paper ballots and reliable postelection audits—basic requirements that would dramatically improve election security. Despite my bipartisan work with Senator LANKFORD on such legislation, we have been repeatedly blocked from bringing it to the floor.

There are other commonsense bipartisan election security bills that have been blocked from the floor. Late last year, I pushed the Senate to take action on the Honest Ads Act, my bipartisan legislation with Senator GRAHAM that would increase transparency and accountability for political ads sold online. The goal is simple: bring our laws into the 21st century to ensure that voters know who is paying to influence our political system. That is a goal every elected official should be fighting for, but I was again blocked from offering the legislation on the Senate floor.

We have a common set of facts about how our elections were attacked; now we must act with a common purpose to ensure it never happens again. This is about our democracy, not about partisanship. The freedom to choose our leaders and know with full confidence that those leaders were chosen in free and fair elections is something Americans have fought and died for since our country was founded. We need to be a united front in fighting against those who interfere with our political system, and we must do everything in our power to protect our elections.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### BIGHORN SHEEP RETURN TO FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, it has been 150 years since bighorn sheep have roamed the Tribal lands of the Fort Berthold Reservation in northwestern North Dakota. At the end of January, the sheep returned.

Their re-introduction to lands they had inhabited for centuries was a long-held goal of many tribal leaders and state wildlife professionals. Their dream was realized when the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department worked out a cooperative agreement, which they signed last month.

Thirty bighorn sheep from the Rocky Boy Reservation in north central Montana were brought to Fort Berthold and released near Mandaree and Twin Buttes on reservation habitat known to be ideal for the sheep. Their management and maintenance will be shared between the state and tribe.

The rarest big game species in my state, bighorn sheep are found only on steep terrain near the North Dakota Badlands. With these new sheep, their total population in the state is now approximately 360.

Bighorn sheep are historically significant to the Mandan Hidatsa and



Arikara Nation. Hunted with bow and arrows and used in traditional ceremonies for years, they were recorded as being seen in what is present-day North Dakota in scientific journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804–1806. Paintings by well-known artists like Karl Bodmer depict tribal chiefs, including the prominent Mandan Chief Four Bears, wearing their valued hides.

The return of the bighorn sheep to native habitat honors the past and enriches the future of the residents of Fort Berthold. It is a remarkable example of the profound impact a collaboration of like minds can have on a mutual goal.

I have long admired the rugged beauty of the bighorn sheep and am among many North Dakotans who appreciate their historical significance in my state. I applaud all who had the vision to bring the bighorn sheep back to the Fort Berthold Reservation and wish them every success in ensuring they thrive in this new habitat.●

#### RECOGNIZING OAKES CUSTOM MEATS & CATERING

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit, which drives our economy. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Oakes Custom Meats & Catering of Chumuckla, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

For more than 25 years, Oakes Custom Meats & Catering has served Chumuckla as a neighborhood butcher shop that cuts and processes livestock and wild game. Having lived and worked in Chumuckla for generations, the Oakes family is uniquely positioned to serve their community in this capacity, as they deeply appreciate their local farmers and understand their needs. The Oakes' knowledge of and friendships with the people in their community allows them to serve their community well, providing exceptional personalized service to every customer.

Oakes Custom Meats & Catering offers personalized services in a number of ways, including full-service catering for parties, celebrations, and corporate events. They also have a food truck that serves lunch several days a week at various locations inhabited by local small businesses around Chumuckla, helping to promote those businesses in the community. The food truck lunches have a large following on social media, are extremely popular, and often sell out within a few hours. Oakes Custom Meats & Catering's rave reviews reflect not only their delicious food, but their high-quality customer service as well.

