United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020 No. 122

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, Father of us all, thank You for giving us another day.

As the numbers of those infected by coronavirus continue to rise throughout our country, send us Your spirit of healing and comfort. Healthcare workers tire with the unrelenting burden of caring for so many who are ill. Strengthen them. May all Americans be sincere in their appreciation of heroic efforts to tend to those in need.

As Members return to their districts, may the work of building and rebuilding our communities show signs of progress and hope. These are difficult days, when impatience and frustration are dangerous temptations. Give us faith, hope, and, perhaps most importantly, love, that we might together build toward a newly thriving common weal.

May all that is done throughout our country this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Speaker 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 6, 2020.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 6, 2020, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4652. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a travel restriction on senior Department of Defense officials' travel to Afghanistan from June 15 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4653. A letter from the Executive Director, and Chairperson, Board of Governors, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, transmitting the Institute's Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320e(d)(10); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, Sec. 1181 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 6301(a)); (124 Stat. 734); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4654. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Virginia; Emissions Statement Certification for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0694; FRL-10008-56-Region 3] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4655. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Negative Declaration [EPA-R02-OAR-2019-0674; FRL-10007-94-Region 2] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4656. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards in the New York Metropolitan Area Moderate Nonattainment Area [EPA-R02-OAR-2018-0684; FRL-10007-95-Region 2] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4657. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Indiana; Redesignation of the Muncie, Indiana Lead Nonattainment Area [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0137; FRL-10008-15-Region 5] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4658. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluridone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0074; FRL-10007-09] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4659. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Isoxaben; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0070; FRL-10001-14] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4660. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methyl Mercaptan; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0368; FRL-10006-98] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4661. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19-3.B) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2019-0226; FRL-10007-58]

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(RIN: 2070-AB27) received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4662. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Updates to the General SIP and New Source Review Permitting Requirements; Correction [EPA-R06-OAR-2018-0208; FRL-10009-05-Region 6] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4663. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Redesignation of the Lemont and Pekin Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Areas [EPA-R05-OAR-2019-0330; FRL-10009-08-Region 5] received May 8, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4664. A letter from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting the Commission's June 2020 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1900 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(a)(1)(A)(iv)); (123 Stat. 91); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4665. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting the Service's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period October 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

4666. A letter from the Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's FY 2019 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

4667. A letter from the Clerk, Office of the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, transmitting an opinion of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit: United States v. Gonzalez-Fierro, No. 18-2168, 949 F.3d 512 (10th Cir. 2020); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4668. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 58th Annual Report for fiscal year 2019, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 109-304, Sec. 4; (120 Stat. 1489); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 7480. A bill to extend by one year the legislative authority under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, for certain commemorative works; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7481. A bill to establish a loan program for businesses affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. COX of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 7482. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to award grants to eligible entities to carry out projects that further agricultural resiliency and modernization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself and Mr. O'HALLERAN):

H.R. 7483. A bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma (for herself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. CASE, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM):

H.R. 7484. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit to Congress a report on efforts by the People's Republic of China to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic to advance the national security and foreign policy interests of China; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILD, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 7485. A bill to direct the National Labor Relations Board to implement a system and procedures to conduct representation elections remotely using an electronic voting system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MENG, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 7486. A bill to establish a Library Stabilization Fund to respond to and accelerate the recovery from coronavirus; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 7487. A bill to promote and support the local arts and creative economy in the United States; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Veterans' Affairs, Small Business, Ways and Means, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 7488. A bill to reform pattern and practice investigations conducted by the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H.R. 7489. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service for the construction of rail and other infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

177. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 155, urging the United States President and Congress to establish a student loan forgiveness program for certain doctors, nurses, and emergency medical services employees; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 7481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 power to regulate commerce

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 7482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art I, Sec 8

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 7483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 7484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 7486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 7486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 7487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 7488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 7489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Constitution: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

''The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 333: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 1383: Ms. WEXTON and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1636: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2166: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 4349: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 4681: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 5998: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 6142: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 6776: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. MCADAMS, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. PANETTA, and Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 6829: Mr. HIMES and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 6977: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 7029: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 7055: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 7292: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 7329: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 7358: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 7456: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. GUEST.

H. Res. 1008: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COLE, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H. Res. 1032: Ms. PINGREE.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

115. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Borough of Butler, Morris County, NJ, relative to Resolution No. 2020-57, urging the state of New Jersey to provide direct stabilization funding to Morris County from the Coronavirus Relief Fund; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

116. Also, a petition of the Lafayette, WI County Board of Supervisors, relative to Resolution 5-20, supporting a constitutional amendment to limit corporate campaign contributions under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020 No. 122

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.

O God of light, as we approach Independence Day, we thank You for giving us the gift of true freedom.

You have blessed us with freedom from sin, guilt, and shame. You have redeemed us. You have also given us freedom from fear, providing us with peace in the midst of the storms.

Today, please guide our lawmakers so that they will fulfill Your purposes as they face the challenges of these times. Lord, awaken them to Your inescapable presence. Keep them from thinking that You are absent from our world or disinterested in it. Enable them to feel You in their midst as they grapple with the problems of our time.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Department of Defense is the only agency that can't get a clean audit. Sometime around 1990, there was an audit law passed directing Departments to get to a point where they could get a clean audit. DOD is still the only one that hasn't.

Sometime around 2010, I believe, we laid down a requirement that the clean audit date ought to be met by 2017. Well, that wasn't met. So, for decades, DOD has been saying that they are almost there. Now they say it will be at least another 5 years before a clean opinion can be reached.

One reason they haven't been able to do that is the outdated mess of hundreds of financial management systems. Yet the Department of Defense still wants to spend almost $200 million on an annual audit.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to pause the audit effort that is doomed to fail anyway and, instead, invest that $200 million in updating the Department of Defense financial management system because, until they get the financial management systems right, DOD will never be capable of having a clean audit.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, before I discuss the legislation before the Senate, I need to spend a moment on something broader. Our country needs to confront the Democratic Party's willingness to threaten our governing institutions themselves.

Earlier this year, as the Senate disposed of the least fair, least thorough, and most rushed impeachment in modern history, I offered a broader warning. I said: ''Leaders in the opposite party increasingly argue that if our institutions don't produce the outcomes they like, our institutions themselves must be broken.''

No longer do disappointments for Democrats mean that Democrats need better arguments. Now disappointments for Democrats are claimed as proof—proof—that our country is fundamentally broken or that James Madison messed something up.

So while we have far-left mobs attacking statues of our Founding Fathers from coast to coast, we have far-left politicians attacking the institutions those Founders left us.

Now, step back and look at the landscape of fundamental changes that leading Democrats or their close allies are demanding: amending the First Amendment to restrict its protections, ending the electoral college, packing the Supreme Court with new Justices, packing the Senate with new States, and, to accomplish all this, destroying the Senate's distinguishing feature that makes radical change hard by design.

We have an entire political movement that is telling us—literally out loud—that they have lost patience with playing by the rules and may well declare war on the rule book itself. A coalition of leftwing special interests are explicitly campaigning for ''51 for 51.'' They want Senators to vandalize the rules to pass legislation with a simple majority and then use that ill-gotten power to cement a presumed advantage by awarding the District of Columbia two Senate seats.

They want to nuke the Senate to pack the Senate. This is naked politics. No neutral principle could explain why all these special interests prioritize this cause which most Americans oppose. No neutral principle explains why Democrats want the 20th most populous city to get two Senators all to itself when retrocession to Maryland would satisfy their own slogans more cleanly.

No neutral principle explains why House Democrats wasted floor time on a potentially unconstitutional show vote.

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

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Just days after Democrats used the filibuster power to block Senator SCOTT's police reform bill, even colleagues who recently defended this important tradition have now bowed to the pressure to flirt with ending it.

On a similar note, you may remember that a kind of naked intimidation without modern precedent in modern memory took place a few months ago. The Democratic leader stood by the steps of the Supreme Court and directly threatened Justices if they ruled the wrong way in the June Medical Services case.

This display aligned with a whole new tradition of Senate Democrats threatening judges. A year ago, several wrote Justices saying the ''Court is not well [and] perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be 'restructured.' ''

In other words, nice judicial independence you have got there. It would be a shame if something happened to it.

Right on cue, a number of leftwing groups are agitating to revive the discredited notion of court-packing.

Now, following the Democratic leader's display, the Court ruled the way he wanted on that very case. They handed it down on Monday of this week. Our colleague took to the floor cracking jokes, giddy—giddy—he had gotten his way, but just moments later the Democratic leader picked right up where he left off, impugning and pressuring one Justice whose vote he disliked.

So you see, the improper pressure and the accusations of illegitimacy will never end. No amount of rulings the Democrats like would be enough because the fundamental respect for an independent judiciary is simply not there.

This is about outcomes, not institutions, and there is no limit to how far left the goalposts will move.

Well, the subject is not going away, but for today I will leave it there. This weekend, July 4, Americans will celebrate our founding. We will celebrate the Framers and the traditions and the institutions that they left us.

We cannot let radicals tear down their likenesses or their legacies. We must preserve the gifts and the institutions we celebrate so our grandchildren and their grandchildren can celebrate them as well.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, the Senate continues to consider the National Defense Authorization Act. I understand we are close to a bipartisan structure for amendments, and if our Democratic colleagues will let us, I hope we can move forward today.

All week I have discussed how the 60th consecutive NDAA will help our Nation protect its people, stand with our allies, and keep pace with our competitors. This legislation has global reach, but, as all my colleagues know, the NDAA is also a profoundly local bill for communities in all 50 States.

My home State is proud to support three Army installations and the men and women of the Kentucky Air and Army National Guard. Last fall, I hosted Defense Secretary Mark Esper in Kentucky to speak with the Fort Knox community. He called for a renewed commitment to supporting our all-volunteer force, including military spouses and their families.

The NDAA advances that goal. It will authorize a new elementary school at Fort Knox. This construction, paired with progress toward a new middle school at Fort Campbell, will continue making Kentucky's installations a welcoming home for military families.

This project comes on the heels of Fort Knox's selection for the new V Corps headquarters. This mission brings more than 600 additional soldiers to Kentucky in support of U.S. operations over in Europe. They will join Fort Knox's already impressive list of significant commands, including the Army's Recruiting, Cadet, and Human Resources Command. The V Corps will find a premier installation made even better by this NDAA.

Our bill also authorizes the construction of a new headquarters for the Kentucky National Guard. The facility will consolidate the Guard's operation to a central location.

Just recently, our citizen soldiers and airmen have stepped up to combat COVID–19. I am glad this legislation will deliver for them.

At the Blue Grass Army Depot, the NDAA will advance the disposal of legacy chemical weapons. Families in Madison County have lived for generations with these deadly agents practically in their backyards. For years, I have fought alongside them to support safe and responsible demilitarization.

In just the first year of chemical destruction activities, the depot has already completed a campaign ahead of schedule. An entire type of munition has been completely deleted from the U.S. stockpile. Our legislation will help us safely consign more of these weapons to the ash heap of history.

Now, I have also spoken this week about the growing boldness of our Nation's adversaries and the evolving threats our servicemembers face. The men and women of Fort Campbell, including the 101st Airborne, are among those our Nation turns to first to handle serious challenges. Their recent deployments to Europe, Afghanistan, and to support the COVID–19 response in New York and New Jersey show their importance to our country.

Pursuant to the national defense strategy, this NDAA will encourage new capabilities so elite fighting forces like the 101st are equipped for success under any circumstances.

The Senate is grateful for the courageous service of our Armed Forces. The bipartisan legislation before us honors their sacrifices and authorizes the resources to carry out their missions. Its impact will not be felt just by our adversaries overseas but by our servicemembers and communities right here at home.

I would like to once again thank Chairman INHOFE, Ranking Member REED, and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for their serious and thoughtful work.

Let's get this bill moving toward completion.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, two numbers sum up the state of America today: 52,788, the number of confirmed COVID–19 cases yesterday; and 1.4 million, the number of unemployment claims filed this week. In the next few months, these numbers will be far more important than the job numbers released this morning in determining the long-term health of our economy and the health of this country. The statistics I mentioned would have been harrowing during February, March, April, or May, during the initial surge and rapid spread of the disease. They would have been distressing even then, but here in the beginning of July, 6 months into the crisis, long after other countries have experienced a rapid decline of COVID–19, it is shocking that the United States is hitting ever grimmer milestones.

There is no doubt that much of the responsibility for this debacle—the

COVID debacle—falls on the shoulders of President Trump, who failed to prepare our Nation for the initial surge, failed to organize a national supply chain of PPE, failed to develop a national strategy for testing and contact tracing, and failed to even communicate the depth of the challenge our country faces. And much of this still proves true today.

The Washington Post reported this morning that Arizona, which has experienced a huge surge in cases, still doesn't have the testing supplies they need because of a national supply chain failure.

Even after 2.6 million infections and 120,000 American fatalities, the President said yesterday:

> I think we're going to be very good with the coronavirus. I think at some point that's going to sort of just disappear.

Can you imagine the bubble this man is in? He is only concerned about scratching and stroking his own ego and not about what is going on in the country, so he can just dismiss the seriousness of this—the most serious health and economic crisis we have had in decades. It is amazing.

That is what President Trump said yesterday: ''We're going to be very good with the coronavirus''—on the same day the United States reported the most new cases of coronavirus in a single day ever. The President is so eager to declare victory and pat himself on the back and then move on that he is ignoring reality completely.

The June jobs report showed modest growth, but we know conditions have worsened since the survey was completed in the middle of the month. Experts believe 10 percent of the workforce has lost their job permanently, with Americans of color counting for a disproportionate share.

Again, in terms of the long-term health of the economy, the most concerning and important number is the number of new COVID cases. The number of COVID cases, health-related, is the No. 1 effect on the long-term health of the economy. President Trump seems oblivious to the fact that almost everyone who studied this issue knows. The President's own CDC Director says the number of cases may be 10 times higher than reported. Imagine that. We could have 26 million people infected and likely many, many more to come, but the President assumes that the coronavirus—and the economy—will just take care of itself.

If President Trump reacted to the jobs report like he has reacted to COVID and says, ''We're in the clear; we don't have to do anything,'' then we will soon be in even worse trouble than we are today.

Here in the Senate, the Republican majority has been out to lunch since we passed the CARES Act way back in March. It has been over 3 months since the Republican Senate has considered major COVID relief legislation. Weekly unemployment claims are measured in the millions. States are shedding public service jobs in the tens of thousands. The number of new cases is accelerating in nearly half our States.

Still, the Republican majority, in the words of its majority leader, ''has yet to feel the urgency of acting.'' Still, the Republican leader says we must ''assess the conditions'' in the country before providing relief to our citizens. Just how much more assessment do we need when we remember those two numbers—52,000 new cases and 1.4 million people applying for unemployment?

Every day this week, Senate Democrats have come to the floor to plead with our colleagues to take up legislation to help millions of American workers and small businesses that are struggling right now. Every day this week, Senate Republicans have blocked our requests: rental assistance, blocked; food assistance, blocked; moratorium on evictions, blocked; resources for schools, nursing homes, State and local governments, Indian Country, and elections—blocked, blocked, blocked, and blocked. Just how long will this Republican Senate majority prevent the American people from getting the aid they so desperately need?

Now Republicans are saying we have to do another bill before August. I am glad they are finally talking seriously about a fourth phase of coronavirus legislation, though the need has been obvious for months. But the Republican leader at the moment insists that the next bill will be ''written in his office.'' Written in his office? That is the same one-party, ''take it or leave it'' partisan approach that delayed the CARES Act and utterly failed on policing reform.

Leader MCCONNELL likes to remind us that we need to make a law, not a point. To make a law, leader, you need both parties, you need both Chambers of Congress, and you need the signature of the President. Starting the next phase of COVID legislation in the majority leader's office is exactly what you do if you wanted to make a point, not a law.

The House of Representatives already has a bill that it has passed. It needs to be part of the equation here. In order to make a law, both parties in both Chambers should have a seat at the table. That is how we got the last phase of COVID–19 legislation done, and it is the best way to get it done this time.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD

Mr. President, we have serious disagreements here in Congress. We trade in passionate words, but words sometimes get a little too hot under the collar. There are times when we need to take a step back and really think about what we are saying.

Yesterday, speaking in opposition to DC Statehood, the junior Senator from Montana said lawmakers should ''go out to where the real people are across the country and ask them what they think.''

''Go out to where the real people are.''

Over 700,000 people live and work in the District of Columbia, 46 percent of them are Black. They hold jobs just like everyone else. They teach, deliver groceries, care for our sick, and work in our restaurants and churches. Many of them work here in the Capitol, providing essential services to some Senators who, obviously, don't consider them ''real people.''

My friends on the other side of the aisle would have you believe that every member of this city is a lobbyist or defense contractor or a reporter. Not only is that comically false, but I don't remember the part of the Constitution where it says your rights as American citizens only apply if Republican Senators approve of your line of work.

I have noticed that it has become fashionable for elements of the political right to accuse Democrats of ignoring ''real Americans.'' It seems that the political right has a clear idea of which Americans are real and which Americans are not.

When Republican Senators are outright dismissing the personhood of thousands of American citizens—most of whom are Black—it is time for the political right to look in the mirror.

DC residents fulfill all the obligations of citizenship. They pay Federal taxes. They can be summoned for jury duty. They have served in every war since the Revolutionary War. But they are denied real representation in Congress.

We can have a real conversation about Statehood without denigrating or dehumanizing these citizens, but the far right is so afraid of losing political power and so unwilling to appeal to anyone who doesn't already agree with them that their strategy has become: restrict voting rights and deny equal representation in Congress to hundreds of thousands of Americans.

Self-governance and equal representation aren't Democratic issues or Republican issues. Voting rights shouldn't be a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. These are issues of fairness, of equality. It is not about right or left. It is about right and wrong.

SENATE RULES

Mr. President, for a minute on rules changes, I heard the Republican leader come forward and decry any attempt to change the rules. He is not a good one to give advice. Leader MCCONNELL has shown that he will change the rules when it suits his purposes and defend the rules when it suits his purposes. He is no icon standing in the way of any rules change. We all saw what happened in the last few years.

So please, Leader MCCONNELL, don't give us advice on rules changes when you are so inconsistent about which rules are OK to change and which rules are not.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, governing is a matter of priorities. In this moment of national crisis, as the COVID–19 pandemic rages on, economic hardship deepens and the centuries-old struggle for racial justice is waged anew. Our national priorities have never been clearer to everyone, it seems, but President Trump.

This week has been one of the most out-of-touch weeks of an out-of-touch Presidency. As the citizens of ruby red Oklahoma voted to expand Medicaid, President Trump, this week, advanced his administration's lawsuit to eliminate our healthcare law and Medicaid expansion along with it. As protesters continued to march in the streets for racial justice, President Trump, this week, attacked a program designed to end racial segregation in housing. As the State of Mississippi decided to take down the Confederate flag, President Trump threatened to veto the national defense bill, including a pay raise for our troops, in the name of protecting the Confederacy.

This week, the President of the United States seemed more concerned with protecting the names of dead Confederate generals than doing anything to help living American citizens. The President is so out of touch that it is as if he was dropped into the Oval Office from another planet, unaware and uncaring of anything going on around him. Whether it is the resurgent COVID killing Americans, a faltering economy, a righteous movement for racial justice, or Putin's malign actions endangering our troops, President Trump has the same reaction: stroke his own ego, then stick his head in the sand and do nothing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

PROTESTS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to briefly discuss a matter that is contained within the NDAA bill that is currently pending before the Senate, a matter for which I sponsored as an amendment, in the Committee on Armed Services' markup on the bill, that received the unanimous voice vote of my colleagues, and I just wanted to stress its importance.

A few weeks back, on a Monday in May, peaceful protesters assembled in Lafayette Square to protest against police violence. They were peaceful, and they were in full compliance with a curfew ordinance that was in place. It was before the curfew. Federal law enforcement officials fired tear gas at them to disperse them, which I found very, very troubling, as, I know, many people did. What concerned me even more was the President's indicating that he might use Active-Duty military against the protesters. That was happening during the same week that we were submitting amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act.

So I wrote up a very simple amendment that read: No funds under this Act shall be used for any military program or personnel to infringe upon people's rights to peacefully assemble or petition government for a redress of grievances. It was a very simple amendment.

There is an act, the Insurrection Act, that sets forth specific circumstances under which the military can be used to do law enforcement activities for domestic purposes, but I wanted to have the strong statement that the military should not be used to infringe upon people's rights to peacefully assemble and petition the government. I was proud, when I presented that to my committee colleagues within a week after this event, that they agreed and, by a unanimous voice vote, included it in the base bill.

I want to just stress why I think this is so very, very important, and I appreciate my colleagues' support to this point. Peaceful protests are protected in the First Amendment, and I think the Framers of the Bill of Rights, when they protected something, they sort of encouraged it. I think the Framers of the Constitution got some things wrong, but they also got some things right.

One of the things I have always been interested in is that, while elections are important—and elections and campaigns are in the Constitution as being every 2 years for the House, every 6 years for the Senate, and Presidential elections—the Framers knew elections wouldn't be enough to protect this great democracy. If they had thought elections would have been enough, they wouldn't have said that people need to be able to peacefully assemble and that people need to be able to petition the government for a redress of grievances. If elections had been enough, they would have said: Well, if you are mad, just wait 2 years, and then you can vote out somebody bad and bring in somebody good.

The Framers had been through the experiences of things like the Boston Tea Party and other events. They knew that to have a more perfect Union and really preserve the democracy, they needed to have elections, but they also needed to give people the room and the space to be able to peacefully assemble and say: Hey, I don't like this. Can we make these changes?

It is a value that is so important, like the freedom of religion and the freedom of the press, and were put in the First Amendment for a reason.

Those in the military, just as Senators, take vows to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Yet, in particular today, 2020, we have a significant issue that I see cropping up sometimes, which is, thank goodness, that we as civilians appreciate the military—that the ''thank you for your service'' attitude, I think, is widely shared. There is often a gulf between the military and civilians because, in the time of an all-volunteer military, only 1 percent of people serve in the military. That means, for those of us who haven't served, often, we might have a general appreciation, but we don't really have an understanding, and there can start to be a gap, or a gulf, between civilians and the military.

Former Secretary of Defense Mattis has commented about this a lot, about this gap that can grow. I am not challenging that an all-volunteer military is a good thing, but there can be a gap of misunderstanding. We would never want to widen that gap, and we should always do things to narrow that gap. There would be nothing that would widen the gap more than if people were to perceive that the military were now being arrayed against them, against the civilian population. It would not only endanger important First Amendment rights, but it would also potentially lead to a wider canyon between the civilian and the military, and we should not do that.

There can be uses of military assets in protest situations. A sort of standard way of thinking about it, for example, would be to use Guard troops. The Guard is often called up to protect protesters, and then local law enforcement is used to police bad actors. One would use a group like the Guard to protect protesters, to keep them safe, and to make sure they are not doing things to or are being harmed by others, but the law enforcement activity should be carried out by police and not by the military.

This is something we promote in the Committee on Foreign Relations all the time. I see my colleague from Wyoming who is here, who is on the Committee on Foreign Relations with me and does such a good job there. We are often encouraging foreign nations: Don't use your military to do police work. Have a professional police department. Use your military to defend the country. The professionalizing of police is an important thing, because that is not what a military should do.

That was the reason I introduced the amendment. It was not solely to protect First Amendment rights, which are really important, but it was also to not allow a gulf that exists between civilians and the military to get even worse if civilians feel like the military is arrayed against them.

The last thing I will say—and then I will conclude—is that I lived in a military dictatorship when I was young. I took a year off in the middle of law school to go to Honduras and work with Jesuit missionaries in 1980 to 1981. It was a military dictatorship, and people could not vote for anything. It was a shock to me, my seeing a society where people could vote and, maybe, sometimes even choose not to vote, and then my going to a society where people couldn't vote. People prayed for the day that they might be able to finally vote for their leaders, but they couldn't because the military was running the country at the time.

There I saw the reaction that the people had toward the military, and

the reaction that they had toward the military and to that form of government was not ''thank you for your service.'' It was ''you scare me to death.'' There was military on every corner with automatic weapons. There were roundups, and they would do an organized draft. Sometimes they would just surround a movie theater, and as young men would come out, they would commandeer them to go into the military.

I experienced something so different from what I experience here, which was a society in which your first reaction when you see somebody in uniform—in the military—is fear. You are afraid of him. We would never want that to be the prevailing attitude here. We would want our attitude here to be ''thanks for your service.''

I believe my amendment, now incorporated in the NDAA, will preserve the important roles that the military plays, preserve the important principles of peaceful assembly, petitioning government, First Amendment, but we will also make sure that we as a society don't find, by pitting the military against civilians, that we will be led to a situation where we will not be able to fully appreciate the sacrifices they make and the work they do for us.

I am excited that the bill on the floor now contains this provision and hope my colleagues will promptly and quickly pass the NDAA.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Wyoming.

JOBS REPORT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as I come to the floor today, we have just seen incredible record-setting job numbers. It is wonderful news for American workers, for families all across the country. It is a stellar June jobs report.

The U.S. economy added 4.8 million jobs, shattering all expectations. It is the largest monthly jobs gain in our Nation's history.

So if you flip through the channels this morning, Mr. President—and I did see you on one of the morning shows, doing a wonderful job, as you always do, talking about your home State, talking about our Nation—but these were some of the comments today about the jobs numbers:

CNBC's Jim Cramer said: ''There's an optimism in the country . . . people are hiring.''

Ed Lawrence at FOX Business said: ''This is amazing. A good report anywhere you look at it.''

Becky Quick, CNBC, said it was a ''trend from across the board of pretty strong numbers.''

Stephanie Ruhle of NBC said it was a ''big positive.''

Charles Payne, FOX Business, said: ''Even though the economists keep saying it's impossible,'' the numbers are terrific.

Steve Liesman, CNBC, said: ''Bringing a lot of folks back.''

Christine Romans of CNN: ''Big hiring.''

Rick Santelli of CNBC: ''Really solid numbers.''

So good news. Americans are getting back to work, and we need to make sure that we reopen responsibly, smartly, safely—the sorts of things you were talking about—knowing what to do, how to do it, how to do it right because the health and safety, as you mentioned, of our families is important, and it includes economic health as well, and we have that report today with a stellar jobs report.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. President, I also want to point out today that yesterday the Democrats in the House passed their 100-percent partisan version of a highway infrastructure bill. They co-opted a bipartisan issue, completely cut out Republicans—completely cut them out of the conversation.

Not only that, but House Democrats added a laundry list of really leftwing proposals in what they passed yesterday in the House.

In a sense, it is ''Groundhog's Day'' for the Green New Deal. This far-left fantasy has become a recurring nightmare, and we saw it yesterday on the floor of the House of Representatives.

The Democrats must be taking their cue from Joe Biden. The Biden campaign is promoting the Green New Deal, as he said, a ''crucial framework.''

Biden has put the Green New Deal author, Representative ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, in charge of his climate task force. This is where the Democrats want to take the country.

The truth is, Joe Biden has just now become the Trojan horse for the far, far left.

House Democrats' partisan highway bill, to me, is a road to nowhere. It is going to see no light of day in the U.S. Senate.

Infrastructure must be bipartisan, especially now. The House should follow the Senate's lead. Senate Republicans, in the majority, have worked across the aisle with our Democratic colleagues to make this serious issue into policy that is good for all of America, and our bipartisan bill is ready to go.

America's Transportation Infrastructure Act passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the committee I chair, unanimously, 21 to 0. The landmark legislation will fix our Nation's roads, bridges, and tunnels.

Now, we invest but $287 billion in our highways over 5 years. That is a 27-percent increase over current highway funding, and it is important. It is especially critical to our economic recovery today.

We still have close to 20 million Americans out of work due to the coronavirus-related lockdowns. Jump-starting highway projects is going to speed the recovery, and it will help fuel job creation.

Our bill benefits the entire country—both urban areas and rural areas. That is why we worked together in a bipartisan way. I will tell you, when I say it is overwhelmingly bipartisan, it is because we have both BERNIE SANDERS and President Trump supporting it. In fact, President Trump called on Congress to pass the Senate highway bill in his State of the Union Address.

No question, it is the right medicine for our roads. It cuts redtape to speed up construction. It makes our roads safer, stronger, actually, as well, because of the reinforcement efforts, and it sends money directly to States so people can get back to work.

Americans deserve a safe, reliable, efficient transportation system. So the Democrats in the House of Representatives need to get serious. Their 100-percent partisan bill is going nowhere.

It does seem that the Democrats in the House are all about politics and nothing about progress—the progress we need to make as a country. They are over there pushing socialism, and right here we are pushing solutions.

The country needs less grandstanding, and it needs more governing. So I am going to continue to work across the aisle. We will work with the administration and will not quit until our bipartisan highway infrastructure bill passes and becomes law. Together, we can rebuild America.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, now to the issue today on the floor of the U.S. Senate. We are considering critical national security legislation.

The National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, lays out America's defense priorities for the coming years. The NDAA supports our brave service men and women, and it sets policies to defend our Nation.

The investments made through this bill safeguard our country from foreign threats, and there are many. This is why the NDAA has, over the years, become must-pass legislation.

In fact, the Defense policy bill has passed every year for decades. The Senate continues this proud tradition in taking up this, the 60th annual, National Defense Authorization Act.

This legislation is bipartisan to its core. It reflects equal input from Republicans and Democrats. The Senate Armed Services Committee adopted 229 bipartisan amendments before approving the legislation this month by a vote in committee of 25 to 2.

The NDAA will ensure a smart, strong, strategic defense for our Nation, and it will maintain America's dominance in a dangerous world.

The bill supports $741 billion in fiscal year 2021 defense funding, and that is in line with the bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. It implements the national defense strategy to promote a strong military deterrent and to strive for a lasting peace.

You have seen it, Mr. President, and you have discussed it—with the world distracted, China has become emboldened. The Chinese military has stepped up its aggression against its neighbors and in the South China Sea.

Russia also poses a growing threat. China and Russia will not put their ambitions on hold for coronavirus or anything else. They will not wait for us or for them to recover from the coronavirus crisis and resolve our domestic disputes.

America must keep China and Russia both in check. The NDAA promotes a winning strategy. It modernizes our nuclear defenses. It maintains our high-tech edge over China and Russia. The NDAA honors our commitment to our dedicated men and women in uniform.

It delivers a well-earned pay raise for our troops, as well as high-quality housing, healthcare, childcare services for military families at home as well as abroad. The NDAA ensures our force is ready to fight and to win. That means to fight and to win today's wars, as well as the wars in the future.

It provides state-of-the-art equipment and tools our troops need to defend America all around the world. The NDAA will help spur innovation. It invests in new technologies: artificial intelligence, hypersonic weapons, biotechnology, cyber security.

The bill modernizes our Pentagon's financial management system. It provides for greater accountability and transparency at the Defense Department. This works to protect taxpayer money.

The NDAA also includes innovative legislation that promotes a cleaner environment. Now, in saying that, I mean that my bipartisan bill with SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, and TOM CARPER of Delaware—we have included as part of the NDAA the Environment and Public Works Committee-approved legislation unanimously. It is called the USE IT Act. It is included in the NDAA. ''USE IT'' is short for utilizing significant emissions with innovative technologies. That is why I am saying we are doing more to clean the environment.

The USE IT Act will help researchers find commercial uses for captured carbon dioxide emissions. It supports the use of carbon capture technology, including direct air capture. This groundbreaking research is already happening in my home State of Wyoming. It is taking place at the Integrated Test Center outside of Gillette. The USE IT Act will further this important work.

It will apply our Nation's brightest minds to take carbon from the air, trap it, and transform it into valuable commercial products. Captured carbon can be used to extract oil from wells—wells that would not otherwise be profitable. It is also used to make building materials and carbon fibers. It can also be used for medical purposes.

The goal of the legislation is to innovate our way to a cleaner environment without onerous overregulation.

So I want to thank the Armed Services Committee chairman, JIM INHOFE, for bringing the USE IT Act one step closer to becoming law.

For the past 4 years, Congress has been able to pass the NDAA with strong, top-line defense funding. The bipartisan Budget Act sets overall defense funding levels for fiscal year 2021. Longer term funding is necessary, but it is uncertain.

Democrats have opposed stronger defense funding in the past, especially during the Obama-Biden administration. This history suggests that if Democrats win the election, they will slow our Nation's critical defense investments.

The NDAA strengthens America's hand to stand up to foreign aggressors, to stand up against those people who are against American values.