Oakes Custom Meats & Catering is also present in their community in a charitable capacity. They sponsor a weekly event hosted by a local fitness company, provide meals for fundraising

volunteers, and position their food truck at different charity events. They also bring joy to those in their community by giving away free lunches and meals. As one of the long-serving businesses in the small community of Chumuckla, FL, Oakes Custom Meats & Catering has cemented itself as a staple in the area for its high-quality meat processing service, delicious catered food, and dedication to serving its farming community. Congratulations to the entire Oakes Custom Meats & Catering team for being named Senate Small Business of the Week. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.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 bill, without amendment:

S. 2107. An act to increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1494. An act to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2932. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3413. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain acquisition authorities for the Under Secretary of Management of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4432. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4737. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4753. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5273. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of

Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1494. An act to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2932. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3413. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for certain acquisition authorities for the Under Secretary of Management of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4432. An act to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4737. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4753. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5273. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5687. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3275. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

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-3931. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees for Rice Inspection Services and Removal of Specific Fee References" ((RIN0581-AD85) (Docket No. AMS-FGIS-18-0088)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3932. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an Antideficiency Act (ADA) Violation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3933. 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 Certain Regulations for the Operations of State Savings Associations and Conforming Amendments to Other Regulations" (RIN3064-AF14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3934. 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 Accounting Requirements for State Savings Associations" (RIN3064-AF15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3935. 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 Regulatory Reporting Requirements, Reports and Audits of State Savings Associations" (RIN3064-AF13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3936. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Other Real Estate Owned and Technical Amendments; Amendment of Effective Date and Correction" (RIN1557-AE50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3937. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Revisions to the Supplementary Leverage Ratio to Exclude Central Bank Deposits of Banking Organizations Predominately Engaged in Custody, Safekeeping, and Asset Servicing Activities" (RIN1557-AE60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3938. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commission Guidance on Management's Discussion and Anal-

ysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" (17 CFR Parts 211, 231, and 241) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3939. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts" (RIN3064-AE80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3940. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3941. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts" (RIN1557-AE44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3942. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transmission Planning Reliability Standard TPL-001-5" ((18 CFR Part 40) (Docket No. RM19-10-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2020; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3943. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; Florida; Source-Specific SO<sub>2</sub> Permit Limits and Redesignation of the Hillsborough-Polk 2010 1-Hr SO<sub>2</sub> Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Mulberry Unclassifiable Area to Attainment/Unclassifiable" (FRL No. 10005-23-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3944. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule" (FRL No. 10005-28-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3945. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Idaho; Idaho Portion of the Logan UT-ID 2006 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area; Moderate Plan Elements" (FRL No. 10005-17-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3946. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Mississippi; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan Approved by the EPA Through Letter" (FRL

No. 10005-22-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3947. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Delaware; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL No. 9999-79-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3948. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Pinal County Air Control District; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL No. 10001-02-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3949. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Asphalt Processing and Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review" (FRL No. 10005-06-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3950. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The Navigable Waters Protection Rule; Definition of Waters of the United States" (FRL No. 10004-88-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3951. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Partially or Fully Assembled Into Other Products: Monitoring Developments in the Domestic Industry"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3952. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2019 and Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2020-2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3953. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure 2020-8" (Rev. Proc. 2020-8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3954. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Return Due Date and Extended Due Date Changes" ((RIN1545-BN12) (TD 9892)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3955. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Israel to support the production, inspection, assembly, testing, and repair of top-level assemblies, sub-assemblies, and components used in the Spice Family of Gliding Bomb Assemblies in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-028); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3956. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List of M2HB .50 caliber automatic machine guns, and M60E6 conversion kits with spare barrels to Thailand in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-077); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3957. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Canada, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the UK to support the manufacture, repair, and overhaul of the nose wheels, main wheels, carbon brakes, and carbon/carbon composite heat sinks for the end use on the F-35 aircraft in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-046); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3958. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of State 2020 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflationary Adjustment" (RIN1400-AF00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 10, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3959. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, including the permanent transfer of six F-5 aircraft, fourteen J85 engines, components and spare parts, and related technical data from Malaysia to Tactical Air Support (TacAir, Inc.) with a sales value of approximately \$108,900,000,000 (Transmittal No. RSAT-2019MF004); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3960. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0004-2020-0021); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 512. A bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-215).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 982. A bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians (Rept. No. 116-214).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 3239. A bill to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Transportation located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, in Washington, DC, as the "William T. Coleman, Jr., Federal Building".

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

\*Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

\*Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### 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. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3263. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3264. A bill to expedite and streamline the deployment of affordable broadband service on Tribal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 3265. A bill to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the "Weir Farm National Historical Park"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3266. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the time during which members of the Armed Forces serve on active duty for training qualifies for entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 3267. A bill to provide adequate information about excessive Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 3268. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a

study to evaluate the failures and total system breakdown of the 2020 Iowa caucuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3269. A bill to set and meet a national goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by not later than 2050, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3270. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain qualified over-the-counter securities to be treated as readily traded on an established securities market for the purpose of diversification requirements for employee stock ownership plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3271. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3272. A bill to provide for a safe to report policy relating to alleged instances of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3273. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a community college and career training grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. JONES):

S. 3274. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a decentralized wastewater grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LEE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SHELBY, and Mrs. LOEFFLER):

S. 3275. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3276. A bill to eliminate asset limits employed by certain Federally-funded means-tested public assistance programs, 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. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 495. A resolution designating February 12, 2020, as "Darwin Day" and recognizing the importance of science to the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 496. A resolution supporting the designation of April 16, 2020, as "Public Radio Music Day" and expressing deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities across the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. Res. 497. A resolution commemorating the life of Dr. Li Wenliang and calling for transparency and cooperation from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Con. Res. 36. A concurrent resolution supporting the Farmers Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit governmental discrimination against providers of health services that are not involved in abortion.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the So-

cial Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 477

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 477, a bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill 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.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 642

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 642, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 717

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of asbestos and asbestos-containing mixtures and articles, and for other purposes.

S. 739

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 739, a bill to protect the voting rights of Native American and Alaska Native voters.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors 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. 1119

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the

health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1381, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 1517

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1517, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1531, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for health insurance consumers from surprise billing.

S. 1546

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1546, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for projects to strengthen and protect vulnerable infrastructure used during mass evacuations, and for other purposes.

S. 1569

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1569, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance.

S. 1727

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1727, a bill to establish the Partnership Fund for Peace to promote joint economic development and finance ventures between Palestinian entrepreneurs and companies and those in the United States and Israel to improve economic cooperation and people-to-people peacebuilding programs, and to further shared community building, peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2020 through 2022

to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through bilateral compacts to increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities and reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1908

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1908, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 1923

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1923, a bill to require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act and to provide, in the case of elderly beneficiaries under such title, for an annual cost-of-living increase which is not less than 3 percent.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2054, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require transportation planners to consider projects and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2085, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust, and for other purposes.

S. 2233

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

vania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2233, a bill to nullify the effect of the recent executive order that requires Federal agencies to share citizenship data.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball.

S. 2366

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2390

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2390, a bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 2427

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2467

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2467, a bill to establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved urban communities and rural communities to green spaces.

S. 2570

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2570, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond in recognition of his service to the United States

as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

S. 2660

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2660, a bill to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration, and for other purposes.

S. 2661

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2661, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to reduce mass violence, strengthen mental health collaboration in communities, improve school safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2803

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2803, a bill to provide Federal housing assistance on behalf of youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

S. 2831

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2831, a bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to modify the national space grant college and fellowship program, and for other purposes.

S. 2892

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2892, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis.

S. 2948

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2948, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program for work therapy using service dog training.

S. 3055

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3055, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit a Federal student loan borrower to elect to terminate repayment pursuant to income-based repayment and repay such loan under any other repayment plan for which the borrower is otherwise eligible.

S. 3129

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3129, a bill to provide for certain reforms with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3167, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3176, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 3206

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3206, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to increase voting accessibility for individuals with disabilities and older individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 3218

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3218, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the definition of franchise fee, and for other purposes.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINÉ) was added as a cosponsor of S.