Our NDAA will protect American leadership in the world. It will enhance our standing with adversaries and allies alike. Above all, it sends a clear message to our enemies: You cannot defeat the United States so don't even try.

Every Senator should support this smart, strong, strategic approach to America's defense.

Let's honor this proud tradition; let's support our troops; and let us once again pass the NDAA, this, for the 60th time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

PREVENTING ONLINE SALES OF E-CIGARETTES TO CHILDREN ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am delighted this morning to be on the floor with the distinguished Senator from Texas. In order to proceed, I ask unanimous consent that, as in legislative session, the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1253 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1253) to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 2424) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To require the National Institutes of Health to conduct a study and report on the short-term and long-term health impacts of e-cigarette use by youth and young adults under 21 years of age)

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, may be construed to affect or otherwise alter any provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including its implementing regulations.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____. UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF E-CIGARETTE USE BY ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

(a) STUDY.—The National Institutes of Health, in coordination with other appropriate agencies, shall conduct a study on the short-term and long-term health impacts of e-cigarette use by youth and young adults under 21 years of age, that includes the following:

(1) An examination of the health impacts of using liquids obtained from the legal market, including liquids that may not have premarket approval from the Food and Drug Administration, compared to liquids obtained illicitly.

(2) A determination of the precise relationship between underage vaping and underage smoking, which may include using national survey data, in which the reporting of smoking and vaping usage classifications (such as current users, former users, or never users) shall be integrated and not treated as separate or unrelated categories.

(3) A determination of the precise relationship between vaping and smoking among young adults, who are 21 to 24 years of age, using national survey data, in which the reporting of smoking and vaping usage classifications (such as current users, former users, or never users) shall be integrated and not treated as separate or unrelated categories.

(4) An examination of e-cigarette usage data from cities, localities, and States that have adopted e-cigarette product bans to evaluate—

(A) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who return to smoking combustible cigarettes;

(B) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who access products from illicit markets; and

(C) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who stop using all nicotine products or reduce their overall nicotine product use.

(5) A determination of the frequency of use of each specific and multiple tobacco products among high school students in the United States, including—

(A) the number of high school students who use each specific and multiple tobacco products less than 20 days per month; and

(B) the number of high school students who use each specific and multiple tobacco products 20 or more days per month.

(6) An examination of the rates of underage e-cigarette use in cities, localities, and States that have adopted Tobacco 21 laws prior to the date of enactment of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94).

(7) An examination of illegal smuggling of tobacco products in cities, localities, and States that have—

(A) banned such products;

(B) enacted taxes on such products that are higher than the national median; or

(C) enacted other legal restrictions on such products.

(8) A determination of how prevalence estimates of tobacco use in the National Youth Tobacco Survey differ from prevalence estimates of tobacco use in other national surveys, including the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health and the Knowledge Panel.

(9) A determination of the prevalence of the following high-risk behaviors among

high school students, and their relationship, if any, to vaping and smoking:

(A) Using marijuana or alcohol.

(B) Binge drinking.

(C) Underage sexual activity.

(D) Using an electronic device while driving.

(E) Knowingly riding in a motor vehicle with a driver who was recently drinking.

(F) Seriously considering suicide.

(10) An examination of the role flavors play in youth initiation and use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products.

(11) An examination of the risk of youth addiction to nicotine, including the impact of e-cigarettes that use nicotine salts.

(12) An examination of risks to youth of nicotine use and exposure to harmful and potentially harmful constituents emitted from some e-cigarettes, including flavorings used in e-cigarettes.

(13) A determination of a credible estimate of the difference in health risks between combustible cigarette smoking and vaping, if a valid estimate can be made, to inform tobacco regulation in the United States, taking into account—

(A) the findings of the British Royal College of Physicians in their 2016 report, ''Nicotine without smoke: Tobacco harm reduction'';

(B) the article entitled ''Invalidity of an Oft-Cited Estimate of the Relative Harms of Electronic Cigarettes'' published in the American Journal of Public Health in February 2020;

(C) the findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in their 2018 report, ''Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes'';

(D) relevant reports and advisories of the Surgeon General; and

(E) other peer reviewed research.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institutes of Health shall submit a report to Congress on the findings of the study required to be conducted under subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report required under paragraph (1) is submitted, all data, research products, and reports from the study required to be conducted under subsection (a) shall be made publicly available online.

(c) NO NEW FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

The bill (S. 1253), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1253

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE JENKINS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act entitled ''An Act to assist States in collecting sales and use taxes on cigarettes'', approved October 19, 1949 (commonly known as the ''Jenkins Act'') (15 U.S.C. 375 et seq.), is amended—

(1) in section 1 (15 U.S.C. 375)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)—

(i) by striking ''includes roll-your-own tobacco'' and inserting the following: ''includes—

''(I) roll-your-own tobacco'';

(ii) in subclause (I), as so designated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(II) an electronic nicotine delivery system.'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (14) as paragraphs (8) through (15), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEM.—The term 'electronic nicotine delivery system'—

''(A) means any electronic device that, through an aerosolized solution, delivers nicotine, flavor, or any other substance to the user inhaling from the device;

''(B) includes—

''(i) an e-cigarette;

''(ii) an e-hookah;

''(iii) an e-cigar;

''(iv) a vape pen;

''(v) an advanced refillable personal vaporizer;

''(vi) an electronic pipe; and

''(vii) any component, liquid, part, or accessory of a device described in subparagraph (A), without regard to whether the component, liquid, part, or accessory is sold separately from the device; and

''(C) does not include a product that is—

''(i) approved by the Food and Drug Administration for—

''(I) sale as a tobacco cessation product; or

''(II) any other therapeutic purpose; and

''(ii) marketed and sold solely for a purpose described in clause (i).''; and

(2) in section 2A(b)(1) (15 U.S.C. 376a(b)(1)), by inserting ''NICOTINE/'' after ''CIGARETTES/''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, may be construed to affect or otherwise alter any provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including its implementing regulations.

SEC. 3. NONMAILABILITY OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service shall promulgate regulations to clarify the applicability of the prohibition on mailing of cigarettes under section 1716E of title 18, United States Code, to electronic nicotine delivery systems, in accordance with the amendment to the definition of ''cigarette'' made by section 2.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition on mailing of cigarettes under section 1716E of title 18, United States Code, shall apply to electronic nicotine delivery systems on and after the date on which the United States Postal Service promulgates regulations under subsection (a) of this section.

SEC. 4. UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF E-CIGARETTE USE BY ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

(a) STUDY.—The National Institutes of Health, in coordination with other appropriate agencies, shall conduct a study on the short-term and long-term health impacts of e-cigarette use by youth and young adults under 21 years of age, that includes the following:

(1) An examination of the health impacts of using liquids obtained from the legal market, including liquids that may not have premarket approval from the Food and Drug Administration, compared to liquids obtained illicitly.

(2) A determination of the precise relationship between underage vaping and underage smoking, which may include using national survey data, in which the reporting of smoking and vaping usage classifications (such as current users, former users, or never users) shall be integrated and not treated as separate or unrelated categories.

(3) A determination of the precise relationship between vaping and smoking among young adults, who are 21 to 24 years of age, using national survey data, in which the reporting of smoking and vaping usage classifications (such as current users, former users, or never users) shall be integrated and not treated as separate or unrelated categories.

(4) An examination of e-cigarette usage data from cities, localities, and States that have adopted e-cigarette product bans to evaluate—

(A) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who return to smoking combustible cigarettes;

(B) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who access products from illicit markets; and

(C) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who stop using all nicotine products or reduce their overall nicotine product use.

(5) A determination of the frequency of use of each specific and multiple tobacco products among high school students in the United States, including—

(A) the number of high school students who use each specific and multiple tobacco products less than 20 days per month; and

(B) the number of high school students who use each specific and multiple tobacco products 20 or more days per month.

(6) An examination of the rates of underage e-cigarette use in cities, localities, and States that have adopted Tobacco 21 laws prior to the date of enactment of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94).

(7) An examination of illegal smuggling of tobacco products in cities, localities, and States that have—

(A) banned such products;

(B) enacted taxes on such products that are higher than the national median; or

(C) enacted other legal restrictions on such products.

(8) A determination of how prevalence estimates of tobacco use in the National Youth Tobacco Survey differ from prevalence estimates of tobacco use in other national surveys, including the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health and the Knowledge Panel.

(9) A determination of the prevalence of the following high-risk behaviors among high school students, and their relationship, if any, to vaping and smoking:

(A) Using marijuana or alcohol.

(B) Binge drinking.

(C) Underage sexual activity.

(D) Using an electronic device while driving.

(E) Knowingly riding in a motor vehicle with a driver who was recently drinking.

(F) Seriously considering suicide.

(10) An examination of the role flavors play in youth initiation and use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products.

(11) An examination of the risk of youth addiction to nicotine, including the impact of e-cigarettes that use nicotine salts.

(12) An examination of risks to youth of nicotine use and exposure to harmful and potentially harmful constituents emitted from some e-cigarettes, including flavorings used in e-cigarettes.

(13) A determination of a credible estimate of the difference in health risks between combustible cigarette smoking and vaping, if a valid estimate can be made, to inform tobacco regulation in the United States, taking into account—

(A) the findings of the British Royal College of Physicians in their 2016 report, ''Nicotine without smoke: Tobacco harm reduction'';

(B) the article entitled ''Invalidity of an Oft-Cited Estimate of the Relative Harms of Electronic Cigarettes'' published in the American Journal of Public Health in February 2020;

(C) the findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in their 2018 report, ''Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes'';

(D) relevant reports and advisories of the Surgeon General; and

(E) other peer reviewed research.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institutes of Health shall submit a report to Congress on the findings of the study required to be conducted under subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report required under paragraph (1) is submitted, all data, research products, and reports from the study required to be conducted under subsection (a) shall be made publicly available online.

(c) NO NEW FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor to the distinguished Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am delighted to be here today with my friend, the Senator from California, with whom I have worked so closely on so many issues. We are both members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and it is always a pleasure to work with her and her staff.

Today is really an important day. It has been long in coming, but finally the Senate has now passed legislation that requires the same proof-of-age requirement that is needed for tobacco products to e-cigarettes and vaping products, particularly those that are sold over the internet. That is what we are focused on.

Last December, I met a 16-year-old young woman named Anna Carey, who is one of my personal heroes. She was one of the students at her high school who became addicted to e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes are nicotine delivery devices. The only difference between it and smoking a cigarette is the fire, the products of combustion, but it is just as addictive as cigarettes.

Anna started experiencing symptoms that are uncommon in an otherwise healthy teenager. She became extremely lethargic. She experienced random and severe chest pains. Two initial x rays came back clear, so doctors released her, but her health struggles continued. Eventually, she was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with chemical-induced pneumonia in both of her lungs.

While I am glad to report that she is fully recovered and is now using her story to prevent more teens from going down the same path, what she told me in Fort Worth not that long ago is that these e-cigarettes and vaping devices are everywhere. They are everywhere and can be easily purchased even though you are not supposed to use tobacco products or nicotine when you are under the age of 21.

So all this bill requires, and it is really rather modest—it is unbelievable that it took us this long to get it here today, as modest as it is. At the time of delivery, if you buy a product online, the buyer has to sign and show an ID proving their age. It is the same requirement you would have if you made a physical purchase at a retail establishment or if you were buying tobacco online. For some reason, e-cigarettes and vaping devices have been operating on a different playing field, but no longer. That is why I am so pleased to be here with Senator FEINSTEIN to pass the Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act.

To summarize, this legislation would put the same safeguards in place for e-cigarettes as there are for traditional cigarettes purchased online.

For those who think that we can never do anything on a bipartisan basis, that we can't pass laws because we are hopelessly polarized and dysfunctional, maybe this will provide some source of encouragement to the American people, but it also demonstrates that we are doing our best to try to protect children's health, particularly against addictive substances that are delivered through e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

Thank you, Senator FEINSTEIN, for your leadership on this and for your partnership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas. I have the pleasure of serving with him on the Committee on the Judiciary. We have been there for a long time, and over the years, I have come to have great respect for him. So it is a particular asset for me to be able to share the authorship of this bill.

Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act. Our commonsense bill would treat e-cigarettes the same as traditional cigarettes and other tobacco products when it comes to purchasing them online. Can you believe it? E-cigarettes can be purchased online by someone 12 years old. There is no age requirement.

This bill would help prevent children from illegally obtaining e-cigarettes by ensuring that online vendors are verifying the age of their customers, properly labeling packages, and checking identification upon delivery. The law exists today, as I stated, for traditional cigarettes, and there is no reason e-cigarettes should be treated differently.

An annual survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that nearly 5.3 million students are using e-cigarettes—over 5 million students.

Besides being illegal, the rate of e-cigarette use among teenagers is growing. In 2019, almost 30 percent of high school students reported using an e-cigarette in the previous 30 days. That is a 50-percent increase from the year before. So the popularity of them for younger and younger children is going up and up.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General report, the developing adolescent brain is uniquely sensitive to nicotine. Other studies have shown that children exposed to nicotine may be at greater risk for experiencing deficits in attention and cognition, suffering from mood disorders, and engaging in drug-seeking behavior. These effects may continue into adulthood, long after e-cigarette use has stopped.

Further, new research shows that young people who use e-cigarettes are five times more likely to smoke traditional cigarettes within 1 year. Clearly, it is a come-on to children to graduate from the e-cigarette to the real cigarette.

Given the effects of nicotine on children and the likelihood of their transitioning to traditional cigarette smoking, it is critical that we close any legal loopholes that allows underage youth to use e-cigarettes. Studies show that one of the easiest ways for underage users to purchase e-cigarettes is online. Our bipartisan bill would require e-cigarette retailers to meet the same requirements as those that sell traditional cigarettes online.

I believe we have 27 cosponsors equally divided between our two parties, so I am very pleased about that.

By applying the same safeguards we have worked on with online sales of traditional cigarettes, our bill would ensure that online e-cigarette sellers are verifying the age of their customers, properly labeling packages, and checking identification at delivery.

While there is limited research on the effects that vaping has had on coronavirus patients, the virus is known to attack the lungs. People with underlying conditions are particularly susceptible. Last year, we saw a mysterious lung illness sicken thousands of people that had a history of vaping. So it stands to reason that any damage already caused by vaping may further compromise a person's ability to fight off the coronavirus.

I want to thank Senator CORNYN for working with me on this important legislation and our 26 colleagues who joined as cosponsors to address the epidemic of e-cigarette use among American youth.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONG KONG

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I rise today with a heaviness in my heart for what we have seen happening in the last 36 hours in Hong Kong.

Freedom-loving people in Hong Kong for the last 23 years have known basic, fundamental human and natural rights, and we see the Communist Party of China coming in and trying to steal their dignity and to steal their freedom. They live in real and tangible fear of what is going to happen tonight and this weekend and next week.

Yesterday was July 1. July 1 is the anniversary 23 years ago of Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty under the Sino-British Joint Declaration. Under that agreement, the Communist Party of China made a pledge not just to Hongkongers and not just to the British but to the watching world, and they said that it would guarantee—they would guarantee—a certain level of autonomy and freedom to the Hong Kong community and that Hong Kong would not be forced to live under the kind of despotism that the mainland Chinese are forced to experience.

The Communist Party announced to the world, in signing that declaration, that Hongkongers would be retaining a lot of freedom. Well, since that handover in 1997 and, especially since 2003, when there was another attempted national security law debated, the people of Hong Kong have been holding pro-democracy protests and celebrations every year on the July 1 holiday. Annually, on July 1, they have reminded the world of what the pledge was of the Communist Party in that agreement of July 1997.

Yesterday, though, protesting and demanding basic human rights and freedoms in Hong Kong became a crime. Under the new national security law, to speak out, to exercise freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, or freedom of the press issues is considered an act of secession, subversion, and terrorism. That is what the new national security law that the Chinese have forced on Hong Kong stipulates.

Thousands of people—thousands of brave freedom lovers—flooded into the streets anyway, and they celebrated yesterday that anniversary, and they demanded that their representatives who have sold them out to Beijing would continue to testify to the pledges that were made 23 years ago yesterday. At the end of yesterday, several hundred of these freedom-loving protesters were arrested, and 10 of them were charged with suspected violations under the new national security law.

Chinese Government officials now seem to be saying that these folks, these 10, are going to be extradited to mainland China and face their charges there. Remember, the protests that we have seen in Hong Kong over the last 15 or 16 months were specifically because of an extradition law where Hongkongers were facing the threat of being extradited to mainland China, and, supposedly, according to the government officials in Hong Kong, this rule, this intended legislation was going to be suspended. Well, instead, it looks like it is, in fact, connected to this new national security law.

Yesterday really marks the beginning of a new reign of terror in Hong Kong. With the implementation of this national security law, it is abundantly clear that the Communist Party seeks to turn Hong Kong into a police state no different from Tibet or Xinjiang, and the Hong Kong Government no longer derives any power from the consent of the people who govern, but rather it seeks to rule solely by its cooperation with the CCP's security apparatus.

We are witnessing the signs of the coming crackdown. Even before this law was signed, democracy activists and lawmakers, including Martin Lee, who is Hong Kong's father of democracy and the drafter of Hong Kong's basic law, had already been rounded up. Many are expecting the same fate for themselves in the coming days. Many folks have begun to say goodbye to their families in anticipation that they are going to be rounded up and hauled off into another one of the Chinese reeducation camps or whatever Orwellian euphemism we want say for the new and potentially coming Auschwitzes.

Reading over the last several days, I am grieved over what are especially painful and tear-jerking farewell messages from many of these democracy activists in Hong Kong on social media heading up to midnight on June 30, before the new law took effect. My heart ached as I read Joshua Wong tweeting out from the Psalms, in particular Psalm 23:4:

> I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid. You are with me, and your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe.

This was mere hours after announcing that he and other Demosisto members—a democracy political organization—would be closing down their organizations.

Pro-democratic parties and pro-independence parties, like the Hong Kong National Front and Studentlocalism, have announced on social media that they, too, have disbanded and will try to continue their fight for freedom from abroad. But if you read the national security law that the Communist Party is imposing, it looks like they are going to try to claim extraterritorial powers over Hongkongers in exile regarding freedom-of-speech issues in other places in the world as also a violation of this new, tyrannical, Communist Party Chinese law.

Videos of restaurant owners and cafe owners are up on social media. You can see them removing their pro-democracy posters, their signs celebrating the freedom that Hong Kong has known in the past. These folks are tearing down these signs in their own restaurants and in their places of assembly because they assume they are likely to be punished under the new national security law if they keep up signs that they have had in their places of business where they were communing and breaking bread over the past many, many years. This serves as a chilling reminder of how the CCP rules through fear, which it ultimately turns into self-censorship.

Hong Kong-based Twitter accounts have been deleted en masse. Individuals fear for their safety if they continue to use the platform, and they fear retribution for previous tweets supporting democracy and accountable government, which is just a fundamental human thing to be able to say or do or talk about or plead for. Like in mainland China, Twitter will undoubtedly become a tool that is reserved only for the oppressors, no longer for the oppressed.

I fear that Joshua's request—''If my voice will not be heard soon, I hope that the international community will continue to speak up for Hong Kong and step up concrete efforts to defend our last bit of freedom''—I fear that Joshua's request will be met with silence.

I fear that we will fail Ronald Reagan's challenge to us that we would be ''staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the soul prerogative of the lucky few, but [rather, it is] the unalienable and universal right of all human beings.'' We are all created in God's image, and our rights come to us from God via nature, not because of the beneficence of some government.

I fear that we in the United States and those in the international community will just simply move on from the kind of imminent crackdown in Hong Kong that we are going to see that is going to have echoes of what happened in Tiananmen Square in June of 1989 and that so many people just decide to allow the Chinese Government to whitewash and pretend never happened. We must not allow that to happen.

I pray that we in this body will live up to our convictions and that we will speak out about what the Communist Party is going to do to the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, let me make a comment about the remarks from my friend from Nebraska.

It happens that I was in Hong Kong when that happened, and I saw the people, knowing what was going to happen to them after all the promises that were made. Everything that we suspected and dreaded has now happened.

I appreciate the fact that there is somebody who cares enough to bring all of this to the American people.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, if the chairman would yield for just one moment.

Mr. INHOFE. Yes.

Mr. SASSE. I would also like to praise the chairman for the work he

does. Flying around the world can be hard on bodies. When you have all the work you have to do at home and you go around the world and you encourage freedom-loving people—I know that many, many wonderful folks in Taiwan who are fearful because of what they see happening in Hong Kong know they have had an advocate in the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for many, many years.

To the people in Taiwan who are also scared at this moment, JIM INHOFE is a heroic speaker. I just want to thank him for the work he has done there.

Mr. INHOFE. Thank you very much. Thank you. I appreciate that.

It has been a tough time here. I would say that he has made my day.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Over the past few days, we have been working on this national defense authorization bill. It is one that we pass every year and have passed every year for 60 years.

My colleagues have done good work on this bill so far. We took requests very seriously. We put hundreds of them in this bill. We actually did. Over 700 of the papers and amendments have been put in this bill. One of the reasons we wanted to do this is because—we didn't used to do it, but we actually did this time. A problem that existed last year didn't exist this year. There is resistance on the floor to getting amendments. That resistance has gone now, and I think we are going to be able to do it.

This bill was written by the Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. Senate, and they did a very good job. When you stop to consider that we have as many—we actually have over 700 amendments that are now a part of this bill. This was made by the Members here, not by any other group. It is not the way it has always been done.

We had a great markup. In fact, our markup ended up—I call it unanimous because it was passed by 25 to 2, and the 2 who voted against it are not big on the military anyway. I call it unanimous. That is unusual—unusual—to get a bill this size to pass unanimously out of a committee to the Senate floor.

This is going to happen today. I feel very good about the progress we are making. When we come back from this Fourth of July recess, we are going to be able to finish it, and it should be in good shape.

In a few moments, I will be asking for unanimous consent on adoption of the managers' package and to make six amendments in order. By my estimation, this is the first time in at least the last few years that we have really considered and voted on this many individual amendments on the floor.

I have to say something about Senator REED. Sure, we differ on some things, but it has always been that we have reached agreement on virtually every issue. I was glad we had agreement on amendments. We were pushing hard to have even many more amendments. We wanted to consider as many as possible. We wanted every Member to have a say in this bill, and that is exactly what happened. I am glad we were able to reach a bipartisan path forward to complete consideration of this bill right after the recess, and that is exactly what we are going to do.

I have gone over a lot of the reasons this bill is so important over the past week, so I will keep it simple. Here is why we need to pass this bill:

First of all, it gives our troops a needed and deserved raise. It is out there.

It authorizes more than 30 kinds of special pay for our troops at various levels of hazard—things that haven't been done before.

It makes sure our military families—this is the big thing. I have a very close friend in here who was talking about the fact that—on the floor—the main problem we are facing in our Nation as a threat is China and Russia. He made the comment and observation that, yet, we spend more on the military than the two of them put together. That is true, but I did want to remind him—and I did on the floor yesterday—that there is a reason for that. The reason for that is the most expensive thing we have in the military that we deal with every year are people. We take care of people.

I remember last year that one of the main thrusts of our bill was to get all of those housing things that were privatized 10 years before and that hadn't been performing very well—to take care of our troops and their families. We spent time doing that. You take a Communist country like China or Russia—they don't care about the troops. They give them a gun and say: Go out and kill people. No wonder we have to spend more. That is the reason we are going to continue to do that, and this bill does that.

There are countries out there that hate everything America stands for and want to do us harm. We know that is right. I sometimes get tickled when I hear people talking about, well, we don't want to do this because that is going to upset them. We don't want to keep Gitmo open because that might upset the terrorists. Well, welcome to the real world.

So this gives our troops the equipment, the training, and the resources they need to defend this Nation.

I never want to put ourselves in the position where we have a fair fight in America. We don't want fair fights. We want to go into combat with a clear advantage over our adversaries, and this bill does that.

It makes sure that the Pentagon is situated to support our troops wherever they are, but it also protects taxpayer dollars and ensures accountability to the taxpayers. That is very important, and this bill does that.

This bill also does a lot of good things we all support. That is why we are passing the bill today. It is a no-brainer. It is not a matter of if we are going to pass it; it is a matter of when. It is now down to the hours. It will be set up so that when we come back from the recess, we will be able to pass this bill.

Keep in mind, we pass it, and that is not the end because the House has to pass their bills, and, of course, then the President will sign the bill. We go into conference with the House and the Senate, and before the President signs the bill, we have to have not just a conference, but very likely it will go to the Big Four. If it does that, that is another process. Very likely, it could be November when we actually end up passing this bill. Our absolute deadline has always been December 31. We will be well in advance of that.

I know the President has strong feelings about one of the provisions of the bill. He says if that is in there, he will veto the bill. We all know what that is. It is controversial. It is the Warren amendment that was put in. I have to say this: All but one Republican oppose that. I have to say that so people will hear it and understand it because that is true.

Anyway, passing the bill is not a matter of if; it is going to pass. This is a very good bill. It is a must-pass bill. One of the things that happen with a must-pass bill is that everyone who can't get their bills on other interest areas passed—they know this bill is going to pass, so they try to put in amendments. We have taken a lot of the amendments that have nothing to do with defense, but nonetheless we know it is necessary. It has been necessary for 60 years. This is nothing new.

I would remind our colleagues that we have a long way to go yet. We will make sure that the conference report is a bipartisan one when we get to that point so that both parties can support it. It is exactly what we have right now. I have to say, with Senator REED—we very carefully weighed our portions of the bill, as well as amendments, to make sure we were fair to both sides—both the Republicans and Democrats—and that is the product we have in front of us.

From the brave patriots who fought for our Nation nearly 250 years ago to the 2.1 million who serve today, this bill is by them and for them.

This weekend, as you celebrate Independence Day, think about what this holiday stands for. Think about what it takes to protect the freedoms we celebrate.

There is no doubt in my mind that this bill will give our troops what they need. The bill will make American families safer and will enable us to stand up for our democratic values around the world. We will be passing this bill and will be very proud of it.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONG KONG AUTONOMY ACT

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I am here on the Senate floor with my colleague from Maryland. I am here this morning, in part, to condemn the Chinese Communist Party's actions, their efforts to swallow Hong Kong into the mainland and silence the dissent of the people of Hong Kong, but I am also here to do something about that.

For decades, Hong Kong has been one of the most successful, thriving societies on the planet. An indispensable part of their success has been their freedom. Hong Kong has enjoyed a vibrant free press, free speech, freedom to worship. They have had an independent judiciary and a partially democratic electoral representative system of government for a long time now.

Hong Kong is one of the freest places in Asia and, because of these freedoms and the Hong Kong people's natural entrepreneurial spirit, Hong Kong is just one of the most successful and vibrant cities there has ever been.

Yet for years—maybe because of this—the Chinese Communist Party has pursued a systematic campaign to snuff out these basic freedoms in Hong Kong and bring the Hongkongers who live there into line. The intensity of the Chinese Communist Party's aggression appears to be growing by the day.

Their campaign shouldn't be very surprising. Just look at the recent actions: the genocidal action toward the Uighurs in Xinjiang or the aggressive action toward neighboring countries in the South China Sea—or toward the entire world, since the COVID–19 virus was first detected in Wuhan and the Chinese Government lied to us about its nature.

Fundamental principles, such as freedom and transparency, the just rule of law—these ideas are entirely antithetical to the core of the Chinese Communist Party's mission. I think that, several years from now, we are going to look back on July 1 of 2020 as a milestone in the Chinese Communist Party's aggression and hostility toward Hong Kong.

Yesterday was the first day that the Chinese Communist Party's new so-called national security law went into effect. News reports described the law as ''tailor-made to bring Hong Kong's massive pro-democracy movement to heel.''

This picture was taken within the last 48 hours—thousands and thousands of people of Hong Kong taking to the streets to simply demand their freedoms—peacefully—to protest, to insist that they continue to have the freedoms that help make their society such a great society.

Tragically, 300 of these people were arrested last night simply because they were protesting the Chinese Communist Party. Some of the arrests were made because Hongkongers possessed items that called for Hong Kong's independence. That is right—people arrested simply for holding a sign, arrested for holding a flag. Among them was a 15-year-old girl—a 15-year-old girl. Her crime: She held a flag that said ''Hong Kong independence.'' Another was a 19-year-old young man. His crime was that he had a pro-democracy sticker on his phone. Imagine—imagine the nerve of wanting to have self-determination and expressing that with a sticker on your phone. So he was arrested.

His parents attempted to visit their son in jail and bring him dinner, and the police refused their visit. It is not at all clear if this young man will be able to get out even on bail.

So the Chinese Communist Party has very rapidly started enforcing this new law, and I think it is because they realize what is at stake. They know that the people of Hong Kong fervently believe in the importance of an open and free society. They believe in and they want the ability to practice liberal values, and they want a system of transparent, accountable government, one that is elected by and responsive to the people.

See, the vision of the people of Hong Kong for their own city, for their society, is anathema to the Chinese Communist Party because the Chinese Communist Party's deepest fear is that mainland Chinese citizens will demand the freedoms that Hongkongers enjoy, and that quest for freedom on the mainland would pose an unacceptable risk to the authoritarian control of the Communist regime.

So the Chinese Communist Party is cracking down. We have been witnessing it just in recent hours. This new so-called national security law was unilaterally imposed on the people of Hong Kong without any input from the people of Hong Kong, and that is in direct contravention to Chinese commitments to Hong Kong and the international community. The law was also purposefully written in a very vague and ambiguous manner, designed to essentially criminalize any behavior or speech on the part of a resident of Hong Kong that the Chinese Communist Party does not approve of.

Now, the law may be ambiguous, but the message behind it is not. If a 19-year-old can now be imprisoned for having a sticker on his phone or a 15-year-old girl can be imprisoned for having a flag, then no one is safe, and that is the message that Beijing wants to send to the people of Hong Kong: We can arrest you. We can imprison you if you misbehave. So think twice about what you say, where you go, with whom you meet, what you read, what you write. Maybe even think twice about what you think.

This law, sadly, looks like it means the end of Hong Kong's autonomy and the freedoms which underpin its social and economic vibrancy. And we are seeing the effects: As I said, hundreds of arrests that occurred just yesterday as tens of thousands of courageous Hongkongers—here we see some of them—poured into the streets to shout and chant and demonstrate peacefully, to tell the Chinese Communist Party that they are not going to back down.

We have also seen Hongkongers who have been forced to scrub their social media history, booksellers who were intending to remove books from their shelves, Hong Kong pro-democracy political figures saying that they have to lessen their activism and rethink their strategy.

How can you blame them? How can you blame them? They could face years in prison if the Hong Kong authorities, at the bidding of the people in Beijing, choose to target them.

I think we can fully expect independent media voices in Hong Kong to be shuttered and Beijing's censorship and surveillance apparatus to flourish in the coming months and years.

The fact is, Hong Kong's vibrancy is being throttled by the Chinese Communist Party.

So I am on the Senate floor today to request passage of a piece of legislation that responds to this. I am pleased to report it has already received unanimous support from both Chambers of Congress. I introduced this legislation with my colleague Senator VAN HOLLEN of Maryland to create real penalties on those responsible for this campaign by the Chinese Communist Party to end Hong Kong's free way of life.

It is called the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, and the bill would impose mandatory sanctions on anyone involved in taking action to attack the basic freedoms that were promised to the people of Hong Kong.

Critically, our legislation also takes another step. It penalizes banks that choose to finance the erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy, banks that would put marginal profits ahead of the basic human rights of the people of Hong Kong.

I am really pleased that we are here this morning. I think we are on the verge of sending this legislation to the President's desk because America needs to take meaningful steps like this to push back on the Chinese Communist Party.

We should remember that this aggression toward Hong Kong is not limited to Hong Kong. The Chinese Communist Party is intent to spread its influence and power worldwide, and in the process, it is meant to simultaneously undermine and challenge free and open societies. I should point out that the spread of the Chinese Communist Party influence around the world poses a very real threat to us, to Americans, to our national and economic interests.

That is part of why the Hong Kong Autonomy Act is so important. It is not only an effort to shield freedom-loving Hongkongers from this continuing escalation of aggression by the

Chinese Communists, but the bill is a larger signal to China. It is a message that the United States and the free world are no longer willing to look past some of the worst behavior that has been occurring. It is a message that our patience has run out.

China is being warned to expect stiff resistance—stiff resistance to stealing American intellectual property, to committing genocide against religious minorities like the Uighurs, to militarizing artificial islands and infringing on other nations' sovereign waters, and trampling on the basic freedoms of the people of Hong Kong.