3231, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.5 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3236, a bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that child support for unborn children is collected and distributed under the child support enforcement program, and for other purposes.

S. 3239

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3239, a bill to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Transportation located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, in Washington, DC, as the "William T. Coleman, Jr., Federal Building".

S.J. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 6, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S.J. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. KAINÉ, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 68, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3273. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a community college and career training grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, approximately 80 percent of jobs in today's workforce require some form of postsecondary education or training beyond the high school level. While the number of students pursuing postsecondary education is growing, the supply of middle-skilled workers, whose work requires more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree, falls short of industry demand. According to the National Skills Coalition, 53 percent of all jobs in today's labor market are middle skill, but only 43 percent of U.S. workers are trained at this level. Education is failing to meet the needs of critical industries, including manufacturing, construction, energy,

health care, information technology, transportation, and business management and administration.

For many people seeking a job, attending a community college is the most affordable and accessible pathway to higher paying employment opportunities. In Virginia, we have 23 community colleges that serve an estimated 400,000 people across the State, providing them opportunities to earn an associate's degree, certifications or licensures in some of the most cutting-edge and in-demand fields in our workforce. The impact of community colleges nationwide is even greater, and our rapidly changing economy demands increased investment in the pathways these institutions provide to keep up with changing skill demands.

Today, I am proud to introduce the Assisting Community Colleges in Educating Skilled Students (ACCESS) to Careers Act with Senator YOUNG. Inspired by the success of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program, this bill provides grants to states and community colleges to scale evidence-based strategies that will help prepare our students with the skills necessary to succeed in our in-demand industry sectors and occupations. These grants can be used to expand dual enrollment, work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeships, and other pathways to best meet the skill needs of students and employers in our evolving workforce. The bill also emphasizes the importance of student services to ensure that students have the support they need to complete their programs.

The bill also allows grants to be used for developing partnerships between community colleges and other private and public sector entities, creating innovative career pathways directly between two-year institutions and employers. In Virginia, we've already started to see the success of these community college partnerships as part of a strategy to address the growing workforce shortages in rural areas and in-demand industries.

When we invest in our community colleges, they become hubs of innovation, finding pathways to train our next generation in the skills our rapidly evolving workforce needs. The ACCESS to Careers Act represents a necessary step to take the evidence-based innovations we've seen on the local level to scale in order to fill jobs in high-needs industries. I strongly encourage my colleagues in the Senate to consider this commonsense, bipartisan legislation as we move towards reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 495—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 12, 2020, AS “DARWIN DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE TO THE BETTERMENT OF HUMANITY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 495

Whereas Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution by natural selection, which provides humanity with a logical and intellectually compelling explanation for the diversity of life on Earth;

Whereas the validity of the theory of evolution by natural selection is strongly supported by the monumental amount of scientific evidence Charles Darwin compiled to support the theory and the modern understanding of the science of genetics;

Whereas the human curiosity and ingenuity exemplified by Charles Darwin have promoted new scientific discoveries that have helped humanity solve many problems and improve living conditions;

Whereas the advancement of science must be protected from individuals unconcerned with the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change;

Whereas the teaching of creationism in some public schools compromises the scientific and academic integrity of the education systems of the United States;

Whereas Charles Darwin is a worthy symbol of scientific advancement on whom to focus and around whom to build a global celebration of science and humanity intended to promote a common bond among all the people of the Earth; and

Whereas February 12, 2020, is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 1809 and is an appropriate date to designate as “Darwin Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 12, 2020, as “Darwin Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of science to the betterment of humanity; and

(3) recognizes Charles Darwin as a worthy symbol for celebrating science, the achievements of reason, and the advancement of human knowledge.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 496—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 16, 2020, AS “PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC DAY” AND EXPRESSING DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC STATIONS IN SERVING LISTENERS, MUSICIANS, AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 496

Whereas more than 20,000,000 listeners in the United States tune in weekly to local public radio stations to discover, learn about, and enjoy music selections, artists, and genres that are, in many cases, available only on public radio;

Whereas approximately 734 public radio music stations serve rural and urban communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Guam;

Whereas public radio music stations—

(1) are noncommercial, nonprofit, public service radio stations;

(2) are locally staffed and programmed; and

(3) share the core values of music discovery, curation, preservation, performance, and community;

Whereas public radio music stations celebrate a broad collection of sounds and styles, including jazz, blues, classical, Americana, alternative, folk, roots, bluegrass, and other regional and eclectic genres;

Whereas 97 percent of over-the-air broadcasts of classical music in the United States come from local public radio stations;

Whereas public radio music stations are an essential and indispensable force in—

(1) sustaining music and performers;

(2) developing artists and audiences; and

(3) educating and enriching the communities in which the stations are located;

Whereas knowledgeable local hosts, live announcers, and expert curation on public radio music stations have a proven track record of—

(1) helping audiences discover new and emerging musicians; and

(2) providing deep explorations into the history and cultural impact of music;

Whereas public radio music stations tailor their content and programming—

(1) to reflect regional tastes and talent; and

(2) to make music more accessible through local performances, studio sessions, artist interviews, music journalism, and local news and performance information;

Whereas public radio music stations offer audiences, musicians, and artists numerous platforms for innovative music programming on air, online, on video, on stage, and on-the-go;

Whereas the emphasis that public radio stations place on music presentation enables new, emerging, and essential artists to construct deep and lasting relationships with audiences, adding to the journey of lifelong music enjoyment;

Whereas public radio music stations serve as cultural hubs in the communities in which those stations are located by providing a place for listeners of diverse backgrounds and ages to come together for the shared thrill of music;

Whereas the commitment of public radio to music and education brings the instruments and experience of music to schools, hospitals, and other places in the public square to ensure wide access to music;

Whereas the varied and unique activities and attributes of public radio music stations—

(1) foster community among music lovers;

(2) build support for local artists and the local music economy; and

(3) develop the next generation of musicians and audiences;

Whereas the core values of public radio music stations and the collective commitment of those stations to community service, education, and cultural support separates public radio music stations from other music providers; and

Whereas April 16, 2020, would be an appropriate day to designate as “Public Radio Music Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 16, 2020, as “Public Radio Music Day”; and

(2) expresses deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 497—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. LI WENLIANG AND CALLING FOR TRANSPARENCY AND COOPERATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 497

Whereas Dr. Li Wenliang was a 34-year-old ophthalmologist working in Wuhan, China;

Whereas research indicates that the first patient infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) exhibited symptoms on December 1, 2019;

Whereas, in December 2019, Dr. Li notified his associates in the medical community in China about the outbreak of 2019-nCoV;

Whereas, after raising concerns about the spread of 2019-nCoV, Dr. Li was summoned by Chinese officials and forced to sign a statement retracting his warnings about the virus and confessing that he had spread illegal rumors;

Whereas Chinese government authorities played down dangers to the public for weeks as 2019-nCoV continued to spread, with more than 42,000 confirmed cases in China alone and at least 1,000 deaths reported as of February 11, 2020;

Whereas Dr. Li continued to work as an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital despite his knowledge of the outbreak, and appears to have been infected himself with 2019-nCoV after coming in contact with a patient he was treating for glaucoma;

Whereas, on the morning of February 7, 2020, in the hospital where he worked, Dr. Li Wenliang died after contracting 2019-nCoV;

Whereas, before he passed away, Dr. Li stated, "If the officials had disclosed information about the epidemic earlier, I think it would have been a lot better. There should be more openness and transparency.";

Whereas the people of China expressed their grief and anger on social media after the death of Dr. Li, with the phrase "I want freedom of speech" emerging as a top trending topic on the Weibo platform;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to limit free expression, and stepped up censorship after online criticism and investigative reports by Chinese journalists suggesting that officials underestimated and underplayed the threat of 2019-nCoV;