I could go on, but suffice it to say that this is occurring in the context of a great battle—the great battle about what model the world is going to pursue. Will the citizens of the United States and other democratic nations around the world continue to foster the liberal democratic model that spread around the world after World War II, with open societies, the just rule of law, greater economic freedom underpinned by respect for private property, basic human rights like the freedom of speech and the freedom of a free press and the freedom to worship?

All of the prosperity and the elevation of human dignity that comes from human freedom and democratic values from our model—that is the model that is up against the dark shadows of the authoritarian governments that are constantly pushing to systematically erode, corrode, and warp the values and freedoms that we cherish. Through this bill, the U.S. Senate makes clear which side we are on.

At this point, I would like to yield to the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I want to salute my friend and colleague, the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. TOOMEY, for his remarks and for his leadership on this very vital issue of standing up for the rights and freedom of people in Hong Kong and, as he said, sending a signal to others around the world who would seek to stamp out human rights and political freedom.

When Senator TOOMEY and I saw that the Chinese Communist Party was taking its more recent steps to crack down on freedom in Hong Kong, we introduced the Hong Kong Autonomy Act. That act just passed the U.S. Senate unanimously last week and was sent to the House of Representatives.

This is a very fast turnaround from either of the Chambers in the U.S. Congress. I want to thank Speaker PELOSI and her Republican partner and all the Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives for coming together so quickly on this legislation.

The legislation before us made a technical fix to the bill that Senator TOOMEY and I introduced in which this Senate passed out last week a technical fix to comply with the constitutional requirements as to where a bill that might generate revenue begins.

With that technical fix, Speaker PELOSI and the Republican leadership sent it right back. Why did they send it right back so quickly? Because this is an urgent moment. In fact, our timing could not be more critical. On Tuesday, President Xi imposed a national security law on Hong Kong by fiat. It was only after the law was passed that Beijing unveiled its provisions. Even Hong Kong's Chief Executive and President Xi loyalist, Carrie Lam, said she hadn't been allowed to see a draft before the law's passage.

As Senator TOOMEY indicated, this law is written broadly enough that it will criminalize speech and peaceful assembly. Anybody who publishes anti-Beijing viewpoints could be punished by life in prison. Saying anything seen to be undermining the ruling Communist Party's authority would be a violation.

This is consistent with mainland China's approach, which has virtually eliminated independent journalism and severely restricted NGOs.

Here are some highlights of the law that was just passed—I should say, imposed. It now mandates that the Hong Kong Government undertake ''national security education'' in school, social organizations, and media outlets. The law mandates that anyone entering public office in Hong Kong swear allegiance to Beijing.

What is more, the law applies to anyone, anywhere. It can even apply to offenses committed outside the region by a person who is not a permanent resident of the region. That means a U.S. citizen penning an editorial that argues for sanctions against China could technically fall afoul of the new law for ''inciting hatred'' against Beijing. Legal experts believe this is even broader than the Chinese criminal law applied in mainland China.

Senator TOOMEY said, despite this—despite this threat, despite passage of a law that would punish people for up to life imprisonment for expressing their views, thousands of protesters took to the streets yesterday and staged the largest rally in Hong Kong this year. Hundreds of Hong Kong police officers moved in swiftly to quash dissent and implement the law. Police fired tear gas, pepper spray, and water cannons to disperse the protesters.

The police then issued a statement that noted some protesters were chanting ''Hong Kong independence, the only way out.'' The statement said such slogans are ''suspected to be inciting or abetting others to commit secession'' and may violate the new law.

The United States must stand with the people of Hong Kong. That is what this bill says. This bill says we stand with the people of Hong Kong.

As Senator TOOMEY indicated, it would impose mandatory sanctions on individuals in firms who violate China's obligations to the people of Hong Kong under the joint declaration and the basic law—rights of freedom of speech and equality before the law, freedom of association, and the right from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention, and imprisonment. It goes beyond that to impose mandatory sanctions on banks that do business with individuals who are complicit in undermining these freedoms and the rights of the people of Hong Kong.

I am glad we acted quickly. As you can see, the Government of China is moving by the day to squash the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong. We need to move with urgency to send a statement that we stand with the people of Hong Kong.

In a moment, I am going to be joining my colleague, Senator TOOMEY, in asking for unanimous consent. Before I turn it back over to him, let me just say, assuming we get that—and it looks like we will—I hope President Trump will sign this immediately—immediately.

As a country, Republicans and Democrats together need to send a strong signal that we will not stand for the actions of Beijing, undermining their own agreements—agreements under international law, which they are bound to, and we will not stand still in silence and do nothing while they crack down on freedom in Hong Kong.

I yield to Senator TOOMEY from Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, again, let me stress how grateful I am for the passionate, persuasive, and very effective advocacy of Senator VAN HOLLEN throughout this entire effort. I am very grateful to him, as I am to other colleagues who helped make this happen.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7440, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7440) to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons involved in the erosion of certain obligations of China with respect to Hong Kong, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7440) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Mr. TOOMEY. 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.

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

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I see there are colleagues and friends on the floor waiting to speak, and I just want to assure them that I will be very rapid.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 4155 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

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

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

OFFICE OF NET ASSESSMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have made a career in the Senate fighting against government waste, fraud, and abuse. Most recently, I have found this waste in an office within the Department of Defense called the Office of Net Assessment. Its purpose is to produce an annual net assessment, which is a long-term look at our military's capabilities and those of our greatest adversaries.

I am here to say to my colleagues that that office has lost its way. When I began a review of Stefan Halper's contracting work at the Office of Net Assessment, something didn't look right. So I asked the inspector general to look into it.

For those who are unaware, Stefan Halper was a central figure in the debunked Russia collusion investigation. Stefan Halper secretly recorded Trump campaign officials during Crossfire Hurricane. Halper also received over a million taxpayer dollars from the Office of Net Assessment for several ''research'' projects, but the inspector general found some problems with that contract.

The Office of Net Assessment didn't require Halper to submit evidence that he actually talked to the people he cited in his work, which included Russian intelligence officers.

Secondly, the Office of Net Assessment couldn't provide sufficient documentation that Halper conducted all of his work in accordance with the law.

And, three, the Office of Net Assessment didn't maintain sufficient documentation to comply with all Federal contracting requirements and Office of Management and Budget guidelines.

The inspector general also found that these problems were not unique just to Halper's contracts, which indicates, then, systemic issues within the Office of Net Assessment. Moreover, it has been reported that some of the individuals that Halper cited as sources in his research have denied contributing to Halper's work.

Oddly, Office of National Assessment Director James Baker has repeatedly told me that Halper's deliverables were ''high quality'' and ''conformed to the requirements set forth in the contract.''

What planet does the Office of Net Assessment live on?

The office spends almost $20 million a year of taxpayers' money every year. Yet according to a deposition of Mr. Baker, the Office of Net Assessment hasn't performed any annual net assessments since 2007.

A net assessment is the Office of Net Assessment's core mission. It even says so in the title. Its purpose of doing net assessments got lost along the way.

Moreover, after I began my oversight work at the Office of Net Assessment, a Department of Defense directive regulating the Office of Net Assessment was changed to provide cover for the unit's lackluster performance. Isn't that convenient? When your work is to do net assessment and you have been in existence for decades, and since 2007, you haven't been doing your net assessment, you issue a directive changing what the purpose of the Office of Net Assessment is all about. They did it pretty simply.

On April 14, 2020, the word ''shall'' was removed from the December 23, 2009, version of the directive that required the Office of Net Assessment to produce what their title said—''net assessments.'' The new version also changed the Office of Net Assessment's research scope to generic research, seemingly untethered to a net assessment—how convenient.

This swamp needs to be drained.

Last week, I introduced an amendment to the Defense bill that does several things. First, it reduces Office of Net Assessment's budget to $10 million a year instead of $20 million a year. Second, my amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to create a comprehensive plan to ensure that the Office of Net Assessment performs what the title of the agency says it is supposed to do—an annual net assessment—and complies, at the same time, with every dollar they get with Federal contracting requirements. This would take it back to the reason why it was first created decades ago.

Third, the amendment would require the Department of Defense inspector general to study and report on the Office of Net Assessment's contracting failures and determine if the net assessment can be done for less than $10 million.

And, fourth, it requires the Government Accountability Office to perform an audit of the effectiveness of the comprehensive plan.

Right now, it is pretty clear that the Office of Net Assessment lacks leadership and discipline, and it is also pretty clear that it has wasted tens of millions of dollars over the years. Congress must take a stand. That is why I am here to encourage my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 645

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, before we break for the Fourth of July recess, I think it is important for the Senate to go on record condemning the rising tide of mob violence that we see across the country and the increasingly prevalent mob mentality that is fueling it. The violence struck home for me this week when one of my constituents was shot after an armed mob surrounded his vehicle in Provo, UT.

This resolution is not controversial. Even in these divisive times, it is something, I think, we can all agree on, and I want to read through some highlights right now so you get a feel for it.

The United States of America was founded in 1776 on universal principles of freedom, justice, and human equality.

Throughout our nation's history, Americans have struggled to realize those ideals . . . but nonetheless [have made] greater progress toward them than any [other] nation on earth.

[The United States is a diverse nation] committed to cultivating respect, friendship, and justice across all such differences, and protecting the God-given equal rights of all Americans under the law.

America's law enforcement officers do an extremely difficult job extremely well, and despite the inexcusable misconduct of some, the overwhelming majority of such officers are honest, courageous, patriotic, and rightfully honored public servants.

In recent weeks, people across the United States have organized legitimate, peaceful, constitutionally protected demonstrations against instances of police brutality and racial inequality.

[Some of these Americans have organized these peaceful protests, asking for investigations into serious problems meriting investigation and reform.]

Some Americans, unsatisfied with peaceful and positive demonstrations, have instigated and indulged in mob violence and criminal property destruction, not in service of any . . . coherent cause, but simply as an arrogant, bullying tantrum of self-righteous illiberalism and rage.

These mobs have demonstrated not only contempt for public safety (as evidenced, among other crimes, by an unprovoked physical assault on a Wisconsin State Senator and the [more recent] shooting of a motorist in Provo, Utah) and common decency (as evidenced by their . . . obscene berating of law enforcement officers standing their posts to protect their communities), but also their manifest ignorance and historical illiteracy (as evidenced by their destruction of public memorials to historical heroes like Ulysses S. Grant, St. Junipero Serra, Miguel Cervantes, George Washington, Hans Christian Heg, and a reported plan to target a statue of Abraham Lincoln financed in 1876 entirely by private donations from freed African-American slaves).

It is the sense of the Senate that the rising tide of vandalism, mob violence, and the mob mentality that feeds it—including its cruel and intolerant ''cancel culture''—should be condemned by all Americans; [that] peaceful demonstrations and mob violence are different in kind; [that] physical assault and

property destruction are not forms of political speech but violent crimes whose perpetrators should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law; and [that] the innocent law enforcement officers, public officials, and private citizens who suffer the mob's violence and endure its scorn while protecting our communities from them deserve [every American's thanks and appreciation].

As I say, it is very straightforward.

As we saw in Seattle this week, these mobs are not going to stop until they are stopped. A nonbinding resolution is the tiniest first step of a response—the merest exercise of the Senate's atrophied institutional muscles. We need to do much, much more, and I look forward to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop the legislation to do it.

Yet, in this divided political moment, heading into the 244th birthday of the greatest, freest, most tolerant, and prosperous nation the world has ever known, I think showing that Senate Republicans and showing that Senate Democrats can work together and speak with one voice against woke mob violence and in defense of equal justice and civic peace would be a welcomed step.

Therefore, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 645, submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, look, there are nuggets in the Senator's resolution—certainly recognizing that, overwhelmingly, law enforcement does an honorable and valuable job in our society. It is a tough job. The bad ones make it difficult for all the good ones. I would agree with that. But I have to be honest with you. There are also elements of this resolution that are not as straightforward as the gentleman would have you believe.

First of all, the very first paragraph says that we were founded on universal principles of freedom, justice, and human equality. Of course, slavery existed at the time. There is no mention of America's original sin, which is slavery. Certainly we cannot think of slavery as human equality.

Then, to go on to suggest in his third paragraph that we are morally committed to justice ''across all such differences, and protecting the God-given rights of all Americans under the law,'' well, I can tell you, in my home State of New Jersey and across the Nation, there are many Americans who clearly do not believe that we are morally committed to justice across all such differences. As a matter of fact, we saw that in how the majority responded to the George Floyd death and others across the Nation—a lot of rhetoric; very little reform. So we would be hard-pressed to believe that paragraph has legitimacy as well.

Then the resolution reeks of supremacy, self-righteous illiberalism, manifest ignorance, and historical illiteracy. It reeks of a supremacist view: We know better.

Even with all of those problems and even with the fact that it has come at the last moment, there was no effort to work with anybody to offer maybe a bipartisan resolution that would capture all of this. Even though it seeks to mischaracterize overwhelmingly what has been the peaceful protests of people in the Nation, I would consider not objecting to the Senator's request if he also recognized and added to his resolution the fact that we have a President of the United States who ultimately provokes inciteful language and inciteful violence.

I mean, we have a President who retweets a video of people saying ''White power. White power.''

We have a President who retweets a video of White citizens with arms, pointing them at peaceful protesters who—at the end of the day, it is their right to peacefully protest.

We have a President who said that there were good people on all sides, including the White supremacists, in Charleston.

We have a President who used violence—the armed force of the State and violence against peaceful protesters in Lafayette Park, who were doing none of what the Senator suggests in his resolution.

Despite all of that, if the Senator would modify his request to include the following language: Insert at the end of his last line, line 15, section—make a new section (5): ''Our elected officials, especially the President of the United States, should not incite violence or legitimize those who engage in hate-fueled acts,'' I would consider allowing the Senator's resolution to move forward and not objecting to it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. LEE. Reserving the right to object, as I look at the language proposed by my colleague from New Jersey, I would accept the rest of it except for the words ''especially the President of the United States.'' The rest of it is unobjectionable.

The point here is that without pointing to any one specific individual, we should all be able to acknowledge, as a sense of the Senate, that we do hold these truths as self-evident; that our country was founded on these very strong ideals. Even if, as the resolution itself acknowledges, we have failed at times to live up to them, we have still done it.

So I would accept the modification but only with the removal of the words ''especially the President of the United States.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, it is especially the President of the United States—the person who leads our Nation—who should be a unifying force, not one who incites violence; therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, what is happening here? This is the U.S. Senate. Just so everyone is clear about the bat guano-inspired insanity we just witnessed, I just proposed a nonbinding resolution condemning mob violence, and Senate Democrats objected. I don't know whether to be outraged or embarrassed for them. This isn't even a bill; it is just a statement that says mob violence is bad. Democrats can't say mob violence is bad without simultaneously taking a jab at the President of the United States?

By the way, what about the mayor of Seattle? What about the city council of Minnesota? What about the countless other people who have perpetuated or enabled or facilitated or coddled mob violence across the country?

It is one of the reasons why we are not going to engage in this task of making it a political tit-for-tat. It is not that. People are being shot. Businesses are being looted. Innocent Americans are being attacked and threatened. Lives are being ruined. Communities are burning—literally burning.

So whose side are you on? This resolution was designed to be unifying. It avoided controversial subjects.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, may I ask the Presiding Officer to remind us of rule XIX.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will remind Senators of both parties that rule XIX provides that no Senator in debate shall directly or indirectly, by any form of words, impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming of a Senator.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the resolution was designed to be unifying. It avoided controversial subjects. All it asks of us is basic dignity and respect.

As long as we are on the topic of rule XIX, it is unbecoming to accuse a colleague of using language that is supremacy simply by reflecting on language in the Declaration of Independence, simply by reflecting on language that acknowledges the incivility and intolerability of mob violence. But apparently that is too much to ask today. I guess we should be thankful for clarity. And now we know. We don't have to ask. They told us how they feel about this resolution.

You can't really oppose this, it seems to me, without being on the side of the mobs, of mob violence, of mob mentality, of cruelty and intolerance and terror. Now we understand what this resolution is about. I don't think one can oppose this without being comfortable with those things. These mobs

are not progressive. These mobs are not enlightened. These mobs are not edgy. They are not hip. They are frauds. They are dim-witted, phony, drama addicts——

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. Is this line not in direct violation of rule XIX?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair concludes that pointing out that mob violence is dangerous to our Nation is not contrary to rule XIX or any other rule of the Senate.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, further parliamentary inquiry. There is not a question of mob violence. The question is that imputing to Members who did not agree with the framework and language of this resolution that they are supporting mob violence—that must be in violation of rule XIX if this is going to be a deliberative body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is more than entitled to express his views in the course of debate, but other Senators will likewise express their views in the course of debate.

Mr. LEE. Failed by an education system and addled by a social media culture that taught them to be victims instead of citizens. A privileged, self-absorbed crime syndicate with participation-trophy graduate degrees, trying to find meaning in empty lives by destroying things that other Americans have spent honest, productive lives building.

Today we learned—today we learned—that there are those who are comfortable with this. There are those who are at least not inclined to vote for this resolution, which simply condemns mob violence. Now we know. Now we know.

I want all my colleagues to know that when we return from recess, we are coming back to the Senate floor and we are not just going to be debating nonbinding resolutions. It is long past time to expose the shiftless idiocy of the anti-American, anti-science, anti-establishment, anti-Constitution mob and remove their snouts from the Federal trough.

Colleges and universities that punish free speech and discriminate against conservative and religious students; city councils that defund their police departments and refuse to protect public safety; States that force doctors to mutilate confused children without their parents' consent; school districts that embrace the ahistorical nonsense of the 1619 Project; the smug, sneering privilege of all of the above and much more—the whole garbage fire that is the so-called ''woke'' ideology—depends on Federal money.

The mob hates America on America's dime. It is time to cut off their allowance. I think the American people would be very interested to know who stands for them and who stands for subsidizing the mob. I intend to show them.

Mr. President, this debate is not ending today; it is only the beginning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we have learned something today. We have learned that my colleagues are unwilling to call out the President of the United States when the President of the United States uses language that incites violence; says that White supremacists in Charleston are as good as everybody else; retweets a video of White Americans saying ''White power;'' retweets a video of two individuals with guns pointed at peaceful protesters; uses the force of the State to clear out peaceful protesters in Lafayette Park; goes and says, in fact, ''when the looting starts, the shooting starts.'' That has a historical context to it, and the ''liberate Virginia. It is under siege,'' and so, so much more.

So, yes, I look forward to that debate because I have legislation to deal with the rising tide of White supremacists' actions that, at the end of the day, have even been recognized by some of our law enforcement entities as a growing national threat. So I look forward to having that debate, look forward to having that legislation on the floor, and we will see how our colleagues act then.

But it is totally unacceptable to cast aspersions that do not equal those of the person who leads our country, and we should recognize that. What it shows me is that I guess President Trump is right—he could shoot someone on Fifth Avenue and get away with it, and certainly my colleagues here would not hold him responsible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, all I asked in my counter was that we remove the words ''especially the President of the United States.'' Why? Because it is different than the entire approach taken by the resolution.

As long as we are calling each other out on casting aspersions on each other's intentions, no one's intention here is to shield anyone from anything, as evidenced by the fact that, as my proposed modification would have provided, it would have said that ''our elected officials should not incite violence or legitimize those who engage in hate-fueled acts.'' Last I checked, the President of the United States was and is an elected official. This would apply to him. My counter in no way insulated—not him, not any elected official, not any of us from this resolution, which simply condemns mob violence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I will be very quick. I understand we have work to do on the Defense authorization and the vote coming up, but I am glad the majority leader is on the floor, and I am glad so many Members are on the floor.

We have a problem in this institution of the uneven enforcement of rule XIX, and it is hurting this body.

I have just by happenstance been on the floor for various violations being called by the Presiding Officer, usually with the advice of the Parliamentarian. It is very clear to me that the rules are not being applied equally to each party, and I think that is something we are going to have to wrestle with if we are going to continue to be worthy of the moniker ''the world's greatest deliberative body.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, could I ask my colleagues to yield momentarily?

I would request that Senator INHOFE be able to lock in an agreement on the NDAA, and then the discussion could resume.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator INHOFE be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Resumed

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I thank the leader, and I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of S. 4049.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4049) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe amendment No. 2301, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Portman) amendment No. 2080 (to amendment No. 2301), to require an element in annual reports on cyber science and technology activities on work with academic consortia on high priority cybersecurity research activities in Department of Defense capabilities.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, the following amendments be made pending en bloc and the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed, with a 60-affirmative vote threshold for adoption, and that there be 2 hours of debate on each amendment, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, prior to the vote in relation to each amendment. Those amendments are: Schatz No. 2252, Inhofe No. 2411, Sanders No. 1788, Cornyn No. 2244, Shaheen No. 1729, and Tester No. 1972, as modified.

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

AMENDMENT NOS. 1694, 1881, 1883, 1753, 1803, 1808, 1891, 1987, 1907, 2018, 2391, 1968, 1977, 2077, 2058, 2178, 2186, 2215, 2251, 2231, 2255, 2238, 2256, 2241, 2269, 2243, 2270, 2248, 2275, 2277, 2204, 2417, 1797, 1825, 1878, 1966, 1971, 1991, 2053, 2138, 2168, 2217, 2220, 2235, 2257, 2287, 2298, 2317, 2319, 2326, 2327, 2331, 2341, 2370, 2378, 1693, 2418, 2419, 2084, 1849, 2103, 2422

Mr. INHOFE. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be adopted en bloc and that the Senate vote on adoption of the amendments en bloc with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. President, I will read the entire list so that each Member knows the status of his or her amendment: Moran No. 1694, Hyde-Smith No. 1881, Romney No. 1883, Peters No. 1753, Warner No. 1803, Coons No. 1808, Portman No. 1891, Kennedy No. 1987, Warner No. 1907, Romney No. 2018, Sullivan No. 2391, Tester No. 1968, Bennet No. 1977, Johnson No. 2077, Smith No. 2058, Wicker No. 2178, Cortez Masto No. 2186, King No. 2215, Merkley No. 2251, Fischer No. 2231, Cantwell No. 2255, Risch No. 2238, Cantwell No. 2256, Gardner No. 2241, Hirono No. 2269, Portman No. 2243, Menendez No. 2270, Inhofe-Reed No. 2248, Peters No. 2275, Toomey No. 2277, Inhofe No. 2204, Cantwell-Manchin No. 2417, Jones No. 1797, Lankford No. 1825, Loeffler No. 1878, Tester No. 1966, Tester No. 1971, Kennedy No. 1991, Markey No. 2053, Cruz No. 2138, Durbin No. 2168, Feinstein No. 2217, Heinrich No. 2220, Rounds No. 2235, Brown No. 2257, Sasse No. 2287, Boozman No. 2298, Harris No. 2317, Klobuchar No. 2319, Inhofe No. 2326, Young No. 2327, Shelby No. 2331, Wyden No. 2341, Blackburn No. 2370, Blackburn No. 2378, Moran No. 1693, Inhofe No. 2418, Sanders No. 2419, Lee No. 2084, Van Hollen No. 1849, Hassan No. 2103, and Rubio No. 2422.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I am reserving the right to object.

This amendment list does not include my amendment No. 1932, a bill that the Presiding Officer and I have worked on and a bill that the majority leader has voted for.

This amendment is so simple. It professionalizes how the military prosecutes serious crimes—serious crimes such as sexual assault, rape, and murder. It removes the systemic fear that survivors have in reporting these crimes.

According to the Pentagon's most recent survey, almost 21,000 servicemembers were sexually assaulted in 2018. This is a 30-percent increase from the year before. The current climate is not good for survivors. Currently, most survivors are retaliated against when they come forward and report these crimes. In fact, the rate of retaliation is two-thirds of all survivors, unchanged from past years. Worse than that, of the cases that the command considers for action, of those unique few, only 10 percent of those went to trial.

Year after year, we have hearings, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member. We have hearings and the commanders and generals come forward and say: Ma'am, we have got this. Let us take care of this. We have got this. We know what we are doing. We understand. We are going to take this crime so seriously. We are going to prosecute these cases. Leave it to us. We know what we are doing.

It is infuriating. They should not say they know what they are doing or they are just lying to us—it is one or the other—but, either way, they are failing. The failure rate is so high—20,000 rapes last year; less than 10 percent going to trial of the small number that are even considered. The rate of conviction is going down.

There is no measurable in the entire system of military justice for these survivors that is getting better—not one aspect.

''We have got this, ma'am. Leave it to us.'' It is just not true. They don't have it. They never have.

If they don't look themselves in the mirror and recognize their failures, they never will. Year after year, thousands of servicemembers are raped and sexually assaulted and assailants are not held accountable. It is not just a few bad apples. In many of those cases, the assailant is someone in the survivor's chain of command—the same chain of command that decides the case. They pick the judges, the juries, the prosecutors, and the defense counsel. That is the system. That system is so weighted that if a commander has a view before they go in, your chance of success is very little.

There is no other judicial system in America that would ever allow this to happen. That commander is not even trained. He is not a prosecutor. He is not a lawyer. This system is not delivering justice. People in the military do not have the benefit of civil liberties because of this. They don't get justice. They never had it, and they never will.

This amendment, this bipartisan and commonsense reform, leaves the majority of uniquely military crimes within the chain of command. It would only remove the decision making over whether to prosecute serious crimes to independent, trained, unbiased military impartial prosecutors.

It is the Senate's job to provide the oversight and accountability to the U.S. military. We owe our U.S. servicemembers everything. For every year that we don't address this fundamental scourge, it is another year we are failing them. I have asked for a vote, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, for 5 years in a row. This is the fifth year I am denied a vote. It is the fifth year that you are saying to our servicemembers that you don't care, and you don't want to fix the system.

We have tried every small-ball reform you can imagine—every study, every panel, every recommendation. We have made sure those recommendations got in the underlying bill every year. They are just not working. So I would like for us to look ourselves in the mirror and say: Are we doing our job? Are we standing by our servicemembers when they need us? Sadly, the answer is no.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to modify your request to include amendment No. 1932 to just get a vote on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me just make a comment first.

This is a first step. We have a lot of things happening after this. We are going to be on the Senate floor for hours and hours. You will have ample time to entertain your amendment, and I would be very happy to assist you in that.

For that reason, I would not want to jeopardize those 60 names and amendments that I have already offered, to jeopardize their efforts by adding your language, and so I do object.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will withdraw my objection, and I look forward to working with you on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the original request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the order consented, the amendments are now pending, and the question is on agreeing to the amendments, en bloc.

The amendments were agreed to en bloc, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1694

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the unemployment rate of female veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001)

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. ____. STUDY ON UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF FEMALE VETERANS WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, shall conduct a study on why Post-9/11 Veterans who are female are at higher risk of unemployment than all other groups of female veterans and their non-veteran counterparts.

(2) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct the study under paragraph (1) primarily through the Center for Women Veterans under section 318 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary may consult with—

(i) other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense, the Office of Personnel Management, and the Small Business Administration;

(ii) foundations; and

(iii) entities in the private sector.

(3) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to Post-9/11 Veterans who are

female, at a minimum, an analysis of the following:

(A) Rank at time of separation from the Armed Forces.

(B) Geographic location upon such separation.

(C) Educational level upon such separation.

(D) The percentage of such veterans who enrolled in an education or employment training program of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Labor after such separation.

(E) Industries that have employed such veterans.

(F) Military occupational specialties available to such veterans.

(G) Barriers to employment of such veterans.

(H) Causes to fluctuations in employment of such veterans.

(I) Current employment training programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Labor that are available to such veterans.

(J) Economic indicators that impact unemployment of such veterans.

(K) Health conditions of such veterans that could impact employment.

(L) Whether there are differences in the analyses conducted under subparagraphs (A) through (K) based on the race of such veteran.

(M) The difference between unemployment rates of Post-9/11 Veterans who are female compared to unemployment rates of Post-9/11 Veterans who are male, including an analysis of potential causes of such difference.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after completing the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such study.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The analyses conducted under subsection (a)(3).

(B) A description of the methods used to conduct the study under subsection (a).

(C) Such other matters relating to the unemployment rates of Post-9/11 Veterans who are female as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) POST-9/11 VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Post-9/11 Veteran'' means a veteran who served on active duty in the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001.

AMENDMENT NO. 1881

(Purpose: To designate the week of September 20 through September 26, 2020, as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week'')

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. SENSE OF SENATE ON GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The last Sunday in September—

(A) is designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(B) was first designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under the Joint Resolution entitled ''Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as 'Gold Star Mother's Day', and for other purposes'', approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895).

(2) There is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States.

(3) A gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces.

(4) The members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States.

(5) The selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States.

(6) The sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 20 through September 26, 2020, as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week'';

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

AMENDMENT NO. 1883

(Purpose: To state the policy of the United States on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region)

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1262. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to strengthen alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe and with like-minded countries around the globe to effectively compete with the People's Republic of China; and

(2) to work in collaboration with such allies and partners—

(A) to address significant diplomatic, economic, and military challenges posed by the People's Republic of China;

(B) to deter the People's Republic of China from pursuing military aggression;

(C) to promote the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes in accordance with international law;

(D) to promote private sector-led long-term economic development while countering efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to leverage predatory economic practices as a means of political and economic coercion in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(E) to promote the values of democracy and human rights, including through efforts to end the repression by the Chinese Communist Party of political dissidents and Uyghurs and other ethnic Muslim minorities, Tibetan Buddhists, Christians, and other minorities;

(F) to respond to the crackdown by the Chinese Communist Party, in contravention of the commitments made under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 and the Basic Law of Hong Kong, on the legitimate aspirations of the people of Hong Kong; and

(G) to counter the Chinese Communist Party's efforts to spread disinformation in the People's Republic of China and beyond with respect to the response of the Chinese Communist Party to COVID–19.

AMENDMENT NO. 1753

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on the screening practices for Great Lakes and inland waterways seaports)

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10___. REPORT ON GREAT LAKES AND INLAND WATERWAYS SEAPORTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives containing the results of the review and an explanation of the methodology used for the review conducted pursuant to subsection (b) regarding the screening practices for foreign cargo arriving at seaports on the Great Lakes and inland waterways.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, to the maximum extent possible, but may include a classified annex, if necessary.

(b) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—

(1) SEAPORT SELECTION.—In selecting seaports on inland waterways to include in the review under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the inland waterways seaports are—

(A) equal in number to the Great Lakes seaports included in the review;

(B) comparable to Great Lakes seaports included in the review, as measured by number of imported shipments arriving at the seaport each year; and

(C) covered by at least the same number of Field Operations offices as the Great Lakes seaports included in the review, but are not covered by the same Field Operations offices as such Great Lakes seaports.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct a review of all Great Lakes and selected inland waterways seaports that receive international cargo—

(A) to determine, for each such seaport—

(i) the current screening capability, including the types and numbers of screening equipment and whether such equipment is physically located at a seaport or assigned and available in the area and made available to use;

(ii) the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel assigned from a Field Operations office, broken out by role;

(iii) the expenditures for procurement and overtime incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the most recent fiscal year;

(iv) the types of cargo received, such as containerized, break-bulk, and bulk;

(v) the legal entity that owns the seaport;

(vi) a description of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's use of space at the seaport, including—

(I) whether U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the General Services Administration owns or leases any facilities; and

(II) if U.S. Customs and Border Protection is provided space at the seaport, a description of such space, including the number of workstations; and

(vii) the current cost-sharing arrangement for screening technology or reimbursable services;

(B) to identify, for each Field Operations office—

(i) any ports of entry that are staffed remotely from service ports;

(ii) the distance of each such service port from the corresponding ports of entry; and

(iii) the number of officers and the types of equipment U.S. Customs and Border Protection utilizes to screen cargo entering or exiting through such ports; and

(C) that includes a threat assessment of incoming containerized and noncontainerized cargo at Great Lakes seaports and selected inland waterways seaports.

AMENDMENT NO. 1803

(Purpose: To improve efficient use of sensitive compartmented information facilities)

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EFFICIENT USE OF SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITIES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall issue revised guidance authorizing and directing Government agencies and their appropriately cleared contractors to process, store, use, and discuss sensitive compartmented information (SCI) at facilities previously approved to handle such information, without need for further approval by agency or by site. Such guidance shall apply to controlled access programs of the intelligence community and to special access programs of the Department of Defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 1808

(Purpose: To provide for Federal coordination of activities supporting sustainable chemistry, and for other purposes)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1891

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publish an annual report on the use of deepfake technology, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. DEEPFAKE REPORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIGITAL CONTENT FORGERY.—The term ''digital content forgery'' means the use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques, to fabricate or manipulate audio, visual, or text content with the intent to mislead.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) REPORTS ON DIGITAL CONTENT FORGERY TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall produce a report on the state of digital content forgery technology.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report produced under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the underlying technologies used to create or propagate digital content forgeries, including the evolution of such technologies;

(B) a description of the types of digital content forgeries, including those used to commit fraud, cause harm, or violate civil rights recognized under Federal law;

(C) an assessment of how foreign governments, and the proxies and networks thereof, use, or could use, digital content forgeries to harm national security;

(D) an assessment of how non-governmental entities in the United States use, or could use, digital content forgeries;

(E) an assessment of the uses, applications, dangers, and benefits of deep learning technologies used to generate high fidelity artificial content of events that did not occur, including the impact on individuals;

(F) an analysis of the methods used to determine whether content is genuinely created by a human or through digital content forgery technology and an assessment of any effective heuristics used to make such a determination, as well as recommendations on how to identify and address suspect content and elements to provide warnings to users of the content;

(G) a description of the technological counter-measures that are, or could be, used to address concerns with digital content forgery technology; and

(H) any additional information the Secretary determines appropriate.

(3) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC HEARINGS.—In producing each report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

(A) consult with any other agency of the Federal Government that the Secretary considers necessary; and

(B) conduct public hearings to gather, or otherwise allow interested parties an opportunity to present, information and advice relevant to the production of the report.

(4) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be produced in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(5) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Nothing in this section, or in a report produced under this section, shall be construed to allow the disclosure of information or a record that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'').

(6) APPLICABILITY OF THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act''), shall not apply to this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 1987

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide States with information regarding unredeemed matured savings bonds)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO STATES REGARDING UNDELIVERED SAVINGS BONDS.

Section 3105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f)(1) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the Secretary shall provide each State, as digital or other electronically searchable forms become available (including digital images), with sufficient information to identify the registered owner of any applicable savings bond with a registration address that is within such State, including the serial number of the bond, the name and registered address of such owner, and any registered beneficiaries.

''(2) The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including rules to—

''(A) protect the privacy of the owners of applicable savings bonds;

''(B) ensure that any information provided to a State under this subsection shall be used solely to locate such owners and assist them in redeeming such bonds with the United States Treasury; and

''(C) ensure that owners of applicable savings bonds seeking to redeem such bonds with the United States Treasury are able to do so in an expeditious manner.

''(3) Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report assessing all efforts to satisfy the requirement under paragraph (1).

''(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'applicable savings bond' means a matured and unredeemed savings bond.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1907

At the end of subtitle A of title XI, add the following:

SEC. ___. REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WITHIN THE CIVILIAN WORKFORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—*Not later than 1 year after enactment of this act*, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on issues related to diversity and inclusion within the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the demographic composition of the civilian workforce of the Department.

(2) An assessment of any differences in promotion outcomes among demographic groups of the civilian workforce of the Department.

(3) An assessment of the extent to which the Department has identified barriers to diversity in its civilian workforce.

AMENDMENT NO. 2018

(Purpose: To require a report on the Chemical and Biological Defense Program of the Department of Defense)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1064. REPORT ON THE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the Chemical and Biological Defense Program of the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the significance of the Chemical and Biological Defense Program within the 2018 National Defense Strategy.

(2) A description and assessment of the threats the Chemical and Biological Defense Program is designed to address.

(3) An assessment of the capacity of current Chemical and Biological Defense Program facilities to complete their missions if funding levels for the Program are reduced.

(4) An estimate of the length of time required to return the Chemical and Biological Defense Program to its current capacity if funding levels reduced for the Program as described in paragraph (3) are restored.

(5) An assessment of the threat posed to members of the Armed Forces as a result of a reduction in testing of gear for field readiness by the Chemical and Biological Defense Program by reason of reduced funding levels for the Program.

(6) A description and assessment of the necessity of Non Traditional Agent Defense Testing under the Chemical and Biological Defense Program for Individual Protection Systems, Collective Protection Systems, field decontamination systems, and chemical agent detectors.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in classified form, available for review by any Member of Congress, but shall include an unclassified summary.

AMENDMENT NO. 2391

(Purpose: To require reports on diversity and inclusion in the Armed Forces)

At the end of subtitle C of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 520. REPORTS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) REPORT ON FINDINGS OF DEFENSE BOARD ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE MILITARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the completion by the Defense Board on Diversity and Inclusion in the Military of its report on actionable recommendations to increase racial diversity and ensure equal opportunity across all grades of the Armed Forces, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the report of the Defense Board, including the findings and recommendations of the Defense Board.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A comprehensive description of the findings and recommendations of the Defense Board in its report referred to in paragraph (1).

(B) A comprehensive description of any actionable recommendations of the Defense Board in its report.

(C) A description of the actions proposed to be undertaken by the Secretary in connection with such recommendations, and a timeline for implementation of such actions.

(D) A description of the resources used by the Defense Board for its report, and a description and assessment of any shortfalls in such resources for purposes of the Defense Board.

(b) REPORT ON DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE ARMED FORCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the same time the Secretary of Defense submits the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall also submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in the Armed Forces.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The mission statement or purpose of the Advisory Committee, and any proposed objectives and goals of the Advisory Committee

(B) A description of current members of the Advisory Committee and the criteria used for selecting members.

(C) A description of the duties and scope of activities of the Advisory Committee.

(D) The reporting structure of the Advisory Committee.

(E) An estimate of the annual operating costs and staff years of the Advisory Committee.

(F) An estimate of the number and frequency of meetings of the Advisory Committee.

(G) Any subcommittees, established or proposed, that would support the Advisory Committee.

(H) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to extend the term of the Advisory Committee beyond the proposed termination date of the Advisory Committee.

(c) REPORT ON CURRENT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE ARMED FORCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the same time the Secretary of Defense submits the reports required by subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall also submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on current diversity and inclusion in the Armed Forces.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An identification of the current racial, ethnic, and sex composition of each Armed Force generally.

(B) An identification of the current racial, ethnic, and sex composition of each Armed Force by grade.

(C) A comparison of the participation rates of minority populations in officer grades, warrant officer grades, and enlisted member grades in each Armed Force with the percentage of such populations among the general population.

(D) A comparison of the participation rates of minority populations in each career field in each Armed Force with the percentage of such populations among the general population.

(E) A comparison among the Armed Forces of the percentage of minority populations in each officer grade above grade O–4.

(F) A comparison among the Armed Forces of the percentage of minority populations in each enlisted grade above grade E–6.

(G) A description and assessment of barriers to minority participation in the Armed Forces in connection with accession, assessment, and training.

(d) SENSE OF SENATE ON DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE ARMED FORCES.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in the Armed Forces—

(1) should consist of diverse group of individuals, including—

(A) a general or flag officer from each regular component of the Armed Forces;

(B) a retired general or flag officer from not fewer than two of the Armed Forces;

(C) a regular officer of the Armed Forces in a grade O–5 or lower;

(D) a regular enlisted member of the Armed Forces in a grade E–7 or higher;

(E) a regular enlisted member of the Armed Forces in a grade E–6 or lower;

(F) a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces in any grade;

(G) a member of the Department of Defense civilian workforce;

(H) an member of the academic community with expertise in diversity studies; and

(I) an individual with appropriate expertise in diversity and inclusion;

(2) should include individuals from a variety of military career paths, including—

(A) aviation;

(B) special operations;

(C) intelligence;

(D) cyber;

(E) space; and

(F) surface warfare;

(3) should have a membership such that not fewer than 20 percent of members possess—

(A) a firm understanding of the role of mentorship and best practices in finding and utilizing mentors;

(B) experience and expertise in change of culture of large organizations; or

(C) experience and expertise in implementation science; and

(4) should focus on objectives that address—

(A) barriers to promotion within the Armed Forces, including development of recommendations on mechanisms to enhance and increase racial diversity and ensure equal opportunity across all grades in the Armed Forces;

(B) participation of minority officers and senior noncommissioned officers in the Armed Forces, including development of recommendations on mechanisms to enhance and increase such participation;

(C) recruitment of minority candidates for innovative pre-service programs in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC), and military service academies, including programs in connection with flight instruction, special operations, and national security, including development of recommendations on mechanisms to enhance and increase such recruitment;

(D) retention of minority individuals in senior leadership and mentorship positions in the Armed Forces, including development of recommendations on mechanisms to enhance and increase such retention; and

(E) achievement of cultural and ethnic diversity in recruitment for the Armed Forces, including development of recommendations on mechanisms to enhance and increase such diversity in recruitment.

AMENDMENT NO. 1968

(Purpose: To expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1977

(Purpose: To require a briefing on the assignment of members of the Armed Forces on active duty to the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center of the Department of Defense)

At the end of subtitle D of title IX, add the following:

SEC. _____. BRIEFING ON ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY TO THE JOINT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, with appropriate representatives of the Armed Forces, shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility and the current status of assigning members of the Armed Forces on active duty to the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC) of the Department of Defense. The briefing shall include an assessment of such assignment on each of the following:

(1) The strengthening of ties between the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center and operational forces for purposes of—

(A) identifying tactical and operational use cases for artificial intelligence (AI);

(B) improving data collection; and

(C) establishing effective liaison between the Center and operational forces for identification and clarification of concerns in the widespread adoption and dissemination of artificial intelligence.

(2) The creation of opportunities for additional non-traditional broadening assignments for members on active duty.

(3) The career trajectory of active duty members so assigned, including potential negative effects on career trajectory.

(4) The improvement and enhancement of the capacity of the Center to influence Department-wide policies that affect the adoption of artificial intelligence.

AMENDMENT NO. 2077

(Purpose: To strengthen Federal anti-discrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2058

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and issue a report on the affordability of insulin)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY AND REPORT ON THE AFFORDABILITY OF INSULIN.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, shall—

(1) conduct a study that examines, for each type or classification of diabetes (including type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, and other conditions causing reliance on insulin), the effect of the affordability of insulin on—

(A) adherence to insulin prescriptions;

(B) rates of diabetic ketoacidosis;

(C) downstream impacts of insulin adherence, including rates of dialysis treatment and end-stage renal disease;

(D) spending by Federal health programs on acute episodes that could have been averted by adhering to an insulin prescription; and

(E) other factors, as appropriate, to understand the impacts of insulin affordability on health outcomes, Federal Government spending (including under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.)), and insured and uninsured individuals with diabetes; and

(2) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under paragraph (1).

AMENDMENT NO. 2178

(Purpose: To improve the cyber workforce and establish cyber challenges)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2186

(Purpose: To require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report assessing the billing practices of the Department of Defense for care received under the TRICARE program and at military medical treatment facilities)

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. ____. REPORT ON BILLING PRACTICES FOR HEALTH CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Through the TRICARE program, the Department of Defense provides health care benefits and services to approximately 9,500,000 beneficiaries.

(2) The Department of Defense is not structured as a typical health care provider, which can lead to complicated billing practices and strict deadlines for members of the Armed Forces, former members of the Armed Forces, and their dependents, as well as for providers.

(3) Numerous findings issued by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense between 2014 and 2019 describe the third-party collection program of the Department as inadequately managed, resulting in substantial uncollected funds that could be used to improve the quality of health care at military medical treatment facilities.

(4) Numerous press reports have found that the Federal Government aggressively collects unpaid debts from uninsured or low-income civilian patients who happen to receive treatment at a military medical treatment facility, even though providing that treatment often benefits military readiness by providing experience to military medical professionals.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to ensure members of the Armed Forces, former members of the Armed Forces, and their dependents receive high-quality health care, and that Federal agencies prioritize fairness and accessibility when administering health care.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the billing practices of the Department of Defense for care received under the TRICARE program or at military medical treatment facilities.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the extent to which data is being collected and maintained on whether beneficiaries under the TRICARE program have other forms of health insurance.

(B) A description of the extent to which the Secretary of Defense has implemented the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to improve collections of third-party payments for care at military medical treatment facilities and a description of the impact such implementation has had on such beneficiaries.

(C) A description of the extent to which the process used by managed care support contractors under the TRICARE program to adjudicate third-party liability claims is efficient and effective, including with respect to communication with such beneficiaries.

(d) TRICARE PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''TRICARE program'' has the meaning given that term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 2215

(Purpose: To strengthen the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CISA DIRECTOR.

Subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 5313, by inserting after the item relating to ''Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration'' the following:

''Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.''; and

(2) in section 5314, by striking the item relating to ''Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.''.

SEC. ____. AGENCY REVIEW.

(a) REQUIREMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—In order to strengthen the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct a comprehensive review of the ability of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to fulfill—

(1) the missions of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; and

(2) the recommendations detailed in the report issued by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission under section 1652(k) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232).

(b) ELEMENTS OF REVIEW.—The review conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment of how additional budget resources could be used by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for projects and programs that—

(A) support the national risk management mission;

(B) support public and private-sector cybersecurity;

(C) promote public-private integration; and

(D) provide situational awareness of cybersecurity threats.

(2) A comprehensive force structure assessment of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency including—

(A) a determination of the appropriate size and composition of personnel to accomplish the mission of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, as well as the recommendations detailed in the report issued by the Cyberspace Solarium Commission under section 1652(k) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232);

(B) an assessment of whether existing personnel are appropriately matched to the prioritization of threats in the cyber domain and risks in critical infrastructure;

(C) an assessment of whether the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has the appropriate personnel and resources to—

(i) perform risk assessments, threat hunting, incident response to support both private and public cybersecurity;

(ii) carry out the responsibilities of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency related to the security of Federal information and Federal information systems; and

(iii) carry out the critical infrastructure responsibilities of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, including national risk management; and

(D) an assessment of whether current structure, personnel, and resources of regional field offices are sufficient in fulfilling agency responsibilities and mission requirements.

(c) SUBMISSION OF REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress detailing the results of the assessments required under subsection (b), including recommendations to address any identified gaps.

SEC. ____. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the General Services Administration shall—

(1) conduct a review of current Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency facilities and assess the suitability of such facilities to fully support current and projected mission requirements nationally and regionally; and

(2) make recommendations regarding resources needed to procure or build a new facility or augment existing facilities to ensure sufficient size and accommodations to fully support current and projected mission requirements, including the integration of personnel from the private sector and other departments and agencies.

(b) SUBMISSION OF REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the General Services Administration shall submit the review required under subsection (a) to—

(1) the President;

(2) the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(3) to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 2251

(Purpose: To extend the prohibition on commercial export of certain munitions to the Hong Kong Police Force)

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1262. EXTENSION OF PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL EXPORT OF CERTAIN MUNITIONS TO THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

Section 3 of the Act entitled ''An Act to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force'', approved November 27, 2019 (Public Law 116–77; 133 Stat. 1174), is amended by striking ''one year after the date of the enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''on November 27, 2021''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2231

(Purpose: To ensure appropriate prioritization, spectrum planning, and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2255

(Purpose: To extend real-time sound monitoring at Navy installations where tactical fighter aircraft operate)

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 320. EXTENSION OF REAL-TIME SOUND MONITORING AT NAVY INSTALLATIONS WHERE TACTICAL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OPERATE.

Section 325(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92) is amended by striking ''a 12-month period'' and inserting ''two 12-month periods, including one such period that begins in fiscal year 2021''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2238

(Purpose: To improve coordination of United States sanctions policy)

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1287. IMPROVED COORDINATION OF UNITED STATES SANCTIONS POLICY.

(a) OFFICE OF SANCTIONS COORDINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) OFFICE OF SANCTIONS COORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established, within the Department of State, an Office of Sanctions Coordination (in this subsection referred to as the 'Office').

''(2) HEAD.—The head of the Office shall—

''(A) have the rank and status of ambassador;

''(B) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

''(C) report directly to the Secretary.

''(3) DUTIES.—The head of the Office shall—

''(A) exercise sanctions authorities delegated to the Secretary;

''(B) serve as the principal advisor to the senior management of the Department and the Secretary regarding the development and implementation of sanctions policy;

''(C) serve as the lead representative of the United States in diplomatic engagement on sanctions matters;

''(D) consult and closely coordinate with allies and partners of the United States, including the United Kingdom, the European Union and member countries of the European Union, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and South Korea, to ensure the maximum effectiveness of sanctions imposed by the United States and such allies and partners;

''(E) serve as the coordinator for the development and implementation of sanctions policy with respect to all activities, policies, and programs of all bureaus and offices of the Department relating to the development and implementation of sanctions policy; and

''(F) serve as the lead representative of the Department in interagency discussions with respect to the development and implementation of sanctions policy.

''(4) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—The head of the Office may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, candidates directly to positions in the competitive service, as defined in section 2102 of that title, in the Office.''.

(2) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date that is 2 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the efforts of the Department of State to establish the Office of Sanctions Coordination pursuant to section 1(g) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended by paragraph (1), including a description of—

(A) measures taken to implement the requirements of that section and to establish the Office;

(B) actions taken by the Office to carry out the duties listed in paragraph (3) of that section;

(C) the resources devoted to the Office, including the number of employees working in the Office; and

(D) plans for the use of the direct hire authority provided under paragraph (4) of that section.

(b) COORDINATION WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS OF THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop and implement mechanisms and programs, as appropriate, through the head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination established pursuant to section 1(g) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended by subsection (a)(1), to coordinate the development and implementation of United States sanctions policies with allies and partners of the United States, including the United Kingdom, the European Union and member countries of the European Union, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and South Korea.

(2) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary should pursue the development and implementation of mechanisms and programs under paragraph (1), as appropriate, that involve the sharing of information with respect to policy development and sanctions implementation.

(3) CAPACITY BUILDING.—The Secretary should pursue efforts, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of any other agency the Secretary considers appropriate, to assist allies and partners of the United States, including the countries specified in paragraph (1), as appropriate, in the development of their legal and technical capacities to develop and implement sanctions authorities.

(4) EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.—In furtherance of the efforts described in paragraph (3), the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of any other agency the Secretary considers appropriate, may enter into agreements with counterpart agencies in foreign governments establishing exchange programs for the temporary detail of government employees to share information and expertise with respect to the development and implementation of sanctions authorities.

(5) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the efforts of the Department of State to implement this section, including a description of—

(A) measures taken to implement paragraph (1);

(B) actions taken pursuant to paragraphs (2) through (4);

(C) the extent of coordination between the United States and allies and partners of the United States, including the countries specified in paragraph (1), with respect to the development and implementation of sanctions policy; and

(D) obstacles preventing closer coordination between the United States and such allies and partners with respect to the development and implementation of sanctions policy.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the President should appoint a coordinator for sanctions and national economic security issues within the framework of the National Security Council.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Way and Means of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 2256

(Purpose: To require an analysis of sourcing and industrial capacity issues related to aluminum)

At the end of section 806(c), add the following:

(12) Aluminum.

AMENDMENT NO. 2241

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress on the implementation of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 with respect to Taiwan arms sales)

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1262. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASIA REASSURANCE INITIATIVE ACT WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN ARMS SALES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Department of Defense Indo-Pacific Strategy Report, released on June 1, 2019, states: ''[T]he Asia Reassurance Initiative Act, a major bipartisan legislation, was signed into law by President Trump on December 31, 2018. This legislation enshrines a generational whole-of-government policy framework that demonstrates U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region and includes initiatives that promote sovereignty, rule of law, democracy, economic engagement, and regional security.''.

(2) The Indo-Pacific Strategy Report further states: ''The United States has a vital interest in upholding the rules-based international order, which includes a strong, prosperous, and democratic Taiwan. . .The Department [of Defense] is committed to providing Taiwan with defense articles and services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.''.

(3) Section 209(b) of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 3301 note), signed into law on December 31, 2018—

(A) builds on longstanding commitments enshrined in the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.) to provide Taiwan with defense articles; and

(B) states: ''The President should conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan that are tailored to meet the existing and likely future threats from the People's Republic of China, including supporting the efforts of Taiwan to develop and integrate asymmetric capabilities, as appropriate, including mobile, survivable, and cost-effective capabilities, into its military forces.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409; 132 Stat. 5387) has recommitted the United States to support the close, economic, political, and security relationship between the United States and Taiwan; and

(2) the United States should fully implement the provisions of that Act with regard to regular defensive arms sales to Taiwan.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, or their designees, shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on the efforts to implement section 209(b) of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 3301 note).

AMENDMENT NO. 2269

(Purpose: To require a report on the impact of the children of certain Filipino World War II veterans on the national security, foreign policy, and economic and humanitarian interests of the United States)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON IMPACT OF CHILDREN OF CERTAIN FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS ON NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY, AND ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2020, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the impact of the children of certain Filipino World War II veterans on the national security, foreign policy, and economic and humanitarian interests of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The number of Filipino World War II veterans who fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater.

(2) The number of Filipino World War II veterans who died fighting under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater.

(3) An assessment of the economic and tax contributions that Filipino World War II veterans and their families have made to the United States.

(4) An assessment of the impact on the United States of exempting from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas the children of the Filipino World War II veterans who were naturalized under—

(A) section 405 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–649; 8 U.S.C. 1440 note); or

(B) title III of the Nationality Act of 1940 (54 Stat. 1137; chapter 876), as added by section 1001 of the Second War Powers Act, 1942 (56 Stat. 182; chapter 199).

AMENDMENT NO. 2243

(Purpose: To require an assessment of United States manufacturing surge capacity)

In section 805(a)(3), insert ", including manufacturing surge capacity," after "evaluation of the competitive strengths and weaknesses of United States industry".

AMENDMENT NO. 2270

(Purpose: To provide assistance for United States citizens and nationals taken hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, and for other purposes)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2248

(Purpose: Relating to the Space Force)

After section 931, insert the following:

SEC. 931A. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF SPACE OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 908 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 931(e) of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating section 9083 as section 9085; and

(2) by inserting after section 9082 the following new sections:

"§ 9083. Office of the Chief of Space Operations: function; composition

"(a) FUNCTION.—There is in the executive part of the Department of the Air Force an Office of the Chief of Space Operations to assist the Secretary of the Air Force in carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary.

"(b) COMPOSITION.—The Office of the Chief of Space Operations is composed of the following:

"(1) The Chief of Space Operations.

"(2) Such other offices and officials as may be established by law or as the Secretary of the Air Force may establish or designate.

"(3) Other members of the Space Force and Air Force assigned or detailed to the Office of the Chief of Space Operations.

"(4) Civilian employees in the Department of the Air Force assigned or detailed to the Office of the Chief of Space Operations.

"(c) ORGANIZATION.—Except as otherwise specifically prescribed by law, the Office of the Chief of Space Operations shall be organized in such manner, and the members of the Office of the Chief of Space Operations shall perform such duties and have such titles, as the Secretary of the Air Force may prescribe.

"§ 9084. Office of the Chief of Space Operations: general duties

"(a) PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The Office of the Chief of Space Operations shall furnish professional assistance to the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Space Operations, and other personnel of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force or the Office of the Chief of Space Operations.

"(b) AUTHORITIES.—Under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Office of the Chief of Space Operations shall—

"(1) subject to subsections (c) and (d) of section 9014 of this title, prepare for such employment of the Space Force, and for such recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping (including research and development), training, servicing, mobilizing, demobilizing, administering, and maintaining of the Space Force, as will assist in the execution of any power, duty, or function of the Secretary of the Air Force or the Chief of Space Operations;

"(2) investigate and report upon the efficiency of the Space Force and its preparation to support military operations by commanders of the combatant commands;

"(3) prepare detailed instructions for the execution of approved plans and supervise the execution of those plans and instructions;

"(4) as directed by the Secretary of the Air Force or the Chief of Space Operations, coordinate the action of organizations of the Space Force; and

"(5) perform such other duties, not otherwise assigned by law, as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Air Force.".

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 908 of such title, as amended by section 931(f) of this Act, is further amended by striking the item related to section 9083 and inserting the following the following new items:

"9083. Office of the Chief of Space Operations: function; composition.

"9084. Office of the Chief of Space Operations: general duties.

"9085. Regular Space Force: composition.".

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title IX, add the following:

SEC. 944. CLARIFICATION OF PROCUREMENT OF COMMERCIAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 963 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting before section 9532 the following new section:

"§ 9531. Procurement of commercial satellite communications services

"The Secretary of the Air Force shall be responsible for the procurement of commercial satellite communications services for the Department of Defense.".

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 963 of such title is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 9532 the following new item:

"9531. Procurement of commercial satellite communications services.".

SEC. 945. TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM AUTHORIZED DAILY AVERAGE OF MEMBERS IN PAY GRADES E–8 AND E–9.

Section 517 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to the Space Force until October 1, 2023.

SEC. 946. APPLICATION OF ACQUISITION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO ACQUISITION POSITIONS WITHIN THE SPACE FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 81 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 1599i. Application of acquisition demonstration project to Department of the Air Force employees assigned to acquisition positions within the Space Force

"For purposes of the demonstration project authorized by section 1762 of this title, the Secretary of Defense may apply the provisions of such section, including any regulations, procedures, waivers, or guidance implementing such section, to employees of the Department of the Air Force assigned to acquisition positions within the Space Force.".

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"1599i. Application of acquisition demonstration project to Department of the Air Force employees assigned to acquisition positions within the Space Force.".

SEC. 947. AIR AND SPACE FORCE MEDAL.

(a) SUPERSEDURE OF AIRMAN'S MEDAL WITH AIR AND SPACE FORCE MEDAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9280 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking "Airman's Medal" each place it appears and inserting "Air and Space Force Medal"; and

(B) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting "or the Space Force" after "the Air Force".

(2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

"§ 9280. Air and Space Force Medal: award; limitations".

(3) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 937 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 9280 and inserting the following new item:

"9280. Air and Space Force Medal: award; limitations.".

(b) DIFFERENTIATION IN DESIGN.—The President shall ensure that the design of the Air and Space Force Medal and accompanying ribbon (and any related bar or device) awarded under section 9280 of title 10, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)), differs in an appropriate manner from the design of the Airman's Medal and accompanying ribbon, bar, or device awarded under section 9280 of title 10, United States Code, as such section was in effect on the date before the date of the enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 2275

(Purpose: To require a plan for the continuity of the economy)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2277

(Purpose: To impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons involved in the erosion of certain obligations of China with respect to Hong Kong)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2204

(Purpose: To amend the Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997 to authorize the transfer of funds for the endowment fund for the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND.

Section 7(1) of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 450ss–5(1)) is amended by striking ''there is hereby authorized'' and inserting ''the Secretary may provide, from the National Park Service's national recreation and preservation account, the remainder of''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2417

(Purpose: To modify the requirements for the Department of Energy response to the review by the Nuclear Weapons Council of the budget of the National Nuclear Security Administration)

Beginning on page 1028, strike line 7 and all that follows through page 1029, line 8, and insert the following:

''(3) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Council submits to the Secretary of Energy a written description under paragraph (2)(B)(i) with respect to the budget request of the Administration for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall include as an appendix to the budget request submitted to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget—

''(i) the funding levels and initiatives identified in the description under paragraph (2)(B)(i); and

''(ii) any additional comments the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(B) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Energy shall transmit to Congress, with the budget justification materials submitted in support of the Department of Energy budget for a fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), a copy of the appendix described in subparagraph (A).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1797

(Purpose: To improve the authority for operations of unmanned aircraft for educational purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. IMPROVING THE AUTHORITY FOR OPERATIONS OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

Section 350 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254; 49 U.S.C 44809 note) is amended

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**'' and inserting ''**FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES**''; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''aircraft system operated by'' and inserting the following: ''aircraft system—

''(1) operated by'';

(B) in paragraph (1), as added by subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) flown as part of the established curriculum of an elementary school or secondary school (as such terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

''(3) flown as part of an established Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program; or

''(4) flown as part of an educational program that is chartered by a recognized community-based organization (as defined in subsection (h) of such section).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1825

(Purpose: To require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REQUIREMENT TO POST A 100 WORD SUMMARY TO REGULATIONS.GOV.

Section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) the Internet address of a summary of not more than 100 words in length of the proposed rule, in plain language, that shall be posted on the Internet website under section 206(d) of the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note) (commonly known as regulations.gov).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1878

(Purpose: To authorize certain postgraduate health care employees and health professions trainees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment via telemedicine)

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. MODIFICATION OF LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING TREATMENT VIA TELEMEDICINE.

Section 1730C(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) COVERED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—For purposes of this section, a covered health care professional is any of the following individuals:

''(1) A health care professional who—

''(A) is an employee of the Department appointed under section 7306, 7401, 7405, 7406, or 7408 of this title or title 5;

''(B) is authorized by the Secretary to provide health care under this chapter;

''(C) is required to adhere to all standards for quality relating to the provision of health care in accordance with applicable policies of the Department; and

''(D)(i) has an active, current, full, and unrestricted license, registration, or certification in a State to practice the health care profession of the health care professional; or

''(ii) with respect to a health care profession listed under section 7402(b) of this title, has the qualifications for such profession as set forth by the Secretary.

''(2) A postgraduate health care employee who—

''(A) is appointed under section 7401(1), 7401(3), or 7405 of this title or title 5 for any category of personnel described in paragraph (1) or (3) of section 7401 of this title;

''(B) must obtain an active, current, full, and unrestricted license, registration, or certification or meet qualification standards set forth by the Secretary within a specified time frame; and

''(C) is under the clinical supervision of a health care professional described in paragraph (1); or

''(3) A health professions trainee who—

''(A) is appointed under section 7405 or 7406 of this title; and

''(B) is under the clinical supervision of a health care professional described in paragraph (1).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1966

(Purpose: To provide assistance to manage farmer and rancher stress and for the mental health of individuals in rural areas)

At appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1_____. ASSISTANCE FOR FARMER AND RANCHER STRESS AND MENTAL HEALTH OF INDIVIDUALS IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the suicide rate is 45 percent greater in rural areas of the United States than the suicide rate in urban areas of the United States;

(2) farmers face social isolation, the potential for financial losses, barriers to seeking mental health services, and access to lethal means to commit suicide; and

(3) as commodity prices fall and farmers face uncertainty, reports of farmer suicides are increasing.

(c) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS FARM AND RANCH MENTAL HEALTH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a public service announcement campaign to address the mental health of farmers and ranchers.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The public service announcement campaign under paragraph (1) shall include television, radio, print, outdoor, and digital public service announcements.

(3) CONTRACTOR.—The Secretary may enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to carry out the public service announcement campaign under paragraph (1).

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection $3,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(d) EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAM TO MANAGE FARMER AND RANCHER STRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 224B. EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAM TO MANAGE FARMER AND RANCHER STRESS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a voluntary program to train employees of the Farm Service Agency, the Risk Management Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the management of stress experienced by farmers and ranchers, including the detection of stress and suicide prevention.

''(b) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary submits a report on the results of the pilot program being carried out by the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this section to train employees of the Department in the management of stress experienced by farmers and ranchers, and based on the recommendations contained in that report, the Secretary shall develop a training program to carry out subsection (a).

''(c) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the implementation of this section.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by redesignating section 225 (7 U.S.C. 6925) as section 224A.

(B) Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry out section 224B.''.

(e) TASK FORCE FOR ASSESSMENT OF CAUSES OF MENTAL STRESS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR RESPONSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene a task force of agricultural and rural stakeholders at the national, State, and local levels—

(A) to assess the causes of mental stress in farmers and ranchers; and

(B) to identify best practices for responding to that mental stress.

(2) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force convened under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary a report containing the assessment and best practices under subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, of that paragraph.

(3) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the task force convened under paragraph (1) shall collaborate with nongovernmental organizations and State and local agencies.

AMENDMENT NO. 1971

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans read-only access to the documents of such veterans contained in the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record)

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 752. ACCESS OF VETERANS TO INDIVIDUAL LONGITUDINAL EXPOSURE RECORD.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall provide to a veteran read-only access to the documents of the veteran contained in the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record in a printable format through a portal accessible through a website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and a website of the Department of Defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 1991

(Purpose: To establish limitations regarding Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. RESTRICTIONS ON CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''Confucius Institute'' means a cultural institute directly or indirectly funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

(b) RESTRICTIONS ON CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES.—An institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution (referred to in this section as an ''institution'') shall not be eligible to receive Federal funds from the Department of Education (except funds under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or other Department of Education funds that are provided directly to students) unless the institution ensures that any contract or agreement between the institution and a Confucius Institute includes clear provisions that—

(1) protect academic freedom at the institution;

(2) prohibit the application of any foreign law on any campus of the institution; and

(3) grant full managerial authority of the Confucius Institute to the institution, including full control over what is being taught, the activities carried out, the research grants that are made, and who is employed at the Confucius Institute.