Whereas Freedom House has listed China as the "worst abuser of internet freedom" in the world for the fourth year in a row, and in the aftermath of the outbreak of 2019-nCoV, there are numerous and well-documented instances of the "Great Firewall" of China suppressing the free flow of critical and medically important information about the pandemic;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has endangered the people of Taiwan and people around the world by using its influence to limit Taiwan's access to the benefits of membership in the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, particularly during the current outbreak; and

Whereas the World Health Organization has declared 2019-nCoV a Public Health Emergency of International Concern: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and contributions of Dr. Li Wenliang, and extends heartfelt sympathy

to his family and to the families of all who have passed during this outbreak;

(2) expresses its support for the people of China as they face this unprecedented public health challenge;

(3) expresses gratitude to Dr. Li and all Chinese medical personnel and citizens for their efforts to spread awareness of 2019-nCoV and treat individuals who have contracted the disease;

(4) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China—

(A) to be open and transparent in investigating and responding to 2019-nCoV;

(B) to ensure that Chinese citizens and the international community have free and unfettered access, without censorship or social media controls, to information about 2019-nCoV;

(C) to cooperate fully with the United States Government, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in providing medical access, sharing information, and developing treatment to combat 2019-nCoV;

(D) to cooperate fully with other governments, especially those in Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and other regions whose health systems already face high burdens and are operating from a lower base of capability, as well as international health organizations in combating 2019-nCoV; and

(E) to cease efforts to exclude Taiwan from international organizations, including the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization;

(5) affirms the vital importance of Dr. Li's belief that "[t]here should be more openness and transparency" in China;

(6) affirms that freedom of expression is a social good that enables experts to sound public health warnings and helps citizens ensure that their government addresses weaknesses in crisis response; and

(7) strongly supports the people of China in their demand for freedom of speech.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36—SUPPORTING THE FARMERS BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 36

Whereas the Center for American Progress reported mergers and acquisitions have increased corporate concentration across agricultural markets, including monopolizing 85 percent market share of the corn seed market through the 4 largest firms in the seed sector;

Whereas according to the Open Markets Institute, the excessive concentration in the poultry industry has resulted in half of chicken farmers working in regions dominated by only 1 or 2 processing monopolies, leaving them with little, if any, bargaining power for better contracts or growing terms;

Whereas the Organization for Competitive Markets reported cattle prices paid to farmers from 2013 to 2016 dropped by 13 percent, while during the same period prices paid for beef by consumers at the grocery store increased by 4 percent, leading them to conclude that the prices paid to farmers and by consumers are not the result of a fair and just market;

Whereas corporate concentration and abusive practices in America's food and farm sector are at detrimental highs, harming consumers, rural communities and family

farmers and ranchers, including historically underserved farmers and ranchers, by—

(1) diminishing the availability of seed choice;

(2) limiting the accessibility of domestic farming lands;

(3) increasing food prices and market manipulation; and

(4) hindering access to traditional foodways and agricultural practices;

Whereas according to the American Farm Bureau Federation, farm loan delinquencies are at a 6-year high and have increased over the past 24 quarters;

Whereas increasing farm debt, decreasing incomes, and deteriorating overall conditions for family farmers and ranchers have caused farm foreclosures and chapter 12 bankruptcies to steadily increase over the past year;

Whereas, according to the 2019 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report, agriculture, forestry, and other land use activities accounted for 23 percent of net global anthropogenic emissions contributing to human-induced climate change, which is resulting in the ongoing deterioration of food systems, including irreversible impacts to the traditional farming practices and foodways of indigenous peoples and their lands;

Whereas, according to the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting, the foreign acquisition of and increasing investments in American farmlands and agribusiness presents a risk to food system security and contributes to increasing prices of the country's farmland beyond the financial ability of local residents to purchase domestic farm land; and