AMENDMENT NO. 2053

(Purpose: To impose reporting requirements relating to the SBIR and STTR programs of the Small Business Administration)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 9(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) with respect to a Federal agency to which subsection (f)(1) or (n)(1) applies, whether the Federal agency has satisfied the requirement under each applicable subsection for the year covered by the report;'';

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) with respect to a Federal agency to which subsection (f)(1) or (n)(1) applies and that the Administration determines has not satisfied the requirement under either applicable subsection, require the head of that Federal agency to submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report regarding why the Federal agency has not satisfied the requirement.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2138

(Purpose: To leverage commercial satellite remote sensing)

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

SEC. _____. LEVERAGING COMMERCIAL SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In acquiring geospatial-intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office and the Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, shall leverage, to the maximum extent practicable, the capabilities of United States industry, including through the use of commercial geospatial-intelligence services and acquisition of commercial satellite imagery.

(b) OBTAINING FUTURE GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE DATA.—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, as part of an analysis of alternatives for the future acquisition of space systems for geospatial-intelligence, shall—

(1) consider whether there is a suitable, cost-effective, commercial capability available that can meet any or all of the geospatial-intelligence requirements of the Department and the intelligence community;

(2) if a suitable, cost-effective, commercial capability is available as described in paragraph (1), determine whether it is in the national interest to develop a governmental space system for geospatial intelligence; and

(3) include, as part of the established acquisition reporting requirements to the appropriate committees of Congress, any determination made under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(C) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

AMENDMENT NO. 2168

(Purpose: To express the Sense of Congress on support for coordinated action to ensure the security of Baltic allies)

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1242. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUPPORT FOR COORDINATED ACTION TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF BALTIC ALLIES.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the continued security of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania is critical to achieving United States national security interests and defense objectives against the acute and formidable threat posed by Russia;

(2) the United States and the Baltic states are leaders in the mission of defending independence and democracy from aggression and in promoting stability and security within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with non-NATO partners, and with other international organizations such as the European Union;

(3) the Baltic states are model NATO allies in terms of burden sharing and capital investment in materiel critical to United States and allied security, investment of over 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense expenditure, allocating over 20 percent of their defense budgets on capital modernization, matching security assistance from the United States, frequently deploying their forces around the world in support of allied and United States objectives, and sharing diplomatic, technical, military, and analytical expertise on defense and security matters;

(4) the United States should continue to strengthen bilateral and multilateral defense by, with, and through allied nations, particularly those that possess expertise and dexterity but do not enjoy the benefits of national economies of scale;

(5) the United States should pursue a dedicated initiative focused on defense and security assistance, coordination, and planning designed to ensure the continued security of the Baltic states and on deterring current and future challenges to the national sovereignty of United States allies and partners in the Baltic region; and

(6) such an initiative should include an innovative and comprehensive conflict deterrence strategy for the Baltic region encompassing the unique geography of the Baltic states, modern and diffuse threats to their land, sea, and air spaces, and necessary improvements to their defense posture, including command-and-control infrastructure, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities, communications equipment and networks, and special forces.

AMENDMENT NO. 2217

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on military aviators and aviation support personnel to determine the incidence of cancer diagnosis and mortality among such aviators and personnel)

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 752. STUDY ON THE INCIDENCE OF CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND MORTALITY AMONG MILITARY AVIATORS AND AVIATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute, shall conduct a study on cancer among covered individuals in two phases as provided in this subsection.

(2) PHASE 1.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under the initial phase of the study conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall determine if there is a higher incidence of cancers occurring for covered individuals as compared to similar age groups in the general population through the use of the database of the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program of the National Cancer Institute.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the initial phase of the study under subparagraph (A).

(3) PHASE 2.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If, pursuant to the initial phase of the study under paragraph (2), the Secretary concludes that there is an increased rate of cancers among covered individuals, the Secretary shall conduct a second phase of the study under which the Secretary shall do the following:

(i) Identify the carcinogenic toxins or hazardous materials associated with military flight operations from shipboard or land bases or facilities, such as fuels, fumes, and other liquids.

(ii) Identify the operating environments, including frequencies or electromagnetic fields, where exposure to ionizing radiation (associated with high altitude flight) and nonionizing radiation (associated with airborne, ground, and shipboard radars) occurred in which covered individuals could have received increased radiation amounts.

(iii) Identify, for each covered individual, duty stations, dates of service, aircraft flown, and additional duties (including Landing Safety Officer, Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer, Air Liaison Officer, Tactical Air Control Party, or personnel associated with aircraft maintenance, supply, logistics, fuels, or transportation) that could have increased the risk of cancer for such covered individual.

(iv) Determine locations where a covered individual served or additional duties of a covered individual that are associated with higher incidences of cancers.

(v) Identify potential exposures due to service in the Armed Forces that are not related to aviation, such as exposure to burn pits or toxins in contaminated water, embedded in the soil, or inside bases or housing.

(vi) Determine the appropriate age to begin screening covered individuals for cancer based on race, gender, flying hours, period of service as aviation support personnel, Armed Force, type of aircraft, and mission.

(B) DATA.—The Secretary shall format all data included in the study conducted under this paragraph in accordance with the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program of the National Cancer Institute, including by disaggregating such data by race, gender, and age.

(C) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the submittal of the report under paragraph (2)(B), if the Secretary conducts the second phase of the study under this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the study conducted under this paragraph.

(4) USE OF DATA FROM PREVIOUS STUDIES.—In conducting the study under this subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall incorporate data from previous studies conducted by the Air Force, the Navy, or the Marine Corps that are relevant to the study under this subsection, including data from the comprehensive study conducted by the Air Force identifying each covered individual and documenting the cancers, dates of diagnoses, and mortality of each covered individual.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) ARMED FORCES.—The term ''Armed Forces''—

(A) has the meaning given the term ''armed forces'' in section 101 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) includes the reserve components named in section 10101 of such title.

(3) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual''—

(A) means an aviator or aviation support personnel who—

(i) served in the Armed Forces on or after February 28, 1961; and

(ii) receives benefits under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) includes any air crew member of fixed-wing aircraft and personnel supporting generation of the aircraft, including pilots, navigators, weapons systems operators, aircraft system operators, personnel associated with aircraft maintenance, supply, logistics, fuels, or transportation, and any other crew member who regularly flies in an aircraft or is required to complete the mission of the aircraft.

AMENDMENT NO. 2220

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate on the extension of limitations on the importation of uranium from the Russian Federation)

At the end of subtitle F of title XXXI, add the following:

SEC. 3168. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON EXTENSION OF LIMITATIONS ON IMPORTATION OF URANIUM FROM RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) a secure nuclear fuel supply chain is essential to the economic and national security of the United States;

(2) the United States should—

(A) expeditiously complete negotiation of an extension of the Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Investigation on Uranium from the Russian Federation (commonly referred to as the ''Russian Suspension Agreement''); or

(B) if an agreement to extend the Russian Suspension Agreement cannot be reached, complete the antidumping investigation under title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) with respect to imports of uranium from the Russian Federation—

(i) to avoid unfair trade in uranium and maintain a nuclear fuel supply chain in the United States, consistent with the national security and nonproliferation goals of the United States; and

(ii) to protect the United States nuclear fuel supply chain from the continued manipulation of the global and United States uranium markets by the Russian Federation and Russian-influenced competitors;

(3) a renegotiated, long-term extension of the Russian Suspension Agreement can prevent adversaries of the United States from monopolizing the nuclear fuel supply chain;

(4) as was done in 2008, upon completion of a new negotiated long-term extension of the Russian Suspension Agreement, Congress should enact legislation to codify the terms of extension into law to ensure long-term stability for the domestic nuclear fuel supply chain; and

(5) if the negotiations to extend the Russian Suspension Agreement prove unsuccessful, Congress should be prepared to enact legislation to prevent the manipulation by the Russian Federation of global uranium markets and potential domination by the Russian Federation of the United States uranium market.

AMENDMENT NO. 2235

(Purpose: To authorize a pilot program to explore the use of consumption-based solutions to address software-intensive warfighting capability)

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 884. PILOT PROGRAM EXPLORING THE USE OF CONSUMPTION-BASED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS SOFTWARE-INTENSIVE WARFIGHTING CAPABILITY.

(a) FINDING.—In its final report, the Section 809 Panel recommended the adoption of consumption-based approaches at the Department of Defense, stating, ''More things will be sold as a service in the future. XaaS could really mean everything in the context of the Internet of things (IoT). Consumption-based solutions are appearing in many industry sectors, from last mile transportation (e.g., bike shares and electric scooters) to agriculture (e.g., tractor-as-a-service for farmers in developing countries). Most smart phone users are familiar with software updates that provide bug fixes or new features. A more extreme example of technology innovation enabled by the IoT is the ability to deliver physical performance improvements to vehicles through over-the-air software updates. . . In the not-so-distant future, cloud computing and the IoT will enable consumption-based solution offerings and delivery models that are hard to imagine today.''

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress—

(1) that the Department of Defense should take advantage of ''as-a-service'' or ''aaS'' approaches in commercial capability development, particularly where the capability is software-defined, and cloud-enabled;

(2) to support the Department of Defense's commitment to new approaches to development and acquisition of software;

(3) that the Department should explore a variety of approaches, to include the use of consumption-based solutions for software-intensive warfighting capability; and

(4) that, in conducting activities under the pilot program established under this program, the Department should use the Software pathway under the new Adaptive Acquisition Framework.

(c) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to establish a pilot program to explore the use of consumption-based solutions to address software-intensive warfighting capability.

(d) SELECTION OF INITIATIVES.—The Secretary of each military department and the commander of each combatant command with acquisition authority shall propose for selection by the Secretary of Defense for the pilot program at least one and not more than three initiatives that are well-suited to explore consumption-based solutions to address software-intensive warfighting capability. The initiatives may be new or existing programs of record and shall focus on software-defined or machine-enabled warfighting applications, and may include applications that—

(1) rapidly analyze sensor data;

(2) secure warfighter networks, including multi-level security;

(3) swiftly transport information across various networks and network modalities; or

(4) otherwise enable joint all-domain operational concepts, including in a contested environment.

(e) CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.—Contracts for consumption-based solutions entered into

pursuant to the pilot program shall provide for—

(1) the solution to be measurable on a frequent interval customary for the type of solution;

(2) the contractor to notify the government when consumption reaches 75 percent and 90 percent of the contract funded amount; and

(3) discretion for the contracting officer to add new features or capabilities without additional competition for the contract, provided that the amount of the new features or capabilities does not exceed 25 percent of the total contract value.

(f) DURATION OF INITIATIVES.—Each initiative carried out under the pilot program shall be carried out during the three-year period following selection of the initiative.

(g) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Director of the Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation shall establish continuous monitoring to evaluate the pilot program established under subsection (c), including collecting data on cost, schedule, and performance from the program office, the user community, and the contractors.

(h) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than January 31, 2021, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on initiatives selected for the pilot program, roles and responsibilities for implementing the pilot program, and the monitoring and evaluation approach for the pilot.

(2) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than April 15, 2021, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the progress of the initiatives.

(3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of the initiatives. The report shall also include lessons learned about the use of consumption-based solutions for software-intensive capabilities and any recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes to facilitate their use.

(i) CONSUMPTION-BASED SOLUTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''consumption-based solution'' means any combination of software, hardware or equipment, and labor or services that provides a seamless capability that is metered and billed based on actual usage and predetermined pricing per resource unit, and includes the ability to rapidly scale capacity up or down.

AMENDMENT NO. 2257

(Purpose: To require a report on the use and potential refurbishment of existing operating and mothballed Federal research and testing facilities to support hypersonics activities of the Department of Defense)

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON USE OF TESTING FACILITIES TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP HYPERSONIC TECHNOLOGY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the costs and benefits of the use and potential refurbishment of existing operating and mothballed Federal research and testing facilities to support hypersonics activities of the Department of Defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 2287

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on cyberexploitation of members of the Armed Forces and their families)

At the end of subtitle B of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY ON CYBEREXPLOITATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 150 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall complete a study on the cyberexploitation of the personal information and accounts of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An intelligence assessment of the threat currently posed by foreign government and non-state actor cyberexploitation of members of the Armed Forces and their families, including generalized assessments as to whether cyberexploitation of members of the Armed Forces and their families is a substantial threat as compared to other means of information warfare and as to whether cyberexploitation of members of the Armed Forces and their families is an increasing threat.

(2) Case-study analysis of three known occurrences of attempted cyberexploitation against members of the Armed Forces and their families, including assessments of the vulnerability and the ultimate consequences of the attempted cyberexploitation.

(3) A description of the actions taken by the Department of Defense to educate members of the Armed Forces and their families, including particularly vulnerable subpopulations, about any actions that can be taken to reduce these threats.

(4) An intelligence assessment of the threat posed by foreign government and non-state actor creation and use of deep fakes featuring members of the Armed Forces or their families, including generalized assessments of the maturity of the technology used in the creation of deep fakes and as to how deep fakes have been used or might be used to conduct information warfare.

(5) Development of recommendations for policy changes to reduce the vulnerability of members of the Armed Forces and their families to cyberexploitation, including recommendations for legislative or administrative action.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study required by subsection (a).

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''cyberexploitation'' means the use of digital means to knowingly access, or conspire to access, without authorization, an individual's personal information to be employed (or to be used) with malicious intent.

(2) The term ''deep fake'' means the digital insertion of a person's likeness into or digital alteration of a person's likeness in visual media, such as photographs and videos, without the person's permission and with malicious intent.

AMENDMENT NO. 2298

(Purpose: To require a report on round-the-clock availability of childcare for members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense who work rotating shifts)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1064. REPORT ON ROUND-THE-CLOCK AVAILABILITY OF CHILDCARE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WHO WORK ROTATING SHIFTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the results of a study, conducted by the Secretary for purposes of the report, on the feasibility and advisability of making round-the-clock childcare available for children of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense who works on rotating shifts at military installations.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The results of the study described in that subsection.

(2) If the Secretary determines that making round-the-clock childcare available as described in subsection (a) is feasible and advisable, such matters as the Secretary considers appropriate in connection with making such childcare available, including—

(A) an identification of the installations at which such childcare would be beneficial to members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the Department, or both;

(B) an identification of any barriers to making such childcare available at the installations identified pursuant to subparagraph (A);

(C) an assessment whether the childcare needs of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department described in subsection (a) would be better met by an increase in assistance for childcare fees;

(D) a description and assessment of the actions, if any, being taken to make such childcare available at the installations identified pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

(E) such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to make such childcare available at the installations identified pursuant to subparagraph (A), or at any other military installations.

AMENDMENT NO. 2317

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to commission an independent scientific study of the impacts of transboundary flows, spills, or discharges of pollution or debris from the Tijuana River on the personnel, activities, and installations of the Department of Defense)

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 320. STUDY ON IMPACTS OF TRANSBOUNDARY FLOWS, SPILLS, OR DISCHARGES OF POLLUTION OR DEBRIS FROM THE TIJUANA RIVER ON PERSONNEL, ACTIVITIES, AND INSTALLATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of State, and the United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, shall commission an independent scientific study of the impacts of transboundary flows, spills, or discharges of pollution or debris from the Tijuana River on the personnel, activities, and installations of the Department of Defense.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The study required by paragraph (1) shall address the short-term, long-term, primary, and secondary impacts of transboundary flows, spills, or discharges of pollution or debris from the Tijuana River and include recommendations to mitigate such impacts.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report

containing the results of the study under subsection (a), including all findings and recommendations resulting from the study.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 2319

(Purpose: To provide an exception to the limitation on period of care provided to newborn children of veterans)

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1085. ADDITIONAL CARE FOR NEWBORN CHILDREN OF VETERANS.

Section 1786 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (c), the Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) EXCEPTION BASED ON MEDICAL NECESSITY.—Pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe to carry out this section, the Secretary may furnish more than seven days of health care services described in subsection (b), and may furnish transportation necessary to receive such services, to a newborn child based on medical necessity if the child is in need of additional care, including if the child has been discharged or released from a hospital and requires readmittance to ensure the health and welfare of the child.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2326

(Purpose: To strike the provision relating to laboratory- or production facility-directed research and development programs)

Strike section 3152.

AMENDMENT NO. 2327

(Purpose: To require a study and plan on the use of additive manufacturing and three-dimensional bioprinting in support of the warfighter)

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY AND PLAN ON THE USE OF ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL BIOPRINTING IN SUPPORT OF THE WARFIGHTER.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study on the use of additive manufacturing and three-dimensional bioprinting across the Military Health System.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection (a) shall examine the activities currently underway by each of the military services and the Department agencies, including costs, sources of funding, oversight, collaboration, and outcomes.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 2331

(Purpose: To modify the authorities on micro nuclear reactor programs)

In section 235, strike the section heading and insert the following:

SEC. 235. REPORT ON MICRO NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAMS.

In section 235, strike subsections (e) and (f).

AMENDMENT NO. 2341

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of the Army to submit to Congress a plan to finish remediation activities conducted by the Secretary in Umatilla, Oregon)

At the end of title XXVII, add the following:

SEC. 2703. PLAN TO FINISH REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY IN UMATILLA, OREGON.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to Congress a plan to finish remediation activities conducted by the Secretary in Umatilla, Oregon, by not later than three years after such date of enactment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2370

(Purpose: To improve section 212, relating to governance of fifth-generation wireless networking in the Department of Defense)

In section 212, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

(c) CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAM FOR FIFTH-GENERATION WIRELESS NETWORKING.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in accordance with section 911(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 10 U.S.C. 111 note), establish a cross-functional team for fifth-generation wireless networking in order—

(A) to advance the adoption of commercially available next generation wireless communication technologies, capabilities, security, and applications by the Department of Defense and the defense industrial base; and

(B) to support public-private partnership between the Department and industry regarding fifth-generation wireless networking.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the cross-functional team established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be the—

(A) oversight of the implementation of the strategy developed as required by section 254 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92) for harnessing fifth-generation wireless networking technologies, coordinated across all relevant elements of the Department;

(B) coordination of research and development, implementation and acquisition activities, warfighting concept development, spectrum policy, industrial policy and commercial outreach and partnership relating to fifth-generation wireless networking in the Department, and interagency and international engagement;

(C) integration of the Department's fifth-generation wireless networking programs and policies with major Department initiatives, programs, and policies surrounding secure microelectronics and command and control; and

(D) oversight, coordination, execution, and leadership of initiatives to advance fifth-generation wireless network technologies and associated applications developed for the Department.

AMENDMENT NO. 2378

(Purpose: To amend the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to authorize the Open Technology Fund of the United States Agency for Global Media and to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy)

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1693

(Purpose: To provide compensation and credit for retired pay purposes for maternity leave taken by members of the reserve components)

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. _____. COMPENSATION AND CREDIT FOR RETIRED PAY PURPOSES FOR MATERNITY LEAVE TAKEN BY MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS.

(a) COMPENSATION.—Section 206(a) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) for each of 6 days in connection with the taking by the member of a period of maternity leave.''.

(b) CREDIT FOR RETIRED PAY PURPOSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The period of maternity leave taken by a member of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in connection with the birth of a child shall count toward the member's entitlement to retired pay, and in connection with the years of service used in computing retired pay, under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code, as 12 points.

(2) SEPARATE CREDIT FOR EACH PERIOD OF LEAVE.—Separate crediting of points shall accrue to a member pursuant to this subsection for each period of maternity leave taken by the member in connection with a childbirth event.

(3) WHEN CREDITED.—Points credited a member for a period of maternity leave pursuant to this subsection shall be credited in the year in which the period of maternity leave concerned commences.

(4) CONTRIBUTION OF LEAVE TOWARD ENTITLEMENT TO RETIRED PAY.—Section 12732(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph:

''(F) Points at the rate of 12 a year for the taking of maternity leave.''.

(5) COMPUTATION OF YEARS OF SERVICE FOR RETIRED PAY.—Section 12733 of such title is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

''(5) One day for each point credited to the person under subparagraph (F) of section 12732(a)(2) of this title.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to periods of maternity leave that commence on or after that date.

AMENDMENT NO. 2418

(Purpose: To eliminate a provision relating to the distribution of launches for phase two of the acquisition strategy for the National Security Space Launch program)

Strike section 1602.

AMENDMENT NO. 2419

(Purpose: To provide incentives for the Department of Defense to achieve a clean audit opinion on its financial statements)

At the end of subtitle A of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1003. INCENTIVES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT BY THE COMPONENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINIONS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

(a) INCENTIVES REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense

(Comptroller) shall, acting through the Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Defense, develop and issue guidance to incentivize the achievement by each department, agency, and other component of the Department of Defense of unqualified audit opinions on their financial statements.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth a description and assessment of current and proposed incentives for the achievement of unqualified audit opinions as described in subsection (a).

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 2084

(Purpose: To require an annual allied burden sharing report)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ALLIED BURDEN SHARING REPORT.

(a) FINDING; SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress finds that section 1003 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1985 (Public Law 98–525; 63 Stat. 2241)—

(A) expresses the sense of Congress that, due to threats that are ever-changing, Congress must be informed with respect to allied contributions to the common defense to properly assess the readiness of the United States and the countries described in subsection (b)(2) for threats; and

(B) requires the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress an annual report on the contributions of allies to the common defense.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the threats facing the United States—

(i) extend beyond the global war on terror; and

(ii) include near-peer threats; and

(B) the President should seek from each country described in subsection (b)(2) acceptance of international security responsibilities and agreements to make contributions to the common defense in accordance with the collective defense agreements or treaties to which such country is a party.

(b) REPORTS ON ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 each year, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the heads of other Federal agencies, as the Secretary determines to be necessary, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing a description of—

(A) the annual defense spending by each country described in paragraph (2), including available data on nominal budget figures and defense spending as a percentage of the gross domestic products of each such country for the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the report is submitted;

(B) the activities of each such country to contribute to military or stability operations in which the Armed Forces of the United States are a participant or may be called upon in accordance with a cooperative defense agreement to which the United States is a party;

(C) any limitations placed by any such country on the use of such contributions; and

(D) any actions undertaken by the United States or by other countries to minimize such limitations.

(2) COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.—The countries described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Each member state of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(B) Each member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

(C) Each country party to the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), done at Rio de Janeiro September 2, 1947, and entered into force December 3, 1948 (TIAS 1838).

(D) Australia.

(E) Japan.

(F) New Zealand.

(G) The Philippines.

(H) South Korea.

(I) Thailand.

(3) FORM.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(4) AVAILABILITY.—A report submitted under paragraph (1) shall be made available on request to any Member of Congress.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 1849

(Purpose: For the relief of Richard W. Collins III)

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. _____. RELIEF OF RICHARD W. COLLINS III.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On May 20, 2017, Lieutenant Richard W. Collins III was murdered on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

(2) At the time of his murder, Lieutenant Collins had graduated from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Bowie State University and received a commission in the United States Army.

(3) At the time of the murder of Lieutenant Collins, a graduate of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps who received a commission but died before receiving a first duty assignment was not eligible for a death gratuity under section 1475(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, or for casualty assistance under section 633 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (10 U.S.C. 1475 note).

(4) Section 623 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92) amended section 1475 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the payment of a death gratuity to a graduate of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC) who receives a commission but dies before receiving a first duty assignment.

(5) Section 625 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 authorizes the families of Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduates to receive casualty assistance in the event of the death of such graduates.

(6) Sections 623 and 625 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 apply only to a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduate who receives a commission but dies before receiving a first duty assignment on or after the date of the enactment of that Act.

(7) The death of Lieutenant Collins played a critical role in changing the eligibility criteria for the death gratuity for Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduates who die prior to their first assignment.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.—

(1) DEATH GRATUITY.—Section 623 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92), and the amendment made by that section, shall apply to Lieutenant Richard W. Collins III as if his death had occurred after the date of the enactment of that section.

(2) CASUALTY ASSISTANCE.—Section 625 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, and the amendment made by that section, shall apply to Lieutenant Richard W. Collins III as if his death had occurred after the date of the enactment of that section.

(c) LIMITATION.—No amount exceeding 10 percent of a payment made under subsection (b)(1) may be paid to or received by any attorney or agent for services rendered in connection with the payment. Any person who violates this subsection shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be subject to a fine in the amount provided under title 18, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 2103

(Purpose: To improve the response of the Department of Defense to threats to United States forces from small unmanned aerial systems worldwide)

At the end of subtitle D of title IX, add the following:

SEC. _____. THREATS TO UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) United States military forces face an ever increasing and constantly evolving threat from small unmanned aerial systems in operations worldwide, whether in the United States or abroad.

(2) The Department of Defense is already doing important work to address the threats from small unmanned aerial systems worldwide, though the need for engagement in that area continues.

(b) EXECUTIVE AGENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army is the executive agent of the Department of Defense for programs, projects, and activities to counter small unmanned aerial systems (in this section referred to as the ''Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program'').

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Secretary as executive agent shall be as follows:

(A) To develop the strategy required by subsection (c).

(B) To carry out such other activities to counter threats to United States forces worldwide from small unmanned aerial systems as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army consider appropriate.

(3) STRUCTURE.—The Secretary as executive agent shall carry out the functions specified in paragraph (2) through such administrative structures as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) STRATEGY TO COUNTER THREATS FROM SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army, as executive agent for the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program, shall develop and submit to relevant committees of Congress a strategy for the Armed Forces to effectively counter threats from small unmanned aerial systems worldwide. The report shall be submitted in classified form.

(d) REPORT ON EXECUTIVE AGENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this

Act, the Secretary of the Army, as executive agent for the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program, shall submit to Congress a report on the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description and assessment of the structure and activities of the executive agent as established and put in place by the Secretary, including the following:

(i) Any obstacles hindering the effective discharge of its functions and activities, including limitations in authorities or policy.

(ii) The changes, if any, to airspace management, rules of engagement, and training plans that are required in order to optimize the use by the Armed Forces of counter-small unmanned aerial systems.

(B) An assessment of the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (c), and a description of any updates to the strategy that are required in light of evolving threats to the Armed Forces from small unmanned aerial systems.

(e) REPORT ON THREAT FROM SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the submittal of the strategy required by subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sets forth a direct comparison between the threats United States forces in combat settings face from small unmanned aerial systems and the capabilities of the United States to counter such threats. The report shall be submitted in classified form.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the report required by paragraph (1) in coordination with the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and with such other appropriate officials of the intelligence community, and such other officials in the United States Government, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An evaluation and assessment of the current and evolving threat being faced by United States forces from small unmanned aerial systems.

(B) A description of the counter-small unmanned aerial system systems acquired by the Department of Defense as of the date of the enactment of this Act, and an assessment whether such systems are adequate to meet the current and evolving threat described in subparagraph (A).

(4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(f) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF COUNTER-SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS PROGRAM.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the submittal of the strategy required by subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract with a Federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the efficacy of the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An identification of metrics to assess progress in the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (c), which metrics shall take into account the threat assessment required for purposes of subsection (e).

(B) An assessment of progress, and key challenges, in the implementation of the strategy using such metrics, and recommendations for improvements in the implementation of the strategy.

(C) An assessment of the extent to which the Department of Defense is coordinating adequately with other departments and agencies of the United States Government, and other appropriate entities, in the development and procurement of counter-small unmanned aerial systems for the Department.

(D) An assessment of the extent to which the designation of the Secretary of the Army as executive agent for the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program has reduced redundancies and increased efficiencies in procurement of counter-small unmanned aerial systems.

(E) An assessment whether United States technological progress on counter-small unmanned aerial systems is sufficient to maintain a competitive edge over the small unmanned aerial systems technology available to United States adversaries.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after entry into the contract referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the results of the assessment required under the contract.

AMENDMENT NO. 2422

(Purpose: To support supply chain innovation and multilateral security)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk for the substitute amendment No. 2301.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on amendment No. 2301 to Calendar No. 483, S. 4049, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Thune, James M. Inhofe, Jerry Moran, Joni Ernst, John Boozman.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 483, S. 4049, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Thune, James M. Inhofe, Jerry Moran, Joni Ernst, John Boozman.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions ripen following the disposition of the Tester amendment No. 1972, as modified.

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

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—AMENDMENT NO. 2352

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to add my amendment No. 2352 to the list of amendments to be voted on under the previous agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REED. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago, my colleagues across the aisle tried to pull a fast one on the American people. Behind closed doors, with no public hearings and no public debate, they decided that some of the names of our Nation's military bases must be removed, stripped, replaced, erased, and they decided that war memorials of fallen soldiers should come down. I objected to that effort then, and I object to it now.

The national defense legislation that we are considering, the legislation that funds our military and protects our citizens, should not be turned into a vehicle for the cancel culture. The cancel culture that I think you know what I mean—the cancel culture that is tearing down statues of George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt now, for heaven's sake—this cancel movement seeks to divide us, not unite; to erase our history, rather than to reckon with it; to turn away from our long and shared struggle to forge a more perfect Union, and, instead, to build an entirely different America of a kind of woke fundamentalism.

I am here to advocate for a better way. All I ask for is a vote on an amendment to have this discussion in

public, to have the discussion about renaming our military bases and about the future of these war memorials in public, to conduct open hearings where military families and veterans and the local community can be heard and where we can seek and find common ground together. That is all I am asking for. And all I am asking for is a vote on this.

Yet, here today, on the floor of the U.S. Senate, I have been told that we cannot even have a vote. We can't even call the roll on this. No, we just have to swallow it and move on as the woke cancel culture moves on, steamrolling our history and our traditions, and, yes, our best traditions as Americans.

You know, our military bases are more than walls and fences. They are more than lines on a piece of paper in a 1,000-page bill. Our bases are full of life and history. They are hallowed ground for the soldiers and veterans who have trained and served at them. They enrich local communities with their legacy. They form fond memories, and they help relationships endure. They have meaning that transcends any one person or even a place, and that history belongs to all of us. So all of us should debate this together and move forward together. I am sorry that we have been denied an opportunity to do so today.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Mitch McConnell, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lamar Alexander, Shelley Moore Capito, Rob Portman, Roy Blunt, John Barrasso, John Thune.

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 Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Ex.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Markey	Murray
Enzi	McSally	Tillis
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski	Udall

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the Vought nomination.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Senator from Arkansas.

HONG KONG AUTONOMY ACT

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, what is happening at this moment in Hong Kong is a tragedy, a crime, an affront to the civilized world. In a year in which so much has happened, we may look back in the near future and view this moment in Hong Kong as the single biggest moment of the year. It is not getting enough attention, though, because the Communist Party is using the pandemic as cover for its crimes against Hong Kong.

Under the cover of night, the Communist Party's puppets in Hong Kong have enacted a security law that threatens to sweep aside the traditions and freedoms that have made that city such a special place. While the Chinese Communist Party hasn't yet rolled in tanks, as it did in Tiananmen Square, the effects of this law are no less chilling to democracy.

The security law imposes broad prohibitions on what it calls subversive activities. What kinds of activities? Activities like waving flags or chanting a slogan like ''Hong Kong independence'' or ''Hongkongers, build a nation.'' In other words, the security law criminalizes basic elements of peaceful protests and democratic change that Hongkongers have used for years and that set them apart from their fellow citizens on the mainland.

The new law also erodes the rights of the accused that are essential to a fair legal system. The Chinese Communist Party isn't interested in rights or fairness. It is interested in control—total control—and this law exerts total control over the people of Hong Kong.

Under the new law, protesters accused of such vague crimes as separatism and collusion can be smuggled away to mainland China to be tried in Communist courts. The so-called crimes don't even have to be committed in Hong Kong in order to be punished; the new law could encompass expatriates with foreign citizenship living overseas—even here in America. So simply meeting with a U.S. Senator, like me or Senator MCCONNELL or Senator SCHUMER or Senator VAN HOLLEN, could land a Hongkonger in prison for a lifetime. The China Communist Party thus is extending its iron rule beyond its own shores to our free soil.

Those convicted under the new law could face life imprisonment, alongside the many underground church leaders, Uighurs, Tibetans, Falun Gong members, and other persecuted individuals the Chinese Communist Party has already ''disappeared.''

Indeed, the crackdown is already underway. The Chinese Communist Party's agents in Hong Kong rounded up as many as 300 protesters this week for what it called unlawful assembly. Some of the protesters were arrested under the supposed authority of the new security law. Their fate at this moment is unknown.

The takeover of Hong Kong may seem like an event far away, especially when we have so many problems at home. But the same could have been said after the Second World War when Stalin and the Soviet secret police dropped an Iron Curtain over Eastern Europe. Czechoslovakia and Poland were far away, too, but the brutal repression of their people showed the world what was at stake in the titanic struggle between freedom and communism.

We face the same sort of titanic struggle today, and it is not limited to Hong Kong. All across the periphery,

the Chinese Communist Party is acting aggressively. It has essentially invaded India and killed 20 Indian soldiers. In the South China Sea, it has attacked or otherwise threatened vessels from Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines and has repeatedly and increasingly encroached on Taiwanese and Japanese airspace.

But in Hong Kong, the security law proves most clearly that the Chinese Communist Party will not abide by its commitments, whether to its own people or to foreign nations. Through actions this week, Beijing has effectively torn up the joint declaration it made with Britain to govern the peaceful handover of Hong Kong just as cynically as China has broken its commitments to the United States, to the World Trade Organization, to the World Health Organization, and others.

And, of course, this law exposes once again the hideous nature of communism, which is so paranoid and insecure it can't tolerate even a tiny outpost of freedom within its borders. No wonder. Freedom is an attractive, precious, and contagious thing. The way of life enjoyed by the citizens of Hong Kong could give the wrong ideas to the 1 billion Chinese yearning for freedom elsewhere in the country. Nothing could be more threatening to the Chinese Communist Party's rule.

Now the party has begun the takeover that Hongkongers have long feared. Those of us with freedom to speak and act on their behalf must do so now, as one of the great citadels of Asia slips into the totalitarian darkness. While dark days may lie ahead for Hong Kong, one day the future will return the sunny highlands of freedom to that small citadel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

F–22 RAPTORS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to talk about one of the favorite things I get to do all week, and that is to talk about some Alaskans who are making a difference. We call this our ''Alaskan of the Week.''

It means that I get to speak about my State, usually an individual, maybe a couple of people, but every now and then I like to mix things up and keep people on high alert because the people I am going to talk about in Alaska are the ultimate people—Americans—on high alert. As opposed to recognizing one or two, I am going to recognize a bunch of Alaskans, an impressive group, who work day and night, not only to keep Alaska safe but to keep America safe. They will be doing it this weekend, the Fourth of July—24/7, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, always on high alert.

As we are heading into the Fourth of July weekend, Russia is once again in the news, and we have been debating the National Defense Authorization Act on the Senate floor, a very critical bill that I am fully supportive of, which funds our military and pay raises for our troops. I thought it would be very appropriate to highlight the hundreds of men and women in my State who stand watch and patrol the northern skies of Alaska and America to protect our Nation. They are unsung heroes. You don't hear a lot about them in the news, but we certainly appreciate them. I think all Senators and all Americans do, which is why I want to talk about them today.

They are our brave servicemembers who fly and maintain our F–22 Raptors—this amazing stealth fighter; our E–3 Sentrys, which are also known as AWACS, which are like the quarterback in the sky of aircraft; our Alaska Guard KC–135 Stratotankers; our brave members of the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, who operate HH–60 Pave Hawk helicopters and H–130 Hercules aircraft, should we need a search and rescue mission; and our Active-Duty members and guardsmen, who maintain, monitor, and track threats from other countries for our country, particularly threats coming from Russia. These brave men and women—hundreds of them—are keeping guard day and night over the northern skies of America.

When the Russians fly their Bear bombers and fighter jets into or near American air space, these intrepid Americans are on duty to ensure that our F–22s are there to intercept and greet the Russian pilots and aircraft who threaten to move into our air defense identification zone, or ADIZ, as we call it. They are there waiting and intercepting Russian bombers. These airmen keep us all safe. As I mentioned, they are all worthy of the great title Alaskans of the Week.

Before I get into exactly what these men and women do to guard our Nation—and they do it round the clock; they are doing it right now, by the way, and will be doing it the Fourth of July, by the way—I would like to talk a little about Russia and Alaska and our close geography. I want to give a little geography lesson. There are actual places in Alaska where you really can see Russia from your house.

Russia and Alaska are divided by the Bering Strait, which is about 55 miles at its narrowest point. In the middle of the Bering Strait sit two islands, Big Diomede, which is actually Russian territory, and Little Diomede, which is part of Alaska, part of America. They are less than 2½ miles apart from each other, nearly touching. In the words of a New York Times reporter, it is the place where ''the two great continental powers reach across the map and all but touch, like the outstretched figures in Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam.''' It is a little dramatic, but you get the point—Little Diomede and Big Diomede.

On a clear day, you can see Russia from St. Lawrence Island, which is also Alaskan, and even from our mainland, in Wales, AK. During the Cold War, the Alaska-Siberia frontier was called not the Iron Curtain but the ''Ice Curtain,'' which we needed to stay closed.

Much preparation was put into keeping Russia from invading or infiltrating the United States from its northern flank—from the Arctic, from Alaska. In the early Cold War years, our government recruited and trained fishermen, bush pilots, trappers, and many, many in our patriotic Native Alaskan communities throughout the State to stand guard for America during the Cold War. And so many Alaskans did this for decades. It was their patriotic duty guarding the northern flank of our great Nation.

There were the great Eskimo scouts of the Alaska National Guard, who knew the land better than anyone else could. They were so patriotic with their love of this Nation.

It is still unclear how many Russians were able to get to our lands, but stories do abound in Alaska about strangers speaking Russian showing up in communities unannounced—five men emerging from the water in wet suits over olive-drab uniforms, the color of the uniform of Soviet Special Forces. Go to any one of our Native Alaska communities, and today, you will still hear such stories.

Something that is very clear and very well known is that between 1961 and 1991, the U.S. military intercepted thousands of long-range Soviet bombers and reconnaissance aircraft when they were moving into American airspace. We used our aircraft back then, the F–102s, F–106s, and later, F–4s, F–15s. Then, like now, our aircraft were superior to the Russians and that was certainly one of the reasons we won the Cold War.

This is still going on today. This is still a threat. The Russians continue to flex their military muscle, from Ukraine to Siberia, and they have added new Blackjack bombers to the mix and their SU–35 fighters. They still come close to American airspace via flights near Alaska. That is where our F–22 pilots and those who support them come in.

Just in the last 6 months, our Alaskan F–22s, shown here, have intercepted 10 Russian Bear bombers. We are starting to see Cold War levels of intrusions into American airspace and, of course, our patriotic men and women—young men and women, by the way—flying these great aircraft, going after these big Bear bombers. There were 10 missions already, and it is just July 2. What are they up to?

Air Force Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, who commands NORAD and these forces, ultimately, and U.S. Northern Command, linked the uptick in Russian military flights off Alaska's coast to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and Russia's testing of our military readiness. They are testing us, but we are ready for them.

In essence, that is what we have been doing all week—debating and getting ready to vote on final passage of the

National Defense Authorization Act, which is all about our military's readiness. Again, in Alaska—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year—our brave men and women are guarding the northern flank of America.

This is how Lt. Col. Dave Deptula, commander of the 525th Fighter Squadron—this F–22 squadron, the ''Bulldogs''—described it:

> The Russians will fly their bombers and fighters across the Bering Strait and they will test our ADIZ [Air Defense Identification Zone] airspace—they will try to see if they can come into our airspace. And if they were going to go into it, we would be there every time to say, respectfully, ''Hello. We're here and we're flying with live munitions.''

He said the goal is to make sure the Russians know that they are there to protect our Nation and try to deescalate.

By the way, Colonel Deptula is my former Air Force fellow and a great Air Force leader, just like his dad.

As an aside, pilots in the military have what are called ''call signs,'' which are essentially their pilot nicknames. As a marine, I know many pilots by their call signs. Lieutenant Colonel Deptula's call sign is ''Ghost.'' Maybe that is because he is an F–22 stealth fighter pilot, able to sneak up on Bear bombers like this without being seen and even heard. But I have also heard that maybe it is because when it is time to pay the tab at a bar, he doesn't seem to be around. Just kidding there, Colonel Deptula, Ghost. I can't think of a better call sign for an F–22 stealth fighter pilot in Alaska, and we are very, very proud of Ghost in the Sullivan Senate office.

Here is how it works. Here is what these brave young men and women in the U.S. Air Force do to protect our Nation. We have 15 long-range radar sites across the great State of Alaska, which are constantly feeding information to the 176th Air Defense Squadron, which analyze that information.

By the way, I have the honor and pleasure next week of hosting the Secretary of the Air Force in Alaska. She will be able to see our great military members, and we will go out and actually see some of these radar sites.

When our military note troublesome activity, they send out a bone-rattling alarm—what is called the KLAXON—to the Combat Alert Cell. This is a group of pilots and maintainers who are always ready. They are like firemen. They literally have a pole where they scramble down to get to their aircraft—what they call a ''hot cocked'' and armed F–22 at the ready.

As these pilots literally race to their jets, so, too, does the aircrew of the AWACs—the long-range eyes and ears for the F–22. They launch very quickly. This is taking place at JBER in Anchorage. Simultaneously, at Eielson Air Force Base, about 350 miles north of Anchorage, the 168th Air Refueling Squadron, a unit of the Alaska Air National Guard, launch the KC–135 tankers to meet the F–22s as they are going to intercept the Russians and to top off the 600-gallon F–22 fuel tanks when they are in the air and then refuel them on the way back. This is all part of one big mission. That is what they are doing.

All told, there are hundreds of Alaskans in the air and on the ground involved in operations like this every single time it happens.

As I mentioned, it is happening a lot—twice a month in the last half year.

Patriotic young men and women are always prepared to defend our country in the sky—24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

One thing I want to do for this ''Alaskan of the Week'' is remind Americans when they are celebrating the Fourth of July—which is a great thing to do—to remember that these dedicated warriors will be on guard protecting our Nation. When everybody is barbecuing, celebrating America, think about what they are doing.

If you have seen any video of the F–22s flying, it is impressive, but we also have to remember there are real pilots in those planes. Look how close they are in this mission. It can be very dangerous.

Think of this to get a sense of how this all works. It is the middle of the night and the klaxon goes off. It is winter in Alaska. It is dark and 20 below zero. A pilot hustles to her airplane—yes, ''her.'' We have F–22 female pilots. One is call sign Contra. We were discussing recently in my office about what a great job she does. She gets in the aircraft and flies nearly 600 miles sometimes—certainly, faster than the speed of sound—to reach the rough Bering Sea to intercept a Russian Bear bomber like this in the middle of the night. She probably had to refuel on the way there.

Sometimes Russian pilots can get aggressive. According to Ghost, we do not respond aggressively in turn. We are respectful. We are tough. We are professional. The Russians know it, and the Russians know that they are up against the best Air Force in the world—armed and ready. So the Russians usually behave.

But this can be a stressful mission. As I mentioned, it has happened 10 times already in the last 6 months. It is so critical for our Nation. So many young Alaskans are involved in this. Our men and women in the military represent the very best of this country—brave, strong, committed, devoted to our country, devoted to democracy, devoted to the Republic.

That is why we have been working on this all week. When we come back from our Fourth of July work period, we will continue to work on and pass the National Defense Authorization Act for them.

On this Fourth of July holiday, as I mentioned, I hope we can take the time to thank them and to remember those who have served before. Know that when you are spending time with friends and family this holiday, dozens of airmen in Alaska are on alert and ready to go do this mission in a moment's notice.

We have to remember also that the freedoms we are celebrating this weekend have been secured at a price. There is no Independence Day without the U.S. military and our courageous veterans, past and present.

Yet it is not just about protecting our Nation. Think about this: American servicemembers have done more to liberate men and women across the globe from tyranny and oppression—literally, hundreds of millions of people—than probably more than any other force in human history. That includes those who are currently serving. Think about that when you are celebrating the Fourth of July. Can any other country say that? Think about the other big countries in the world—China, Russia, Germany. Have they been forces to have liberated hundreds of millions of people? The fact is, they are the kinds of countries that have tried to dominate hundreds of millions. As my friend from Arkansas just mentioned, China is doing it again, as we speak, in Hong Kong.

So, yes, our Nation has challenges right now—no doubt about it. Yet I think the vast majority of us recognizes the obvious fact that we are the greatest country in the world and have stood for liberating not just Americans but hundreds of millions around the world. My view is that we are the greatest country in the history of the world. One reason is due to those who stand guard to protect us and our freedoms and our liberty.

So a big thank-you to those who fly and maintain our F–22 Raptors—our AWACS—our Alaska National Guard KC–135s; our HH–60s; our HC–130s; and all of the Active-Duty members and guardsmen who on the Fourth of July, which we are going to celebrate in a couple of days, will be ready to go do this mission at a moment's notice and be ready to protect us.

I will be up on the Yukon River, in Alaska, with my wife and daughters, as we always are, to celebrate not only America's birthday but my wife's, and we will be toasting the brave young men and women who are doing this for our country. I encourage the rest of my fellow Americans to do the same.

To the Raptor pilots and maintainers and everybody who supports them, thanks for what you are doing. Most importantly, congratulations on being our Alaskans of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, it is my honor to be here today to see a marine Presiding Officer and a marine making a speech.

We are grateful for Senator SULLIVAN's service to our country and his service in the Senate as a diligent, patriotic, hard-working, good-humored Member of the Senate. I am glad I had a chance to hear his remarks.

I was trying to think of where in the world to go on my 50th birthday, and I went to Anchorage, AK, to go fishing at Halibut Cove. I had a wonderful time and have a great memory. So the Senator represents a really terrific State.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I thank my good friend from Tennessee for those kind comments.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, just 3½ months ago, a sneaky, dangerous virus turned our country and the world upside down. It is hard to believe that it was just 3½ months ago—mid-March—that we were headed toward March Madness in basketball; that our economy was roaring; that unemployment rates for about every category were as low as they had been in a long, long time. America felt really good about itself. By the time we would have gotten to the Fourth of July, it would have been a terrific celebration except that here came this dangerous, sneaky virus that turned our lives and those in countries all over the world upside down.

I want to comment this afternoon on some aspects of where we are in terms of COVID–19 based upon five congressional hearings this month that I have either chaired or attended in our HELP Committee or the one I participated in today in Senator BLUNT's Appropriations Committee on Health. Of course, Senator MURRAY, of Washington State, is the ranking Democrat on both of those committees.

Of course, much of the talk is about vaccines. Even though we have appropriated $3 trillion and another astonishing $3 trillion in credit, that is not going to really solve the problem. The only cure for this disease, this virus, will ultimately be through testing, treatments, and vaccines. It is appropriate that we talk about vaccines because our country is moving more rapidly than it ever has in producing a safe and effective vaccine for a new virus.

As Dr. Francis Collins—the head of the National Institutes of Health—told our subcommittee this morning, it usually takes, historically, 5 to 10 years to create a vaccine. Here, the goal of the administration's warped speed effort to create a vaccine is to have 300 million doses ready by the first of this coming year—in other words, 6 months from now. That is its aspirational goal. The administration is not sure it will get there, but you don't get anywhere if you don't set high goals. We know that as a country. So it has set an enormously ambitious goal.

We are taking steps that are like none we have ever taken before, such as Congress has appropriated money, has approved, and is starting to build a manufacturing plant for a vaccine before we know that it works. Now, we don't do that before we know that it is safe, but we will do it before we know that it works. We can be sure that, in some cases, we are going to lose that money, but it is better to cut 6 months or a year off of the amount of time before the vaccine comes and take that financial risk. I think all of us would agree with that.

Instead of talking about vaccines today, which are next year's solution, let me talk about two aspects of COVID–19 that are this year's solution—in fact, that are this fall's solution. One is diagnostic tests to find out whether you have the disease or not, and one is treatments, which is medicine that can be given to you to reduce the chance that you might be seriously ill or will even die.

That is appropriate in the first place because, in not very many weeks, America will be headed back to school and to college. In Metro Nashville, TN, public school begins on August 4. All across the country, most colleges and schools will be back in business by Labor Day. There were 75 million students who were casualties of COVID–19. They were sent home from school or college in mid-March—100,000 public schools, 35,000 private schools, and 6,000 colleges. Graduations were canceled. Sports championships and once-in-a-lifetime events were canceled.

In our country today, two-thirds of married parents with children work outside the home, and most single parents work outside the home. Suddenly, their children were home. Teachers were not really prepared for such wholescale remote teaching, and parents were not prepared for homeschooling. So ever since mid-March, students have been in limbo.

We are looking forward to doing whatever we can to help make sure that those 75 million students in schools and colleges can go back to school and college this fall and go back safely. That is the importance of tests and treatments. That is the first.

Now, there is another one, and it is not trivial. This is a sports-hungry country. We love our sports, and everybody has a different sport one likes. The question I asked Dr. Collins this morning was: Are we going to have enough COVID–19 tests so we might be able to watch some football this fall or some basketball this winter? I had read that the National Hockey League was going to test every player every day in the National Hockey League.

It is not recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is not standard for there to be widespread testing at schools and colleges, even though the president of Brown University told our committee she would like to test all students on their way back to Brown.

The fact is, if we are going to be able to go back to school, back to college, back to work, out to eat, maybe even watch a sports game, maybe even, in some cases, attend a sports game, we are going to need a lot more quick, reliable tests. Let me talk about those, just for a moment, in terms of going back to school and going out to eat and, perhaps, being able to watch a little football this fall.

Admiral Giroir testified this month before our committee that our country has done 30 million tests—more than any other country. We are doing that at about the rate of 500,000 tests a day, and he says that we will have four to five times that many in September.

Now, I hear about problems in this place or in that place about people not getting tests or that it takes too long for the results to come back from the labs. The fact is, that what is going on now is every State in the country is developing a plan for July through December on how many tests States like Indiana, Tennessee, and Alaska might need in working with the Federal Government, and the Federal Government has been supplying Tennessee with what Tennessee needs.

In our State, for example, which is 1 of the States that is in the top 10 of having frequent testing, the Governor has said: If you want a test, you can have a test. Go down to your public health department, and you will get one for free. Now, whether they will be able to continue that, we will see, but that is what we are doing today.

Despite that, when 75 million students try to go back to school and college, I imagine principals and administrators will want to test teachers frequently, older people frequently, and everybody in some classes if one student gets sick, maybe everybody in an elementary school if several students get sick, and maybe the parents and grandparents of the children if the children bring home the disease. So we are going to need a lot more tests.

This is why Senator BLUNT and I and others worked together in the last legislation to support what we called the shark tank at the National Institutes of Health. This was an unprecedented effort at the National Institutes of Health, led by Dr. Francis Collins, who led the Human Genome Project and is one of the most distinguished scientists in our country.

This is a project to see if we can find a new way to create tens of millions of diagnostic tests that are what they call point-of-care tests. That means you can take them instantly; that you can get a result within an hour or so; and that they are inexpensive and reliable. You don't have to ship them off. You would probably do this with saliva. So you might put a lollypop in your mouth and let that saliva on the lollypop indicate, one way or another, whether you have a positive or a negative result.

Dr. Collins' goal—and he said this is a very aspirational goal—is to be able to produce a million of those tests a day by Labor Day. This would change our lives in many numbers of ways. This would mean that Brown's president could surely test all students, not just once when they go back but more often. It would mean many sports teams could test every player every day if that is what it required.

It would mean that we would probably have more tests than we would need.

What would that do?

It would, one, help to contain the disease so we could identify who has this disease so we could quarantine them and the people they have exposed instead of quarantining all of us and keeping us from going back to school, out to eat, and going to work.

It would contain the disease, and it would build confidence. If you are working in a plant with 500 people and you know that 6 people have had to be tested because they had been tested and were found to have been positive, you are going to worry about that. Yet, if you know that you could get a free test today and any time you wanted and could get the result in an hour, I believe you would have more confidence in going to work or in going to school or in going out to eat or even in playing on a football team whether you are in college or in high school.

So we are pulling for Dr. Collins' shark tank and his effort to produce these new ways of testing. They have had an unprecedented outpouring of applications. He said most of them come from smaller companies. They are down to 26, I believe is the number, and they are putting them through this rigorous test. His goal is a million new tests a day.

That is important for principals to know and teachers to know and those who are hoping to play a little football and watch a little basketball this fall—that there might be plenty of quick, reliable tests to help contain the disease in your community and to be confident that you are in a safe place.

And then what is the second thing we could expect?

We heard about treatments. As Senator KENNEDY says in his inimitable way, people aren't scared of the virus because they are afraid they might get sick; they are afraid they might die. And they might, particularly if they are in a vulnerable population or older age.

There is no medicine for this virus, or at least there wasn't until recently. Now there is one, Remdesivir, which the United States has bought a huge amount of, which has been shown to reduce by 32 percent—according to Dr. Fauci, who testified at our hearing yesterday—reduce by 32 percent the amount of time it takes you to recover from COVID–19. According to the experts who testified, there are other plasma medicines and steroids that have shown to be helpful. That exists today.

So if you are a parent or a grandparent or a teacher or administrator worried about children going back to school, you are probably not very worried about the children catching COVID–19 because, generally speaking, they haven't seemed to get sick from COVID–19—all around the world. It has been older people who do. But the children might come home and bring it to the parent or the grandparent. As I said, this is a sneaky, dangerous virus. You can give it to somebody without showing any symptoms of having it. But if you get it, there are already two or three treatments that your doctors, your hospital can prescribe to shorten the time that you recover and to reduce the chance that you might die.

Dr. Collins said that by the time we get to the fall, he expects there will be more of these treatments approved by the FDA. There are different kinds of treatments, and he didn't go into all the specifics, but one kind he mentioned was the so-called antibody cocktail. This was developed during the time of Ebola, and it was approved by the FDA. It helped us get rid of the Ebola disease before it came to the United States and caused a lot of trouble here.

This antibody cocktail—''monoclonal antibody'' is the longer name of it—is not approved yet. It is not proved to be safe or effective yet, but because it was once before, there is a cautious optimism that it will be approved for COVID–19—a version of it—and that those will be ready by the fall.

If it does work out that this treatment is safe and effective and approved by the Food and Drug Administration, there are several companies that have these antibody cocktails, and they should be able to manufacture large numbers of them.

I guess my point is, we talk a lot about vaccines. We spend every day hearing about the deaths, the hospitalizations, and what is going on, and this spike or that spike, but as we think about 75 million students going back to school and college, going back to work, whether we will see some football or maybe basketball later, the two aspects that are needed to determine that are tests and whether the shark tank will produce enough of them and treatments, and both seem to have a good possibility of being there for us in the fall.

We had a hearing last week that focused on this question: How do we sustain what we have built in this pandemic? In fact, one Senator lectured me a little bit and said: Why are we worrying about the next pandemic? We are in the middle of this one.

And my answer was, because for the last 20 years, we forgot about the last pandemic as soon as it was over, and then we got to the next pandemic, and we weren't as ready as we should be.

We have had four Presidents and several Congresses that passed nine laws to try to get us ready, and then here comes this sneaky, dangerous virus, and we find some gaps in our preparation. It is not President Trump's gap. It is not President Obama's gap. It is our gap because we didn't do some of the things we should do.

One of the things I believe each of us should do in this Senate is be willing this year, this summer, to take the lessons we have learned and sustain what we built, not just to complete our work on this pandemic but to be ready for the next one.

For example, do we have enough manufacturing capacity for the vaccines in the United States? Well, we didn't. Now we are building it. Are we going sustain it?

No. 2, what about our stockpiles? We filled them up, and then they were depleted—the stockpile here, the stockpile in the States. Hospitals needed money. They sold off their stocks, and so they were depleted. We have now built them up, but are we going to sustain that for the next pandemic or just say: OK, we beat COVID; let's go and worry about something else.

What about data? We are not getting all the data we want in the way we should be getting it from the Centers for Disease Control. Are we just going to forget that, or are we going to do something about that now?

Hospital preparedness. Hospitals weren't really ready. They did a magnificent job of getting ready, but we lagged on hospital preparedness. We have built that up again. Are we going to sustain it, or are we going to let it drop off once more?

Our State and local public health. Almost all of our public health efforts in this country are State and local. We are not a small European country where everything is centralized. We are a great big, complicated, diverse country where parts of Indiana are very different from parts of Tennessee and Alaska and New York or wherever we are from, and as Governor Leavitt, who testified before us, said, for 30 or 40 years, we have gradually disinvested in our public health system. We are not building that up, but are we going to sustain it?

So that is my hope, that when it comes to building up this manufacturing capacity here in the United States, increasing our stockpiles to the levels they should be, beginning to collect the data in the way it needs to be, preparing our hospitals to receive patients, building up our State and local public health—are we going to sustain that while we have our eye on the ball, or are we going to do what we have done for the last 20 years and slide off into a short memory?

Senator Bill Frist, who was majority leader of this body, said that he made 20 speeches in 2005 and 2006 about what we needed to do to be prepared for the next pandemic, which he said is surely coming. They did some things, but most of the things that he said needed to be done weren't done. We could do them today if we would just have the resolve to do them.

Governor Leavitt said that before a pandemic, those who do what he and Senator Frist did, which was to say we need to do all these things, are called alarmists, and then after a pandemic or in the middle of it, they are called inadequate to the task.

Then there is the last point I would like to make, and it is about politics. The COVID–19 virus—this sneaky, dangerous enemy—is a science matter, not a political matter, but it has become too much of a political matter.

Take the issue of masks. We have gotten into a situation where whether

you wear a mask depends on your attitude toward President Trump. For many Americans, it seems that if you are pro-Trump, you don't wear a mask, and if you don't like Trump, you do wear a mask.

I suggested that the President might occasionally wear a mask just to signal to his followers that it is a good idea; recommended by every single health expert to wear a mask—certainly for the protection of everybody else.

Another way to say it is that our athletic director at the University of Tennessee, Phillip Fulmer, said: If you really, really want to watch some football, wear a mask. What he means by that is that it would help contain the disease in our area so the football players can play safely.

Well, yesterday the President made it clear. He said masks are good, and he is happy to wear them when he needs to. Of course, the fact is, he doesn't need to most of the time. He is tested every day. People around him are tested. And—as I am not wearing one right now—he is speaking most of the time. But there are times when I wear my mask. When I leave the floor, I wear the mask. When I go back down the hall, I wear the mask. When I am in a smaller room, less than 6 feet away from somebody, I wear a mask, and I expect others to do that as well.

Every expert who testified in the six hearings I attended this month said there are three things to do: Wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay 6 feet apart when you can. If all of us do those things, we are much more likely to be able to go back to school, back to college, back to work, out to eat, and maybe even watch a little football.

Vanderbilt University did a survey in the middle of May, and what they found was surprising. Most of the attitudes of people in Tennessee weren't about male versus female or east versus west or any other difference; it was about Republican or Democrat. Republicans didn't want to wear a mask very much; the Democrats mostly did. Republicans were eager to go out to eat; Democrats were a little slower. Republicans weren't as worried about catching the disease; Democrats were pretty worried. The debate got too politicized.

I thank President Trump for what he said yesterday. He has 70 or 80 million people as his social media followers. If they get the idea that wearing a ''Make America Great Again'' mask is good for the country, I bet millions will wear it. If they do, the country will be safer, the economy will be better, and we will be able to go back to school and do the other things we want to do.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my opening statement from our hearing yesterday.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OPENING STATEMENT

COVID–19: UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARD SAFELY GETTING BACK TO WORK AND BACK TO SCHOOL—JUNE 30, 2020

All of our witnesses today are participating in person, and some senators are participating by videoconference.

I'd like to say something about masks:

The Office of the Attending Physician has advised that senators and witnesses may remove their masks to talk into the microphone since our chairs are all six feet apart.

So that's why my mask is off—because I'm six feet away from everyone else. But like many other senators on this committee, when I'm walking the hallways or on the Senate floor, I'm wearing a mask.

People wear masks because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises the use of ''simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.''

Unfortunately this simple lifesaving practice has become part of a political debate that says: If you're for Trump, you don't wear a mask. If you're against Trump, you do. That is why I have suggested the president should occasionally wear a mask even though there are not many occasions when it is necessary for him to do so. The president has millions of admirers.

They would follow his lead. It would help end this political debate. The stakes are too high for it to continue.

Around here, senators and staff wear masks—because we don't want to make each other sick. I was exposed to COVID–19 by a pre-symptomatic staff member on my way to Dulles Airport and, as a result, self-quarantined for two weeks. The senate physician told me one reason that I did not become infected was because the staff member was wearing a mask and that greatly reduced the chances of exposure.

It's also a pretty good way to make a statement. I like to wear my plaid mask. Dr. Fauci uses his mask to demonstrate his loyalty to the Washington Nationals. Senator Kaine is either a cowboy or a bandit.

If you want college football to return this fall, like I do, listen to the words of Coach Fulmer at the University of Tennessee who told fans how they can help make that happen: ''If you really really want sports, football, and all those things, then wear a mask and keep social distancing,'' he said last week.

The United States is in the middle of a very concerning rise in COVID–19 cases and hospitalizations in many states, and the experts in front of us today have told us that washing our hands, staying apart and wearing a mask are three of the most important ways to slow the spread of the virus.

I am grateful to the Rules Committee, Sergeant at Arms, the press gallery, the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police, and our committee staff, Chung Shek and Evan Griffis, for all of their hard work to help keep all of us safe.

Among the casualties of COVID–19 are the 75 million students who were sent home from schools and colleges in March.

Add to the casualties the teachers who weren't prepared to teach remotely and the working parents who suddenly had school children at home and who weren't prepared to home school. Add the lost sports seasons and once in a lifetime graduation ceremonies. Then there were unprecedented dilemmas for administrators and inadequate school budgets. Being sent home from school does not rank with the sickness and death the virus has caused. The United States has over 2.5 million cases of the virus and over 126,000 deaths according to Johns Hopkins University.

While states and communities continue to take action to help keep people safe, nothing was more disruptive to American life—and nothing would head it back toward normalcy—than for those 135,000 public and private schools and 6,000 colleges to reopen safely this Fall.

Earlier this month this committee heard from college presidents and school leaders about their plans for safely reopening this fall. This hearing is an opportunity for an update and to hear from the nation's top health experts on how headmasters, principals, superintendents, chancellors and college presidents can open their schools safely just a few weeks from now.

This committee last heard from today's four witnesses on May 12, when three of the four were quarantined and most of the senators participated virtually. That was one of the first virtual senate hearings in history and surely the best watched virtual hearing. Every network carried the two and half hours of statements and questions and answers from senators.

The question before the country today is not about whether to go back to school or college or child care or work, but how to do it safely. Even though COVID–19 has not, in general, hurt young children and college-age students nearly as much as older or more vulnerable Americans, there is some health risk. But in my view the greater risk is not going back to school.

Guidance for reopening schools from the American Academy of Pediatrics tells school administrators: ''the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.''

The American Academy of Pediatrics adds: ''The importance of in-person learning is well documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation. This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality. Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families.''

Dr. Lloyd Fisher, the incoming president of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics told reporters last week: ''While for most children COVID–19 has not had the devastating and life-threatening physical health effects that have occurred in adults, the negative impact on their education, mental health and social development has been substantial,'' he said. ''Nothing can take the place of the daily face-to-face interaction our children experience when attending school in person.''

Many American colleges—overall considered the best in the world—will be permanently damaged or even closed if they remain, in Brown University president Christina Paxsons words, ''ghost towns.''

Mitch Daniels, the president of Purdue, wrote in a Washington Post op-ed that for Purdue, ''failure to take on the job of reopening would be not only anti-scientific but also an unacceptable breach of duty.''

So today, in addition to hearing more about the concerning rise in cases and hospitalizations in some states in the U.S., I would like to ask our witnesses in their statements and answers to questions to put themselves in the place of a superintendent

of one of America's approximately 14,000 school districts, or the principal or headmaster of one of the 135,000 schools, or the president or chancellor of one of the 6,000 colleges, and help them answer the question of how to reopen schools safely.

So Dr. Fauci, I hope that in your opening statement or in answers to questions you will suggest the steps a superintendent might take to open school safely, and how not only to keep children safe but to keep safe the adults—teachers, parents and grandparents—with whom they come in contact.

Dr. Hahn—Will there be treatments or medicines this fall that will help speed recovery from COVID–19 or reduce the possibility of death? I believe the fear of going back to school—or going anywhere these days—is in large part because of the fear of severe illness. If that risk can be lessened by new treatments, it should increase confidence in going back to school.

I'd also like to commend Dr. Hahn and the work FDA did to get tests on the market as quickly as possible to help understand the spread of the virus. Since then, FDA has worked out which tests have not worked as well as they should, and taken steps to remove them from the market. That's what is supposed to happen during a pandemic.

Admiral Giroir—at our last hearing you said you expected there to be 40–50 million diagnostic tests available each month by September. Is that still true? And exactly how does a school district go about making sure it has those tests? And who pays for them? What are the prospects from the ''shark tank'' at NIH that there will be new fast, reliable and inexpensive tests available for more widespread testing?