Whereas monopolization and an increase of large corporations and foreign interests in America's farming sector, combined with a changing climate, creates an unprecedented negative impact on the regional economic strength and security of rural and Tribal communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

**SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

That—

(1) the Congress recognizes the many contributions that family farmers and ranchers, including historically underserved farmers and ranchers, have made to America's agricultural industry, local food production, food sovereignty, rich variety of the country's abundant food supply, and traditional and cultural agricultural practices; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government should encourage support for family farmers and ranchers, in rural communities and on indigenous lands, and ensure access to open and fair agricultural markets in the United States, by introducing the Farmers Bill of Rights.

**SEC. 2. FARMERS BILL OF RIGHTS.**

The Farmer's Bill of Rights is as follows:

(1) **RIGHT TO FAIR, OPEN MARKETS.**—There must be a competitive open marketplace to buy seeds, fertilizer, and other goods, and to sell produce, livestock, and meat for all people. It has become nearly impossible for independent farmers, processors, seed suppliers, mechanics, and other rural businesses to compete with multinational monopolies. Farmers need strong antitrust safeguards.

(2) **RIGHT TO FEED THEIR COMMUNITY.**—Multinational corporations have taken control of the country's food system by shutting out independent processing and distribution businesses, sequentially locking farmers out of their local markets and denying domestic consumers local, regional, and culturally traditional foods. In the United States, Native Americans suffer from the highest rates of food insecurity with African



Americans and Hispanic communities more food insecure than the national average, which could be remedied through investment in local food systems, greater regulatory flexibility, and Tribal self-governance programs.

(3) **RIGHT TO FAIR CAPITAL.**—With the loss of community and regional banks, coupled with the extraction of wealth from rural communities by large corporations, farmers and local businesses cannot access the capital necessary to operate. Congress must ensure that all farmers, regardless of background, can access the credit and capital they need. This includes Native American producers and Tribal agricultural enterprises that often must contract with Federal agencies for resources, and African-American farmers who have endured historical discrimination accessing farm credit.

(4) **RIGHT TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES.**—If large corporations want to purchase land and operate megafarms, they have a duty to protect the Earth's soil, water, and natural resources, as rural and indigenous farmers have for generations, including the protection of acequias that sustain accessibility to water, local agriculture, and traditional irrigation practices. Corporate megafarms have a duty to support conservation by following reasonable standards for aquifer use, manure storage, and other land-use guidelines. Preserving land-based agricultural resources is vital to beginning to mitigate the impacts of climate change and preserve natural resources for both the tradition of diversified rural family farming and the cultural sustainability of indigenous agricultural communities.

(5) **RIGHT TO LOCAL LAND CONTROL, PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND PROTECTION OF TRIBAL LANDS AND SOVEREIGNTY.**—Counties and other local governments should have the ability to pass and enforce ordinances regulating the size, placement, and scope of megafarms to protect the value of rural family farmers' land and the surrounding environment. African-American farmers and other historically underserved farmers and ranchers should retain their land ownership and rights. Tribal Governments are sovereign nations with the inherent right to independently control their lands through self-governance programs to safeguard traditional foods and medicines for their citizens' wellbeing and preservation of ceremonial practices of American Indian and Alaska Natives, including the expansion of historically diminished indigenous hunting, fishing, and gathering rights.

(6) **RIGHT TO FOOD SECURITY.**—Foreign ownership hurts family farmers and ranchers and raises national security concerns. A strict cap on foreign ownership of farms, farmland, and agribusinesses should be set to ensure that all American farmers can access domestic farm land.

(7) **RIGHT TO REPAIR.**—Huge corporations and their Wall Street backers have gone so far as to prevent local businesses and farmers from fixing their own tractors and equipment, forcing them to pay corporate technicians to make all repairs. A farmer should have the right to fix their own equipment as they see fit.

(8) **RIGHT TO TRANSPARENT LABELING.**—A farmer should be able to label their food accurately and transparently—including strong country of origin labeling standards.