Dr. Redfield—you are continuing to work on additional guidelines about going back to school and college safely. Are CDC employees available to help states work with school districts or college administrators to develop their plans? And what advice do you have about the arrival of the flu season this fall at the same time as COVID–19?

This is a lot to discuss but there will be time during the next two and half hours to answer most of those questions.

Let me highlight three areas that have come up in our four earlier hearings this month that I think need clarification.

First, contact tracing. There is no doubt contact tracing is crucially important to identify anyone who might have been exposed so that person doesn't, in turn, expose someone else. According to an NPR report on June 18, states already have hired at least 37,000 contract tracers. State health officials and Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security issued a report estimating a need for at least 100,000 contact tracers.

Several reports have suggested that the federal government should appropriate funds to pay for these contact tracers. The reality is: Congress already has.

On April 24, Congress appropriated $11 billion, which has been sent to states and tribes for the expenses of testing. The legislation explicitly said that money could be used for contact tracing. This is in addition to the nearly $755 million from the first emergency appropriations legislation signed into law March 6 that went out to states for coronavirus response and can be used by states for contact tracing.

This is also in addition to the March 27 legislation in which Congress provided at least $1.5 billion in the CARES Act for states, territories, and tribes to use for COVID preparedness and response, some of which can be used for contact tracing. The CARES Act also included $150 billion to states, but a significant amount of that $150 billion has not been spent because it is restricted to expenses related to COVID–19.

For example, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee has told me that he is reserving as much as $1 billion of what Tennessee received so he can determine what flexibility he has in spending the money. Washington state has not spent as much as $1.2 billion. According the Missouri State Treasurer, Governor Parsons has not spent about $1 billion.

According to the report by state health officials and Johns Hopkins, an average salary for a contact tracer would be a little more than $35,000. That adds up to about $3.5 billion for 100,000 contact tracers. So Congress has already sent to states enough money to hire all the contact tracers that are needed.

Second, who pays for testing. In the CARES Act, Congress voted to make all COVID–19 tests available to patients at no cost. That meant insurers would cover diagnostic tests, which detect whether a person is currently infected with the virus, and also antibody tests, which indicate whether a person has had COVID–19 in the past and now may have immunity to future infection. Guidance from the Labor Department, the Treasury Department, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services last week said insurers are only required to pay for tests without patient cost sharing if a doctor orders it. I agree with that.

But given that the CDC specifically recommends doctors order tests in 2 situations—when a person has signs or symptoms of COVID–19, or recently had contact with someone known or suspected to have COVID–19—who pays for testing at other times?

I believe Congress will need to take further action. For example, if a school wants to test its students randomly, perhaps that school should coordinate with their state to become a part of the state testing plan, making all tests free to students and teachers. Congress may need to provide more money to states to cover that.

If an automaker wants to test all its employees at a plant every two weeks, perhaps the automaker should pay for that testing or become part of a state testing program using funds already provided by the federal government.

Third, flu shots. CDC has said more people need to get flu shots this fall so health care workers can better distinguish between COVID–19 and the flu. CDC says a priority is for all children over the age of 6 months be vaccinated for the flu so they don't become sick and pass it to more vulnerable populations who could have more severe consequences.

On January 24, Sen. Murray and I hosted our first bipartisan briefing on coronavirus at a time there were only 4 cases in the U.S. Since then this committee has held 4 more briefings. This is our 8th hearing on coronavirus and U.S. preparedness.

Last week's hearing was about steps to take this year, while our eye is on the ball, to better prepare for the next pandemic. I have issued a white paper outlining five recommendations for Congress to prepare Americans for the next pandemic, and that paper has received more than 350 substantive comments that are available to every member of the committee.

At the end of this hearing, I'm going to ask each witness what are the 2–3 actions that Congress could take this year to prepare for the next pandemic, some of which undoubtedly could help with this pandemic.

But this hearing is about what happens now as administrators prepare to reopen schools and colleges.

Experts underestimated this virus and there is still much we don't know about it. But we do know the basic steps to take to reopen schools and colleges in 2020 before there is a vaccine and those are: social distance, wear a mask, wash your hands, test, contact trace, and isolate those exposed or sick. And hopefully by the fall there will be treatments to make the consequences of the disease less severe.

I look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses how school leaders and college presidents can safely reopen 135,000 schools and 6,000 colleges, and also learning the latest developments on testing and treatments that we can expect during the year 2020 before vaccines arrive.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank Senator BLUNT and Senator MURRAY for their cooperation this month in this series of six hearings that we have had on COVID–19.

I think it is very important for the American people to know that while there is a vaccine down the road, the tests are coming, the fast tests, and the treatments are coming. They should be here by the fall. That is what the experts say. It is not what I say; that is what the experts who testified before us say.

The experts all said the following: If you want to contain the disease, if you want to go back to school and back to college and back to work and out to eat and maybe even see a little football, stay 6 feet apart, wash your hands, and wear a mask.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

S. 4049

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to talk about the annual National Defense Authorization Act to support our servicemembers and their families. This is one of the few things that the Senate actually passes and does so on a bipartisan basis, and I am hopeful we will do that again. It is because Republicans and Democrats alike recognize it is imperative to give the men and women serving in our Armed Forces the resources and support they need to carry out their critical missions for all of us.

This year, I am pleased to recognize the importance of ensuring that our troops get compensated properly for the hard work and sacrifices they make. It has an across-the-board 3-percent pay increase in it. They deserve it. On July 4, as we celebrate 244 years of freedom, I think it is appropriate that we demonstrate our support for the brave men and women in uniform whose sacrifices have ensured the liberty we are celebrating.

I am also pleased that there is a lot in here that is really important to the people I represent in Ohio. At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, which is our State's largest single-site employer, the bill authorizes $23.5 million for important work on a new hydrant fuel system for the Defense Logistics Agency. It will make a big difference to our airmen and Air Force civilians and to the troops around the

world who rely on DLA for their equipment and resources.

There is also $35 million for enhanced energy efficiency at Wright-Patterson's National Air and Space Intelligence Center, NASIC. We are so proud to have NASIC in Ohio, and we are happy to see this additional investment in infrastructure for NASIC. Hopefully, the Space Command will end up in Ohio as well.

There is also $15 million in the bill for construction of a new Guard readiness center in Columbus, OH, which will serve as a staging area for the Ohio National Guard, which is increasingly being called upon to respond to crises. I will have a chance to visit with some of our Guard members next week in Ohio, and I look forward to it.

One of the bill's other important initiatives that has a big impact on my State is authorizing $1.4 billion to upgrade and modify Abrams tanks. It authorizes about $847 million to build and upgrade the Stryker armored fighting vehicles. There is also an additional $378 million to produce 72 Stryker chassis to support the Army's Maneuver Short Range Air Defense Program. This is all really great news for our men and women in uniform. Why? Because they are going to get from Lima, OH, the best equipment in the world to be able to protect themselves and keep the peace. These Abrams and Stryker vehicles are the most advanced and lethal tanks and armored vehicles on the battlefield today.

Of course, this isn't just a big win for our military; it is also great for the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, which I call the tank plant—always have. It is in Lima, OH, and it is the only facility in the world that can do what they do. It is certainly the only facility in the United States that has the capacity and the highly trained personnel capable of producing Abrams tanks and Stryker armored vehicles. It is a strategic asset for our country and a source of employment for some truly outstanding engineers, welders, and other technicians. I love going to the plant and talking to them about what they do. A lot of them are veterans, and all of them believe that they are part of the effort.

The Obama administration, by the way, 9 years ago, wanted to shutter this plant. They said that we wouldn't need tanks in the future and we should shut down the plant and shut down the line, which would have cost billions of dollars to mothball and then try to start it again. Thank goodness we didn't do that. We fought hard against it. I recognized it was the wrong decision and fought against it every step of the way. I remember, at the time, some of the taxpayer groups were saying: Oh, my gosh, this is somehow inappropriate to keep funding going when the Obama administration says it is not necessary. But it was necessary. It was necessary then, and, boy, it is certainly necessary now. We saved the taxpayers a lot of money by not shutting it down.

We provided enough funding to keep it open partly by bringing in foreign sales, and I helped in that, to try to get other countries to try to use our tank plant, which they have and still do. We also reversed years of backlogged maintenance recently, and we ensured our workers have a safe environment in which to work. So it is doing well now. The lines are humming. Thank goodness we kept it open.

In 2018, I had the opportunity to be the first Member of Congress to see the latest model of the Stryker Dragoon vehicles. They have a 30-millimeter turret—a cannon on top of an armored vehicle. This is a wheeled armored vehicle with a turret on top of it. That 30-millimeter cannon replaced the normal 50-caliber machine gun. The 50-caliber machine gun is effective in certain instances, but the 30-millimeter cannon is much more effective in many places on the battlefield, particularly in Europe, given the threat we face there.

So whether it is in Eastern Europe in the Baltic States or being prepositioned in Germany for the possibility of having to respond, this is what our military wants, what our Army wants, and we have to continue to provide our soldiers this Dragoon variant of the Stryker so that they can deter aggression from Russia and others and help keep our allies safe. This includes, by the way, Ukraine.

Talking about Ukraine, it has been in the headlines a lot over the last several months. I have been to Ukraine several times. I had the opportunity to be on the frontline in Ukraine at what is called the line of contact. Let me tell you, it is not a cold war; it is very much a hot war.

I know that here, on this side of the Atlantic, what is happening in Ukraine can sometimes seem like it is half a world away and maybe doesn't affect us, but it is not far away, and it does affect us. It is very relevant. In a sense, it is where the modern battle is taking place between two very different ideologies, one of freedom and democracy and wanting to connect to the West, and that is modern Ukraine. That is exactly what President Zelensky and the Parliament there and others want to do. The other would be the oligarchy and the corruption of Russia, which want to pull Ukraine back into their orbit.

In Ohio we have a large Ukrainian community, particularly in Northeast Ohio, and they certainly have a vested interest in seeing that their ancestral homeland can defend itself from Russian aggression as it works to align itself more with NATO and the West while promoting the platform of democracy, freedom, transparency, and free markets.

I have met with President Zelensky several times, and I am encouraged by his commitment and his passion to keeping Ukraine on the right track, including fighting corruption. We have to continue as a country to ensure that elimination of corruption continues in Ukraine. I was pleased to see that Ukraine was very recently designated as a NATO Enhanced Opportunities Partner, and one day I hope to welcome them as a full member of NATO. We are passing, I hope, a unanimous consent resolution in this body with regard to this issue. We need to be sure and let Ukraine know we support them.

For the past 4 years, I have worked to include provisions in the NDAA, the Defense bill we are working on now, that help expand military assistance to Ukraine and build on the Ukraine military security assistance initiative. This year I was pleased that the bill again authorizes $250 million in lethal and nonlethal aid to Ukraine. That includes $125 million in lethal assistance that they need. That is an increase of $75 million from last year's budget. So we are doing even more to help allow the Ukrainians to defend themselves.

New this year, this bill includes my proposal to require the Departments of State and Defense to develop a new multiyear strategy to support the development of Ukraine's military forces, increasing its capability and capacity and providing a resource plan for U.S. security assistance.

I had the opportunity to speak today to General Dayton, who will be nominated by the President to be the next Ambassador to Ukraine. This is a guy who has done a terrific job of working with the Ukrainian military to modernize the military, to ensure there is more transparency, civilian control, and to be sure they are following the model that will allow them to be successful in recruiting and in fighting against the Russian threat.

There is a lot to like in the NDAA, and I have introduced some amendments that I hope will be included as well. I will continue to advocate for Ohio and for the men and women who keep us safe every day.

I look forward to voting on the bill's passage in the Senate soon so that our troops, who give so much of themselves just to be able to keep us safe, have the resources they need, the best equipment, and the highest level of readiness to be able to fulfill that mission to keep the peace and to continue to secure our liberties.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, I am here on the floor today to talk about some recent troubling statistics that ought to serve as a call to action for every single one of us.

Last Friday, in observance of World Drug Day, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime released its annual world report detailing the impact of drug use and trafficking across the world. Frankly, the report paints a grim picture that reminds us that America has a unique addiction crisis, especially as it relates to opioids.

The report says that in recent years the United States has lost more men, women, and children to drug overdose deaths—60,000 to 70,000 per year—than the next 20 countries combined.

Let me say that again. The United States has lost more people to drug

overdose deaths than the next 20 countries combined. That is unacceptable. This sad comparison of the United States to other countries is a reminder that we have to do better and we can do better.

Even more concerning to me is the recent data we are now receiving about what is happening as a result of the current coronavirus pandemic. It was bad enough, as the world drug report shows, but now, during the last few months, during this pandemic, things have gotten worse.

The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program is a collaborative Federal organization that tracks overdose data from more than 3,300 emergency agencies. According to data that has been obtained by the Washington Post, fatal and nonfatal overdoses were 18 percent higher in March of this year as compared to March of 2019. They are 29 percent higher this April compared to a year ago and 42 percent higher this May than they were a year ago, in 2019. These are overdoses that are being tracked through EMS, ambulance, hospitals, and emergency rooms. This is really concerning.

One of the findings of this U.N. report was that the most dangerous class of drugs worldwide were opioids, including prescription pain killers, heroin, and the synthetic opioids like fentanyl. These drugs were the cause of about two-thirds of the overdose deaths in the world in recent years, according to the U.N.

The recent data shows that fentanyl use, in particular, has gone up in the United States during this pandemic, especially when it is laced with other drugs, such as heroin, meth, and cocaine. As many of my colleagues know, one of my top priorities in Congress over the last several years has been to combat this opioid addiction crisis that has hit communities in my home State of Ohio so hard. This new information about the resurgence of addiction is particularly discouraging because in recent years we have made great progress. We had actually, finally, after years and years of increased overdose deaths every single year—finally, in the last few years, we had begun to see a reversal of that, and here we have, during this pandemic, the opposite happening.

In 2017, Ohio's opioid overdose death rate was almost three times the national average. We were one of the top three States in the country in terms of overdose deaths. Nearly a dozen Ohioans are dying from these drugs every day, surpassing car crashes as our country's top killer among young people and, for Ohio overall, the State's No. 1 killer. But that next year, in 2018, we were one of the leaders in turning the tide with a 22-percent reduction in 1 year in overdose deaths. That was the same year, by the way, when national overdose deaths also declined for the first time since 1990. Think about that. From 1990 to 2018, it increased every year, and finally we saw a reduction. In Ohio it was a significant reduction.

Over the last couple of years, prior to the coronavirus, we continued to make steady progress—not 22 percent, but we made steady progress in declining. We achieved these strides, in part, thanks to legislation we passed in this Congress—a significant commitment of new resources by the Republicans and Democrats on this floor and by the administration. The CARA Act and CARES Act provided local and State governments and nonprofit groups with additional resources to help use proven prevention treatment and recovery programs effectively.

I was the author of the CARA legislation. We spent 4 years putting it together, with national folks coming in from all over the country helping us, and we put together something that made sense and that was actually working.

We have also ensured that our first responders on the frontlines of this crisis had the resources they need, including the miracle drug Naloxone, which reverses the effects of an overdose.

This kind of continued support was critical for our communities making the progress we have made in combating the disease of addiction, and I have been proud to help lead the effort at the Federal level, although at the State level and local level everybody has kicked in, including so many volunteers and so many families, and it has made a difference.

But these new reports show that now we are going the other way. We have a long way to go in this fight against the addiction crisis in America, and I am afraid we are in danger now of taking a step backward.

Thanks to the coronavirus, our lives have changed in so many ways. Many individuals who have lost their jobs have had to radically change the way they work. Unfortunately, the disruptions have extended to this field of addiction treatment as well.

As States have begun to order a suspension of elective procedures—this happened back in March and April—people were not able to get elective procedures in hospitals, and there was a shift toward more telehealth to help preserve the personal protection gear, the PPEs, for frontline workers. Many patients and caregivers who relied on face-to-face interaction and around-the-clock care to be able to stay the course on recovery from drug addiction and from mental health issues have lost vital access to care. I think that is one of the reasons we see this uptick. Some have fallen off their treatment plans, and some have relapsed.

Unfortunately, this is happening right now as we talk. If we combine that with the feelings of isolation so many people feel being quarantined or being isolated, the feeling of frustration, the feeling of despair many Americans have felt with these dual healthcare and economic crises, you have a perfect storm for the resurgence in opioid deaths. That is exactly what has happened in Ohio and around the country.

Officials in Hamilton County, which is Cincinnati, OH, where I am from, stated there were 42 overdose deaths in May and that at least 23 people died in June. In Cuyahoga County, our State's most populous area and the home of Cleveland, the medical examiner's office has reported 235 fatal drug overdoses so far in 2020 and at least 66 fatal heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine overdoses in May alone. Those figures, by the way, match the deadliest months for overdoses on record in the county, and that would be back in 2017.

Remember, we talked about how the deaths are going up year after year, and 2017 was the peak, and then they went down in 2018. Well, this year already, in Cleveland, we are back up to where we were in 2017. The Columbus coroner's office has had to move to a space three times larger than its old office to accommodate the increases in overdoses and overdose deaths. We are not alone in this uptick. According to the Center for Optimal Living, 30 States have seen an increase in overdose deaths during this pandemic.

The Federal response to the coronavirus pandemic has included certain measures to ensure those suffering from addiction can continue to get the care they need, and I am glad we were able to provide some provisions both in the CARES legislation that was passed about a month ago but also the other legislation we passed around that time.

We have done a number of things to cut redtape and the regulatory relief to expand telehealth and telehealth options specifically for opioid treatment, as well as increasing the number of alternate delivery methods for patients quarantined at home so they can maintain their access to opioid treatment providers. These reforms have been helpful in offering a lifeline for those working hard to stay sober and clean, and, in some instances, according to addiction and mental health leaders from across the State, these reforms have even allowed addiction specialists to reach new patients who were hesitant to come into the doctor's office in the first place, sometimes due to the stigma that attaches to addiction.

These aren't perfect solutions, of course, because the numbers show that addictions are actually up, but ultimately, they have been helpful. We are going to have to find a way to get a handle on this coronavirus pandemic in a way that we can resume these traditional in-person addiction treatment services that have helped so many recover from this debilitating disease. We are going to have to ensure that we can get away from some of this isolation and sense of disparity that people feel.

One thing we do know is, the benefits of telehealth for treating addiction are real, and I think we should act now in this next COVID–19 bill that we are talking about passing next month or maybe even later this month. That legislation, in my view, should include provisions that allow providers to have

the flexibility to continue to offer alternative forms of care via telehealth to people when this pandemic is over so the providers can readily adapt in the event that another pandemic or another disaster forces us to shift healthcare services back to virtual care. We need to continue telehealth now and provide the reimbursement but also ensure that it is going to be there for the future because it is working.

I am committed to working with my colleagues on bipartisan solutions to the challenges we talked about today. Yesterday, I introduced legislation called the Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Treatment Services Act, or TREATS Act, to make permanent a number of temporary waivers for telehealth services and bolster telehealth options for addiction treatment services. Specifically, the bill is going to do a couple of things.

First, it will allow for a patient to be prescribed lower scheduled drugs like Suboxone or buprenorphine through telehealth on their first visit. Current law requires you go to an in-person visit when needing any controlled substances, but this has been a deterrent to patients in crisis and in urgent need of treatments from schedule III or IV drugs.

Our bill is important. By the way, it also limits abusive practices by limiting telehealth visits to those who have both audio and video capabilities to be able to interact with the treatment providers to reduce fraud and abuse when it is your first visit. It would also prohibit prescribing schedule II drugs like opioids that are more prone to being abused through these telehealth visits. So we have provisions in there to avoid abuse, but it is important to continue this telehealth when the other options aren't there.

Second, our bill would allow for Medicare to bill for audio-only or telephone telehealth visits if it is not the patient's first visit. In-person visits or telehealth visits with video components are important, and I think it is important to have that on the first visit because they can allow for more robust checkups and evaluations.

Due to distance or access to broadband, these types of appointments aren't always possible. We still need to focus on safety and robust treatment options, but in order to balance the needs of patients, we have proposed to allow our Nation's seniors to use phones for subsequent behavioral health visits when they do not have access to the internet.

There is no question that the greatest priority facing our country at this moment is this unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, but this new U.N. report and the rising number of overdoses in Ohio and around the country show that there is even more at stake here than we realize. We know of the direct impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, but losing ground on addiction and behavioral health is one of the indirect casualties. Not only must Congress ensure our addiction health services have the resources they need to adapt to this new reality, but we also have to redouble our efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus so we don't lose ground on this addiction crisis just as we were making progress and that we don't keep more Americans from achieving their God-given potential.

PROTESTS

Mr. President, I hadn't planned to talk about this, but I was watching the floor earlier today when there was a heated discussion on the Senate floor about the chaos and violence we have seen on the streets in many of our great cities.

The peaceful demonstrations, which developed really spontaneously after the tragic death of George Floyd and other injustices, delivered a powerful message about the need to address racial disparities and about the need for police reforms.

The right to demonstrate peacefully must be protected, but the looting, the desecration of monuments, the arson, and the destruction of property, including small businesses in some of these communities of color—it breaks my heart to see some of these small business owners talk about what they are going through; the injuries to our law enforcement officers who are just doing their jobs, doing what they are asked to do in a professional way; and, of course, the self-appointed statue destroyers we have seen. This lawlessness, in too many instances, must not be tolerated. Those who have exploited the situation and the peaceful demonstrations to foment this violence are undermining the cause of the peaceful marchers and further dividing an already polarized country.

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

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

S. 4049

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss what I believe is an important and consequential matter at this moment: the way ahead for U.S. relations with our friend and partner, Israel.

The pending legislation before us includes a plan to codify and extend a multiyear commitment of American security assistance to Israel. Specifically, it would codify a memorandum of understanding reached during the Obama administration to provide $38 billion over 10 years in security assistance to Israel. That is $3.8 billion a year. That is a significant promise. In fact, on an annual basis, that $3.8 billion represents over half of current U.S. foreign military funds around the world.

It is a big commitment, especially at a time when we are struggling to invest in supporting our workers, our businesses, and our economy here at home during this global pandemic.

While it is a sizable commitment, it is one I have supported because Israel is a close ally and friend that lives in a very dangerous and volatile part of the world. It is surrounded on many fronts with enemies who would like to destroy it, including Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah.

Moreover, Israel and the United States have a variety of shared interests. Most importantly, in my view, the United States has an enduring obligation to support a secure homeland for the Jewish people after the horrors of the Holocaust.

Under normal circumstances, I would not even come to the Senate floor today. I have consistently supported the security assistance, and I still do. So why am I here today?

I am here because while I remain strongly committed to the security of Israel and providing security assistance, I am also strongly opposed to Prime Minister Netanyahu's declared intention to unilaterally annex parts of the West Bank starting this month.

The unilateral annexation of parts of the West Bank would totally undermine what has been, at least until the Trump administration, bipartisan American policy in support of a two-state solution that would ensure the security and the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Under the leadership of President Harry Truman, the United States championed the establishment of the State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people, and that remains a steadfast American commitment. But the right to a secure homeland for the Jewish people does not include the right to unilaterally annex territories on the West Bank and deny the Palestinian people a viable state and homeland of their own.

So I will say it again: The United States should support and continue to support the legitimate security needs of Israel, but we also need to stand up for a just two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for the rule of law and international order that the United States has championed ever since the end of World War II.

Now, as I said before, the bill before us would codify and extend the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel on security assistance signed on September 14, 2016. You can be sure that that memorandum of understanding for security assistance never contemplated Israel's annexing parts of the West Bank.

In fact, the opposite is true. Part of the American rationale for providing Israel with robust military assistance has been to give Israel the confidence to seek a secure peace based on a two-state solution.

Here is what National Security Advisor Susan Rice said in the Treaty

Room at the White House at the time of signing that MOU.

She first pointed out that it represented ''the single largest pledge of military assistance to any country in U.S. history.'' She reinforced the message that the United States remains absolutely committed to Israel's security.

Then she said this:

> That's also why we continue to press for a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—two states for two peoples living side by side in peace and security. As the President—

She was referring to President Obama—

> has said, the only way for Israel to endure and thrive as a Jewish and democratic state is through the realization of an independent and viable Palestinian state.

That is what she said at the signing of the same MOU that we would be codifying in the bill before us.

Lest anyone think that was simply the position of a Democratic President and a Democratic administration, it was not.

Susan Rice and Condoleezza Rice have more in common than just their last names. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice attended the signing ceremony for the previous memorandum of understanding that took place on January 16, 2009, and, on that occasion, she too highlighted the need to achieve ''a two-state solution building upon previous agreements and obligations.'' She said: '' . . . two-state solution, which is the only way, ultimately, to secure a future for Israelis and Palestinians alike over the . . . long term.''

So the Bush administration and the Obama administration, at the signings of the memorandums of understanding for security assistance, both said the only way forward was through a viable two-state solution that recognized the rights, dignity, and aspirations of both peoples.

Now, the unilateral annexation of West Bank land that Prime Minister Netanyahu has proposed would blow away, would destroy, any real prospects for a viable two-state solution. It would make a mockery of the statements made by both National Security Advisor Susan Rice and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. It would make a mockery of the tenets of a bipartisan U.S. foreign policy up until the Trump administration.

Make no mistake, those most in favor of unilateral annexation are those most opposed to any viable two-state solution.

Now, I am under no illusions that a viable two-state solution is a near-term prospect. It is not right around the corner. The Palestinian Authority has been weak, and, until recently, because of the one-sided actions of the Trump administration, has decided not to negotiate. But even though the near-term chances of a negotiated two-state solution remain remote, we must preserve—we must preserve—that option, and preserving that option means strongly opposing the unilateral annexation of West Bank territory.

Now, the unilateral annexation by Israel of all or any part of the West Bank will unleash a cascade of harmful consequences.

One, if we become complicit in this action, it will harm our national security interests and credibility by undermining the fundamental principles of international law that we in the United States have championed since the end of World War II.

Two, it will further isolate Israel in the international community, and many countries—including in Europe—are likely to respond with different forms of sanctions. Some are already moving in that direction.

Three, it will harm both our position and Israel's interests in the Middle East, by weakening allies like Jordan, and threaten to unravel the warming relationships Israel has built with the Sunni Gulf States to counter Iran.

The bottom line is that unilateral annexation will greatly strengthen the hand of our common enemies—Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah—and hurt friends like Jordan.

Four, it will harm Israel's security by completely undermining the credibility of the Palestinian Authority and its capacity to effectively govern the Palestinian areas on the West Bank.

Five, unilateral annexation will ultimately lead to one of two outcomes. Either all the people in the annexed areas will be extended equal democratic rights and Israel will risk losing its Jewish identity, or Palestinians on the West Bank will be relegated to small, disconnected enclaves with no viable future—what two former Israeli Prime Ministers have warned is ''slipping toward apartheid.''

Six, if the current Netanyahu government heads down the road of permanently denying the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and denies them their basic human rights, then Israel will increasingly alienate itself from America. That is not in the interest of either of our two countries.

So those are at least six of the harmful results of unilateral annexation. I am going to elaborate on each of those points.

No. 1, any American acceptance of unilateral annexation will undermine the very principle of international law that we have fought to uphold in the international community since the end of World War II. The United States has been the architect of the rules-based international order, as reflected in the U.N. Charter of 1945, as well as in the Declaration on Principles of International Law, based on the U.N. Charter, that were signed in 1970 and found in many other universally agreed-to documents and commitments.

It is well established that one country cannot take territory gained from another in war. Now, I know the Trump administration has done all sorts of mental and verbal gymnastics to abandon this long-held American international principle to create an exception for Israel, but they look very foolish.

We all recognize that some of the territory proposed to be annexed by Prime Minister Netanyahu's plan would ultimately be included within Israel's official boundaries through a process of negotiations. Land swaps have been a regular feature of the talks, but there is a world of difference between a negotiated settlement and one imposed by illegal, unilateral annexation.

If we, the United States, aid and abet this effort, we will lose all our credibility in condemning other instances of unilateral annexation. I have with me a wrath of angry statements from Senators of both parties made here on the floor of the Senate—outraged by Russia's unilateral annexation of Crimea; outraged by Russia's efforts to extend its sovereignty over other parts of Ukraine—and Secretary Pompeo stating that the United States ''does not and will not ever recognize Moscow's annexation of Crimea.''

I agree. He was right to say it. We, on the Senate floor, were right to say those things. Those were violations of international law. In fact, not only did we condemn those actions; we rallied other countries to impose sanctions on Russia.

But what will Secretary Pompeo say next time? What is Mr. Pompeo going to say if Turkey, which currently occupies northern Cyprus, should decide one day that it will unilaterally annex that territory? That would give Turkey more direct claims to the undersea gas fields between Cyprus and Israel.

What about China's claims to the islands of the South China Sea, or other disputed territories in many parts of the world that are claimed by multiple parties?

The whole reason to abide by a rules-based system is to say not only no to your adversaries; you must also say no to your friends. Otherwise, it is not a rules-based system at all; it is the global jungle.

That is why President Eisenhower said no both to our British and Israeli friends when they tried to seize the Suez Canal in 1956.

If we accept Prime Minister Netanyahu's unilateral annexation, we will not have any credibility the next time around when an adversary does so.

In fact, here is what President Eisenhower had to say at that time:

> There can be no peace without law. And there can be no law if we were to invoke one code of international conduct for those who oppose us and another for our friends.

That is what President Eisenhower said, and, of course, it makes sense. On February 20, 1957, President Eisenhower broadcast an address to the American people about the need for Israel to withdraw from territories it captured during the 1956 war. In that case, he said we would not consider occupation of another country as a

'peaceful means' or proper means to achieve justice and conformity with international law.''

This is a well-established principle that the United States has championed in the international arena.

No. 2, the unilateral annexation of parts of the West Bank will further isolate Israel in Europe and across the world. The EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said recently that annexation ''would inevitably have significant consequences'' for the EU's relationship with Israel, and already an array of European parliaments are preparing responses, including sanctions.

In a joint statement issued on June 24 by the current and incoming EU members on the U.N. Security Council—that is Germany, Belgium, France, Estonia, and Ireland—together with the UK and Norway, they together said: ''We also share the Secretary-General's assessment that if any Israeli annexation of the Occupied West Bank—however big or small—is implemented, it would constitute a clear violation of international law.''

They went on to say ''that following our obligations and responsibilities under international law, annexation would have consequences for our close relationship with Israel and would not be recognized by us.''

None of this should be surprising. Unlike the Trump administration, they are being consistent in how they react to violations of international law, applying the same standards to adversaries and friends alike.

Israel has often been unfairly singled out and unfairly treated and criticized at the United Nations, and the United States has, on many occasions, properly exercised its veto to defend Israel against unfair treatment. But in this case, if Israel moves forward with unilateral annexation, strong opposition at the U.N. would not be the result of the world treating Israel differently or unfairly; it would be a self-inflicted wound. Again, the Trump administration may shield Prime Minister Netanyahu's government from U.N. action, but don't count on future administrations to defend illegitimate actions.

Three, unilateral annexation will undermine our security interests in the Middle East and those of Israel. It will put our friends in the region in great jeopardy and weaken our coordination with Gulf States against Iran.

King Abdullah of Jordan very recently emphasized that annexation is ''unacceptable'' and recently warned the Senate of a ''massive conflict'' if unilateral annexation proceeds.

Here is what the widely respected retired Israeli Defense Force Major General Amos Gilahd said on June 8 when asked about annexation:

> It is a disaster. Why do we need to do it? It is unnecessary. It is a threat to Israel. We might endanger our security cooperation with Jordan that is so valuable that most Israelis can't even imagine.

Arab leaders from the Gulf States, who have been strengthening cooperation with Israel in recent years, issued similar warnings. The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the United States, Ambassador Al-Otaiba, headlined a recent article, ''It's either Annexation or Normalization.''

He said: ''Once it is clear that there is no longer a realistic chance of a viable, sovereign state of Palestine being created, it becomes more difficult for Arab leaders to justify publicly their plans to further develop strategic cooperation with Israel.''

I know it is fashionable in some places these days to discount these warnings from Arab leaders. After all, it is true, they have cried wolf before when it comes to following through on their warnings about certain Israeli actions. We are told: Don't worry. Don't worry, they don't really mean it; they are just making these pronouncements to placate the Arab street.

Maybe so, but there is a point where the Arab street will rebel, when it will explode. And that may be the day when Israel signals that it will unilaterally annex territory in the West Bank and eliminate any prospects for a peaceful two-state solution.

What will be the result? The result will be to strengthen Iran, to strengthen Hamas, to strengthen Hezbollah, handing them a very potent weapon against Israel and the United States. They will say they have been proved right, that Israel never intended to negotiate a just settlement and that the United States has been complicit.