(9) **RIGHT TO RURAL OPPORTUNITY.**—Monopolies have hollowed out local economies and taken away the traditional pathways of opportunity for free enterprise that helped communities thrive. No farmer should have to choose between continuing to operate their farm and getting access to good schools and health care. No farmer should have to choose between farming and providing a fu-

ture for their children. Farmers need the right to basic services in rural communities.

(10) **RIGHT TO PRESERVE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF FARMERS AND FARMING PRACTICES.**—For too long, historically underserved farmers and ranchers have lacked a voice on local and national agricultural policies and development. Congress must ensure that historically underserved farmers and ranchers have fair opportunities in the market, a seat at the table in policy development, access to culturally relevant training and technical assistance, and equal treatment by all Federal agencies.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1299. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1300. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1301. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1302. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1303. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1304. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1305. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1306. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1307. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1308. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1309. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1310. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1311. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1312. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SA 1313. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1299.** Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, strike "imminent".

**SA 1300.** Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, strike "imminent".

**SA 1301.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 1, insert after paragraph (3) the following:

(4) Members of the United States Armed Forces and intelligence community, and all those involved in the planning of the January 2, 2020, strike on Qasem Soleimani, including President Donald J. Trump, should be commended for their efforts in a successful mission.

**SA 1302.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 1, insert after paragraph (3) the following:

(4) On January 2, 2020, United States personnel killed terrorist leader Qasem Soleimani during the course of a targeted strike against terrorists engaged in planning attacks against United States persons and personnel.

**SA 1303.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert “or to restrict missions related to force protection of United States aircraft, ships, or personnel” after “attack”.

**SA 1304.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert “or, consistent with section 8(d) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(d)), to alter the constitutional authority of Congress or the President or the provisions of existing treaties” after “attack”.

**SA 1305.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 14, insert “except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at entities designated as foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189),” after “or military,”.

**SA 1306.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.

**SA 1307.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert “, including by Iranian-controlled proxies and militia groups” after “attack”.

**SA 1308.** Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, line 19, insert “, including by ballistic and cruise missiles, rockets, unmanned aerial systems, and improvised explosive devices” after “attack”.

**SA 1309.** Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 2, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from defending itself, including its territories, citizens, troops, personnel, military bases, and diplomatic facilities, from attack.

**SA 1310.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

At the end of section 1, add the following:

(9) The United States’ maximum pressure strategy against Iran has reduced the Government of Iran’s resources available to attack the United States and United States interests by limiting the resources available to the Government of Iran to support weapons development and terrorist proxies throughout the region.

**SA 1311.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

At the end of section 1, add the following:

(9) On the advice of his national security and intelligence advisors, President Donald J. Trump took decisive action in ordering the strike on January 2, 2020, that killed Qasem Soleimani.

**SA 1312.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

In section 2, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(a) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from defending itself, including acting to prevent or preempt an attack.

**SA 1313.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 68, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 3 through 19 and insert the following:

(9) Using the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, formerly com-

manded by Qassem Soleimani, the Islamic Republic of Iran participated in military operations where Iranian Armed Forces personnel commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of a foreign country or government when such military forces were engaged, or there existed an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged in hostilities with United States Armed Forces.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary, and Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, both of the Department of the Interior.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURING, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING  
OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

## MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3275) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPROVING THE REQUEST OF THE  
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FOR A WAIVER UNDER  
SECTION 1703E(F) OF TITLE 38,  
UNITED STATES CODE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 80 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) approving the request of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a waiver under section 1703E(f) of title 38, United States Code.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution 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 joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND  
UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 491 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 491) designating the week beginning February 2, 2020, as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

There being no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 491) was agreed to.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 5, 2020, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 12; 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, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Kindred nomination.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. So for the information of all Senators, we will vote on the confirmation of the Kindred, Schelp, Kness, and Halpern nominations at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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 5:49 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.