Four, unilateral annexation will jeopardize American-Israeli cooperation with the Palestinian Authority to provide security and stability in the West Bank. Unlike Hamas, the Palestinian Authority long ago recognized Israel's right to exist as part of a dialogue for peace and a just settlement.

As former IDF Major General Gilead pointed out, the leader of the Palestinian Authority, President Abbas, ''believes that terror does not serve the best interests of the Palestinians.''

He went on to say: ''We have a very satisfactory security cooperation relationship with the PA.''

He predicts: ''The moment there is unilateral annexation, the PA will lose its legitimacy. If they do, sooner or later they will not be able to show their faces in the Palestinian street. And who will pay the price? Our soldiers.''

A respected group known as the Commanders for Israel's Security—a group of over 220 retired Israeli generals and equivalent ranked individuals—expressed similar fears, saying that the prospect of unilateral annexation, like the coronavirus, was an ''ominous development'' and spelling out the risk of the full collapse of the Palestinian Authority and its security agencies.

Hamas has always argued that the Palestinian Authority had been played the fool when it recognized Israel's right to exist. They argued that Israel would never agree to a just settlement if Palestinians first gave up armed resistance and first recognized Israel. If Israel proceeds with unilateral annexation, the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority will be diminished and Hamas will be the beneficiary.

Five, unilateral annexation and the abandonment of any viable two-state solution will lead to one of two possible outcomes, neither of them meeting the goals of the parties. Those two different paths have been described by Israeli leaders themselves.

Here is the way former Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ehud Barak explained the situation in a Haaretz interview in June 2017. He said: ''If we keep controlling the whole area from the Mediterranean to the river Jordan where some 13 million people are living—8 million Israelis, 5 million Palestinians—if only one entity reigned over this whole area, named Israel it would become inevitably—that's the key word, inevitably—either non-Jewish or non-democratic.'' That is from a former Israeli Prime Minister.

In the event of a scenario in which Palestinians living in an annexed West Bank are given full rights and allowed to vote, Barak predicted Israel would quickly become a ''binational state with an Arab majority and civil war.''

The second option, if you abandon a two-state solution, according to the former Prime Minister, the second option is the current path, he said, ''a slippery slope toward apartheid.''

Because those two outcomes are undesirable, he pointed out that Israel has a ''compelling imperative'' to pursue a solution of two states for two peoples.

Another former Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, has also repeatedly warned that Israel is on a path to apartheid if the two-state solution collapses. He said, if that happens, Israel will ''face a South African style struggle for equal voting rights, and as soon as that happens, the state of Israel is finished.''

Just recently in the New York Times, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Sallai Meridor said: ''If we take steps that make separation from the Palestinians impossible, we may destroy the very root of the entire Zionist enterprise.''

Six, I believe unilateral annexation will have all the harmful impacts I have discussed on the Senate floor today and many more that so many Israelis have warned about. I hope Prime Minister Netanyahu will pull back from the brink. But hope and prayer are not a policy. In normal times, an American President from either political party would have made clear that such action is unacceptable to the United States of America, but these are not normal times. We actually have an American Ambassador to Israel now who is promoting this unilateral annexation plan and who opposes a two-state solution. Here is what now-Ambassador Friedman said in November 2016:

There has never been a ''two state solution'' only a ''two state narrative.''

He describes it as:

an illusion that serves the worst intentions of both the United States and the Palestinian Arabs. It has never been a solution, only a word narrative. But even the narrative itself now needs to end.

That is from the current U.S. Ambassador in 2016.

In 2016, our current ambassador also said that he is in favor of extending permanent Israeli control and sovereignty over the entire area from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, clearly snuffing out any prospects for a two-state solution and the viable way forward.

Ultimately, of course, the government of Israel will make its own decisions, and then, we here in the United States will have to make ours. The United States must have a position that reflects our values and our ideals—our ideals of democracy, of human rights, of equal justice and rule of law and self-determination.

God knows we are far from perfect here, and we can see that clearly during this moment of national reckoning around racial justice and equity. But we have set those principles as our goals, as our North Star, and until this Trump administration came along, we have also made human rights and the right of self-determination a key pillar of our bipartisan American foreign policy.

It is those principles that have led us to support a secure and democratic Israel as the home for the Jewish people and the establishment of a separate viable state as the homeland for the Palestinian people.

The American people support a two-state solution and significantly the American Jewish committee in the 2019 survey of American Jewish opinion shows overwhelming support for a two-state solution among the American Jewish community and a large majority who say Israel should be willing to dismantle all or some of the settlements as part of a peace agreement. The next generation—this younger generation—of Americans and of American Jews is even more focused on issues of human and political rights for all peoples, Israelis and Palestinians.

There are many who have said that the possibility of a two-state solution disappeared long ago, with the expansion of settlements and outposts and the network of roads and checkpoints. They have called the prospects for a two-state solution a delusion, a mirage; yet, even as the facts on the ground have made a two-state solution harder to realize, many of us continue to see that as the vision for the future, one that brings hope to both peoples.

Make no mistake the unilateral annexation of parts of the West Bank would be the final nail in the coffin of that idea. So what happens then? What do we do? Once any remaining hope for that vision is extinguished, I think we are in unchartered territory. As President Obama noted in one of his speeches, ''The situation for the Palestinian people is intolerable.'' And he drew parallels to the struggle of African Americans for full and equal rights.

Secretary of State John Kerry has said that if the choice is one state, Israel can either be Jewish or democratic; it cannot be both. ''You would have millions of Palestinians permanently living in segregated enclaves in the middle of the West Bank, with no real political rights, separate legal, education and transportation systems, vast income disparities, under a permanent military occupation that deprives them of the most basic freedoms. Separate and unequal is what you would have.''

Nelson Mandela often talked about the need to ensure a secure State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people and the rights of the Palestinian people. He said: ''We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.'' There is a memorial statue to Nelson Mandela in Ramallah.

What do we do? What do we do—those of us who are committed to a vibrant, secure, and democratic Israel that is a home for the Jews but are also concerned about the abandonment of the vision of a two-state solution that also respects the aspirations and rights of the Palestinians?

As I said at the beginning of these remarks, I have strongly supported security assistance for Israel, and I continue to do so. I also pointed out that National Security Advisor Susan Rice and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice both indicated in their comments at the signing ceremony of the MOUs for security assistance that a viable two-state solution was the only—their words—only way to permanent peace.

For all the reasons I have stated today, I do not believe that the U.S. Government, the U.S. taxpayer should be aiding and abetting Prime Minister Netanyahu's plan to unilaterally annex the West Bank. The American Government and the American taxpayer must not facilitate or finance such a process. That is why today a group of 12 Senators has filed an amendment to the bill to make that position clear—the position that we fully support the robust $38 billion security assistance to Israel but also make it clear that those funds should not be used to facilitate and promote unilateral annexation.

There are many who say that this does not go far enough, and there are others who oppose annexation but say: Pass the security assistance without making any statement about annexation or without taking any action. To them, I am reminded of former Israeli Defense Minister and Commander Moshe Dayan's statement saying: ''Our American friends offer us money, arms, and advice. We take the money, we take the arms, and we decline the advice.''

We are friends, the United States and Israel. We have many common interests, but we will also have our differences. This is a moment when, yes, we should provide the security assistance, the military assistance. Yet, in doing so, we should also make clear that it should not be used in any way to promote unilateral annexation.

Our view in filing this amendment is that the only way to reconcile our strong support for a safe and secure Israel and our commitment to establishment of two states for two peoples living side by side is what we proposed.

I hope and pray that Prime Minister Netanyahu will not move forward with his unilateral annexation plan. I hope we can continue to say that the U.S.-Israel relationship is built not only on shared interests but also on shared values.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 750, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk with the exception of PNs 1785, 1923, 1975, 1525, 1526, 1795 through 1798, 1805, 1924 through 1926, 1952, 1865, 1867 through 1874, 1876 through 1897, 1954 through 1963; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, all en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Gustave F. Perna

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1950 AIR FORCE nomination of Kirk W. Greene, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1974 AIR FORCE nomination of Patterson G. Aldueza, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 8, 2020.

IN THE ARMY

PN1358 ARMY nomination of Michael F. Coerper, which was received by the Senate and appeared in Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1804 ARMY nominations (146) beginning ROHUL AMIN, and ending D015498, which

nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1853 ARMY nomination of Christopher V. Emmons, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN1927 ARMY nomination of Nathaniel A. Stone, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PN1928 ARMY nomination of Margaret C. Brainardbland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PN1929 ARMY nomination of Michael B. McGuire, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PN1930 ARMY nomination of Ralph Pean, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PN1931 ARMY nomination of Christopher M. Hartley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 21, 2020.

PN1951 ARMY nomination of Mauro Quevedo, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1976 ARMY nomination of Joshua W. Krupa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 8, 2020.

PN1977 ARMY nomination of Peter C. Renals, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 8, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

PN1964 NAVY nomination of Robert C. Birch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

N1965 NAVY nomination of Tori J. Moffitt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

PN1966 NAVY nomination of Mattheau B. Willsey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 2, 2020.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 504, 505, 506, 719, and 720.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Joseph Bruce Hamilton, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2022; Jessie Hill Roberson, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2023 (Reappointment); Thomas A. Summers, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2020; Joyce Louise Connery, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2024. (Reappointment); and Thomas A. Summers, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2025. (Reappointment).

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; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hamilton, Roberson, Summers, Connery, and Summers nominations?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 754, 755, and 756.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Owen McCurdy Cypher, of Michigan, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years; Thomas L. Foster, of Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Virginia for the term of four years; and Tyreece L. Miller, of Tennessee, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent 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.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cypher, Foster, and Miller nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am grateful to Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member REED and their staffs for their work to produce the fiscal year 2021 defense authorization bill.

The FY21 NDAA authorizes $740.5 billion in defense spending, up $2 billion from last year. The bill provides a 3-percent pay raise for our troops and includes provisions that support spouse employment, childcare, and improved military housing. It ensures that the United States can defend effectively against threats from Russia, China, and North Korea and invests in key and innovative capabilities and technologies. It includes key provisions I requested to boost efforts at Rock Island Arsenal, address military sexual trauma, and protect the health of our military communities from dangerous chemicals.

But this year, we take up the NDAA during a global pandemic, record unemployment, and calls to address racial injustice. The bill touches on some of these issues. It authorizes $44 million for vaccine and medical research related to COVID–19 and expands benefits for Active Duty and National Guard personnel involved in COVID response.

I am pleased that it includes a provision authored by Senator WARREN to require DOD to remove names, symbols, and other displays honoring the Confederacy. If we want to move toward a more just society, we cannot continue to honor Confederate leaders who committed treasonous atrocities in order to preserve slavery.

I also authored two amendments that were included by consent, the first an amendment supporting strong security assistance for the Baltics that I filed with Senator GRASSLEY. The Baltic States remain key allies and among the few NATO countries that fulfill the target spending of 2 percent of GDP on defense, and this provision encourages support for more robust and enduring security assistance. My other amendment is one I sponsored with Senator PORTMAN, welcoming NATO recognition of Ukraine as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner. EOP status will help only further deepen cooperation with NATO, which is especially critical as 2020 marks the 6th year of ongoing Russian occupation of eastern Ukraine.

But the FY21 NDAA still does not go far enough.

I field two amendments that go to the heart of our duties as Senators, the power to declare war and the power of the purse. Congress must stop abdicating its constitutional responsibilities.

Article I of the Constitution gives Congress the sole authority to declare war. I voted for the war in Afghanistan, but I never imagined that we would still be there nearly two decades later or that the same authorization would be used to justify actions around the world that this body had not contemplated at the time. My amendment would sunset all authorizations for the use of force after 10 years so that Congress can take up the issue and engage in its constitutional duties.

I also cosponsored an amendment led by Senator UDALL making clear that Congress has not given the executive branch any authority to go to war against Iran.

We also cannot continue to let this President raid national defense funds for his ridiculous and racist border wall effort—remember, the one that the President promised Mexico would pay for. Every dollar diverted has been at the expense of our men and women in uniform, especially hurting our National Guard. This bill does nothing to address that. Even when the Ninth Circuit court ruled last Friday that the money grab was illegal, the Department of Defense informed us on Monday that it would not stop construction of the President's campaign promise. That is why I filed an amendment that would keep the President from transferring defense funds outside of DOD for the wall. We need a robust debate on the proper, effective way to respond to the humanitarian crisis at our border, one approved by Congress.

In addition, I filed an amendment that would disapprove of Russia participating in the G7 or being readmitted into a reconstituted G8. Not only does Russia maintain its occupation of Ukraine, but it has continued its interference in the U.S. and other democratic nations. And just last week, The New York Times reported that Russian intelligence secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants to kill American troops in Afghanistan. Apparently, the White House has known about this for months and did nothing. It is unacceptable. My amendment makes it clear that the U.S. should not support Russia's participation in this international summit.

The FY21 NDAA also doesn't go far enough to address the toxic class of chemicals known as PFAS, which have been linked to serious and devastating illness.

That is why I am pleased to cosponsor Senator SHAHEEN's amendments to designate PFAS as hazardous substances and boost DOD cleanup efforts, provide blood testing for servicemembers and their families, and increase funds to study the impact of PFAS on health. In addition, I support Senator GILLIBRAND's amendment that would extend antidiscrimination protections to our transgender servicemembers who bravely make sacrifices for our country. I also am a cosponsor of Senator SCHATZ amendment to limit the transfer of equipment under to the DOD 1033 program to militarize police forces across the country and provide transparency to the program.

I hope that we may be able to debate all of these important issues during consideration of this bill, all of which will only help improve this legislation and provide for our national defense. In the meantime, I reiterate my thanks to Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member REED for their work on this bill.

FOURTH OF JULY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, July 4 is a day to recognize our Nation's Declaration of Independence 244 years ago. On this day, we collectively pause to honor the values that make this Nation great.

July 4 is also a day of shared reflection to see how well we have made more tangible the ideals of our founders ''to create a more perfect union.'' As we look across the landscape of our country today, these words ring with even greater resonance. Our Nation and our people face a call to action to continue the fight against racial injustice, an injustice that has limited the freedom of too many for too long.

The collective ideals to which Thomas Jefferson gave voice in the Declaration's promise of ''Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness'' still echo through the American experience—from Alexander Hamilton's immigrant dream, birthed before our Nation, to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s July 4, 1965, sermon at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. As Dr. King said, ''If we are going to make the America Dream a reality, we are challenged to work in an action program to get rid of the last vestiges of segregation and discrimination.''

America has been and will be a leader in the world. The American people historically have cherished and spearheaded this role. Leadership at any level comes with responsibility, and, in this case, it means we must look to put our own house in order, where we must address domestic injustices.

We must continue our tireless work to create a more perfect union. The struggle will not stop until all men, women, and children can live the American Dream as Dr. King envisioned. To do this, we must continue to assess the true meaning of liberty and freedom. As we begin to acknowledge fundamental elements of our Nation's history, we must recommit to ensuring freedom for all.

Our country's strength lies in the diversity and equality of our people. Through this diversity and through this equality, today we may celebrate the unity described in the very declaration of our Nation's freedom and independence.

On this historic day, we must also celebrate our country's capacity to change. We have overcome monumental challenges before. The majority of our Founders did not comprehend that Black Lives Matter. Today, we work to ensure actions that back up those important words.

Still, as we reflect on the Nation's founding, we recall our past, honor that which is great, and effect the call we perpetually hear to make our Nation a more perfect union.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I voted against the motion to table Senator PAUL's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act not because I support his amendment as written, but because I believe this Senate has a responsibility to fully debate the question of our policy, strategy and plans for Afghanistan. Tabling an amendment cuts off all debate on this important matter. We should not be ducking these decisions. We should confront our policy directly, take stock of where we are, and set a responsible course for the future.

I strongly support ending the war in Afghanistan and the responsible withdrawal of our men and women in uniform. However, I believe that mandating the total unconditional withdrawal on a 1-year timeline will result in the further destabilization of an already volatile region. Unconditional withdrawal divorced from a diplomatic process to achieve political reconciliation between the warring parties will make it harder to achieve a peaceful outcome that serves our national security interests.

Despite my disagreement with much of the substance of the Paul amendment, the Senate should deliberate on these matters, not run away from the discussion. The decision to table the Paul amendment prevented the Senate from performing this essential function.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and as the Senator from the great State of New Mexico, it is my honor to recognize all of the patriotic Americans who have contributed to 75 years of accomplishments and history at White Sands Missile Range, WSMR.

In the final months of America's engagement in World War II and as the Manhattan Project's unprecedented scientific mission achieved its secret goal of harnessing nuclear power, the U.S. Army established the White Sands Proving Ground on July 9, 1945, in New Mexico's Tularosa Basin. Seven days later, the detonation of the first atomic bomb at the Trinity Site ushered in the nuclear era and began what would become three-quarters of a century of major scientific breakthroughs, critical weapons testing and evaluation, and military technology advances.

We must acknowledge the sacrifices New Mexicans have made over the years that contributed to both the establishment and the enduring missions at WSMR. That includes the families whose historic homes and ranches were taken to create WSMR's land base. It includes local residents in the Tularosa Basin who were downwind from the Trinity test and whose lives continue to be impacted. It includes the local communities in southern New Mexico who play a vital role in supporting WSMR's success today.

WSMR is a landmark of technological advances for all branches of the

military. Following World War II, White Sands was where German scientist Werner Von Braun conceived, developed, and tested the long-range V–2 rockets, initiating America's space program. Since then, White Sands has continued to support essential defense and space exploration programs for the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, alongside other important scientific research.

Today's WSMR, which spans 3,200 square miles of the Tularosa Basin, is the Department of Defense's largest, fully-instrumented test range. It provides our Armed Forces, our allies, and defense technology partners with unrivaled terrain for research, testing, evaluation, experimentation, and training that ensures our defense readiness. WSMR executes an average of 5,000 tests each year. These tests, in emerging technologies such as swarming autonomous and unmanned systems, joint integrated air and missile defense, nuclear weapons effects, and space based capabilities, will keep WSMR at the forefront of our national defense for years to come.

As part of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, WSMR is the Army Center of Excellence for Air and Missile Defense Test Bed and Precision Fires Rockets and Missiles. White Sands supports key capabilities in the National Defense Strategy and modernization priorities, including directed energy systems such as laser and high-powered microwave systems, kinetics, electromagnetic pulse, hypersonic and long-range precision fires, U.S. Space Program test support, nuclear weapons effects, and autonomous systems.

While it is a U.S. Army installation stewarded by the Army, WSMR is chartered as a tri-service installation, home to elements of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force. Other organizations conducting operations at WSMR include NASA, National Reconnaissance Office, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the Research and Analysis Center, Center for Countermeasures, and Combat Capabilities Development Command (Data and Analysis Center and Army Research Laboratory).

WSMR also hosts the Bataan Memorial Death March each year, a large and growing event that recognizes the heroism and sacrifice of the New Mexicans and others who endured and in many cases lost their lives to the horrors of World War II's Bataan Death March. I have had the distinct honor of joining this incredible event on a few occasions and treasure the valuable lessons it imparts on everyone who participates.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation and congratulations to everyone who works hard every single day at WSMR to keep all of us safe. President John F. Kennedy stated it best, when he stood before your predecessors at WSMR during a visit on June 5, 1963. President Kennedy said: ''What you do here far and away from Washington, far away from our great capitals, far away from so many countries which depend upon us, what you do here, what progress you make, what dedication you demonstrate makes a significant difference to the security of our country and those who depend upon us.''

I could not agree more. I wish everyone at WSMR a happy 75th anniversary and will continue to support WSMR's critical work in defense of our great Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. HALSTEAD

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career of Robert J. Halstead, or as most of us know him, Bob. To some, this name might sound familiar. He has appeared before Congress on a number of occasions on behalf of the State of Nevada to provide expert witness testimony on nuclear waste storage and transportation. His name graces the archives at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, and he has been a fierce and dedicated partner in the fight against the Yucca Mountain project.

In 1988, the year after the ''screw Nevada bill'' recklessly designated Yucca Mountain as the Nation's sole high-level nuclear waste repository site, Bob brought his knowledge of Federal radioactive waste programs and activities to help arm Nevada in its fight against the broken and misguided processes that led to the Yucca Mountain designation. At the time, he may not have known how long of a fight he was signing up for, but Bob never looked back.

He threw himself into helping Nevada, learning every aspect of the complicated and far-fetched license application, analyzing the geography of the site, and leaving no stone unturned when reviewing proposed transportation routes that would ship one of the most dangerous materials known to man across the country to Nevada.

For more than 30 years, he helped guide the State on nuclear transportation matters, poured over environmental impact statements, submitted contentions to the Yucca Mountain application, and represented the State in technical proceedings that involved the proposed repository. These are just a few of the things we have to thank him for.

Since 2011, Bob served as the executive director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, always making himself available to assist the Governor. Before coming to the Senate, I had the pleasure of working alongside Bob during my time as the Nevada Attorney General. No matter the day or hour, Bob always made time to review materials and provide well-informed, robust responses not just to me, but to my staff.

It was comforting knowing someone with his exceptional experience was at the helm, guiding the State on an issue that is so important to Nevadans and trying to right the wrongs of the Federal Government's reckless mismanagement of nuclear waste.

Just last year, when the State learned of secret weapons-grade plutonium and mischaracterized waste shipments having been received at the Nevada National Security Site, Bob once again proved how instrumental he is to the State of Nevada. His institutional knowledge of Nevada's nuclear history and depth of experience provided the State with an unmatched resource as it rose to challenge the shipments.

Bob has been a vital contributor and colleague; and as he embarks on his well-deserved retirement, I want to share my deepest appreciation and gratitude for his decades-long commitment to helping Nevadans as they have worked to bring fairness, reason, and science back to the repository site designation process.

It is my understanding that Bob will be returning to his home in Wisconsin, where he will live with his wife, Margaret. Bob is looking forward to having more time with his two grown children and finally having time for one of his favorite past times: fishing.

As he casts a line in one of the many beautiful lakes Wisconsin has to offer, I hope he knows how much the State of Nevada and I appreciate the sacrifices he has made to protect the safety of Nevadans and the time he has dedicated to one of our State's greatest fights.•

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA COCHRAN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Jessica Cochran of Blaine County for her entrepreneurship and creativity during these challenging times.

The COVID–19 outbreak has impacted so many Montana small business owners and local communities. During these challenging times, it is tougher than ever for new entrepreneurs to open up shop.

Jessica, a sixth grade teacher at Harlem Elementary School, however took the initiative to start up her own ice cream truck business this summer to spread some cheer to her community during these hard times.

Jessica started Bliss Ice Cream, after acquiring and renovating a 1985 Chevy Astro van. Jessica also secured all the necessary permits and licenses as an independent contractor and food vendor for the summer. Owning an ice cream truck has been a dream of hers since a child. She has taken the initiative to purchase all the necessary supplies and decorations for the children of Harlem and the Fort Belknap area.

It is my honor to recognize Jessica for taking the bold initiative to pursue her dream and bring some much needed joy to the children of her community. As a teacher and a new entrepreneur,

Jessica is a great role model for all of her students and the folks of Blaine County.●

TRIBUTE TO RAY PETERSEN

● Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Mr. Ray Petersen on a remarkable career of indispensable service to the great State of Utah. By virtue of Ray's enduring commitment to overseeing proper land management practices, Emery County flourishes with beauty and opportunity. The residents of Emery County and the countless visitors who enjoy the region have Ray to thank for his 18 years as Emery County's Public Lands Administrator and his lifetime of public service to rural Utah.

Ray has dedicated his career to addressing critical rural issues. As a fourth-generation resident of Emery County, Ray understands well the challenges facing rural communities and the profound impact that Federal, State, and local policy decisions have on the livelihoods of so many. In his role as Emery County Public Lands Administrator, Ray was consequential in assisting policymakers, from the county commission to the Federal Government, reconcile differences and find solutions for the county's land management, whose expansive plans fall heavily under State and Federal domain.

Sustained opportunity and access to Emery County's lands are paramount for its economic vitality, particularly to its agriculture, recreation and tourism industries, and its local mining, gas, and oil development. Ray has helped these key local industries navigate the challenges and opportunities of land management issues, to find compromise and success.

A fitting final accomplishment to his career, Ray was instrumental in helping Utah's congressional delegation secure a victory for Emery County and the State's public lands as the Emery County Public Lands Management Act was signed into law. This legislation marked the culmination of years of collaboration and cooperation with local partners and officials, ensuring ongoing uses will be enjoyed in Emery County without fear of a potential national monument designation from DC and consolidation of Utah trust lands that will generate millions in revenue for our school kids. It also included long-sought local land transfers to meet city government needs while expanding Goblin Valley State Park, a truly unique place that will now be better managed for future generations.

Ray Petersen has championed rural lands issues of extraordinary significance to Utah throughout his esteemed career. Our great State owes him a debt of gratitude for three decades of selfless public service.

Thank you, Ray.

VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the 10th annual ''State of the Union'' essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

ETHAN MELLO, WOODSTOCK UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

I believe that the most pressing issue facing our country today is the issue of affordable healthcare. This issue is unique to the United States among developed nations, but for years we have refused to take action. Not only could switching to a universal healthcare system lower costs, but could also ensure that, like the rest of the countries in the modernized world, the US insures all of its citizens as a human right.

A universal healthcare system is a system where all of the inhabitants of a country are guaranteed healthcare at no cost. The government pays for all medical bills, and the system makes sure that even the poor can be helped when they get sick. Government paying for healthcare means higher taxes, but no deductible costs. This system is a staple in most European countries, as well as in Canada. The US is one of the only major countries to not yet adopt this system. In fact, out of the 33 developed countries recognized by The Balance financial website, 32 have universal healthcare. The UN has accepted universal healthcare as the best choice for countries, and has a goal of worldwide universal healthcare coverage by 2030. If the US keeps its current healthcare system, they are unlikely to meet this goal.

In our country the healthcare system is structured so that private companies provide insurance. However, his insurance often doesn't encompass drug prices or certain other costs, and is not affordable by the poor. The US has a Medicaid system for some low income citizens, but this program does not apply to everyone who is unable to consistently pay for healthcare this has led to over 30 million Americans choosing not to purchase healthcare, a dangerous choice if they get sick or need emergency operations. Our system also allows insurance companies to jack up prices to make profit, and allows prescription drug companies to charge outrageous amounts for cheap pills. The US had the highest insurance costs relative to GDP in the world. This cost has not made our life expectancy better either, as in that respect we are still worse off than we should be as the most powerful country in the world.

Universal healthcare has proven very effective when it has been used in other countries. Universal healthcare lowers healthcare costs, and eliminates administrative costs due to the fact that it is completely run by one entity, the government. In the United States this lower cost of healthcare could not only boost the economy, but also allow for more social mobility for the lower class, and less earnings for the billionaire drug company executives.

Changing the healthcare system of the United States to universal healthcare will not be an easy task, but it is one that is necessary for the good of our country as well as the people in it. In the next election, we need to ensure we elect politicians who not only support universal healthcare, but are willing to fight for it.

SALAMA MBILIZI, WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

''Why should we study for a future that is being taken away from us? We demand a safe future is that really too much to ask?'' asks climate activist Greta Thunberg. This young Swedish environmentalist has gained international attention for her concerns about climate change.

I am a girl from Africa who came to the U.S. as a refugee and I don't want to become a ''climate refugee,'' like people in California who have lost homes due to fire. Climate change first created droughts in California, which lasted over a decade according to Climate Central. There is an 80 percent chance of a multi-decade-long drought by 2100.

Human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, cause climate change. Exhaust gases from cars, uncontrolled factory releases, burning of low-quality coal for heating, even airplanes and ships create air pollution. We should reduce the use of oil and gas, and use alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power.

The government should start investing more in public transportation, which can reduce greenhouse gas emissions because fewer people will have to drive and we can reduce air pollution. According to Energy News Network, ''Public transit produces significantly less air pollution per passenger mile than a standard car carrying a single driver. Buses emit 20% less carbon monoxide, 10% as much hydrocarbons, and 75% as much nitrogen oxides per passenger mile than an automobile with a single occupant.'' Smarter public transportation will increase ridership, cut the number of cars on the road, reduce traffic, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. We could also recycle more plastics and stop cutting down forests. Unless we change our behaviors, global warming will continue and we will continue to experience weather extremes, forest fires, and massive pollution.

When 195 nations met in 2015, they agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the landmark Paris Agreement. The United States later backed out of that agreement but states and cities are still interested. I call on Congress to pass and support legislation to help our environment by honoring the Paris Agreement!

I have a personal interest because climate change affects my life as well as our planet. If we don't change our behavior, we will suffer and some of us will die. Already, animals are going extinct at an alarming rate, reducing the balance in our world and the quality of our life.

Scientists say that if we don't stop pollution and greenhouse gases, Earth will be here for only a few hundred years. But if we can reduce greenhouse gases, Earth can remain okay for a million more years. Think about what will happen to us, your children and grandchildren. I want to be here for as many years as I can, enjoying this world I live in.

PATRICK MESKILL, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

VACCINES CAUSE ADULTS

The law dictates a child as property until the age of 18. While this is usually for the good of the child, what does it mean for the fate of children with misinformed parents? Anti-vax is a deadly philosophy of being against vaccinations, a philosophy that gets children killed. While yes, children are protected from abuse and neglect under Child Protective Services, there is no law to protect them from their own parent's ideas. Parent's can avoid federally required vaccines under religious or superstitious reasons in 45 of the 50 states (NCSL). However, when the safety of the public is at stake, the anti-vax culture becomes a truly worldwide epidemic.

The confusion comes from a defrocked former doctor, Andrew Wakefield, who first proposed the vaccine/autism connection (Ruth). The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) did an inquiry in 2001 to address the

accusations, and found no connection to autism in vaccines. Another complaint isolated the mercury in vaccines. Vaccines contain small amounts of mercury to form thimerosal, a preservative. These small amounts aren't any more than the amount in 3 ounces of tuna fish. Nonetheless, the FDA attempted lowering the amount of mercury in vaccines, but still saw no relief in rising autism numbers. In 2004, 10 out of the 13 authors on Wakefield's paper retracted their hypothesis (Mayor). Then in 2010, the medical journal ''The Lancet'' retracted Wakefield's paper, calling several elements incorrect. America can now agree vaccines should be made mandatory (Dyer).

Medical marvels have continued to raise humanity to higher levels of immunity, causing fatal diseases to go nearly extinct. These include measles, mumps, rubella, polio, chickenpox, and smallpox. However, they still remain only ''nearly extinct.'' Modern day preventable diseases have yet to fade from America due to anti-vax. One study performed in 1982, watched 25 vaccinated and 25 unvaccinated children for the first 5 years of their lives. The result? One vaccinated child had mild measles but didn't die, while the unvaccinated children saw 14 deaths by measles and one of tetanus (Epoke). The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 2018 has had more measles outbreaks than any year this decade, and they typically start in unvaccinated groups (CDC).

Vaccines should be mandatory. Schools have begun to act on this already by requiring their students to be vaccinated to attend. In Australia, parents will be charged every 2 weeks A$28 (roughly 20 USD) for having unvaccinated children, per child (Pasha-Robinson). These laws are something that should be present in the United States. The flu shot is already absolutely free with most health insurances, showing how recommended it is. This science has been around for a long time, and only recently, thanks to the internet's easily accessible misinformation, has it been verbally contested. We must make vaccines mandatory to protect our country from preventable diseases. Yours or someone else's life may depend on it.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees .

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:13 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 703(c) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Public Interest Declassification Board for a term of 3 years: John Tierney of Salem, Massachusetts.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 4116. An act to extend the authority for commitments for the paycheck protection program and separate amounts authorized for other loans under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7440. An act to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons involved in the erosion of certain obligations of China with respect to Hong Kong, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. MCCONNELL).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 7120. An act to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies.

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–4959. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Treatment of Certain COVID–19 Related Loss Mitigation Options Under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), Regulation X'' (12 CFR Part 1024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4960. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities - Interim Final Rule'' (RIN2590–AB03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4961. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities - Final Rule'' (RIN2590–AB03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4962. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Determining 'Underserved' Areas Using Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Data'' (12 CFR Part 1024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4963. 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 ''Guidance on Waiver of 2020 Required Minimum Distributions'' (Notice 2020–51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4964. 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 ''Guidance for Coronavirus-Related Distributions and Loans from Retirement Plans Under the CARES Act'' (Notice 2020–50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4965. 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 ''Treasury Decision (TD): Qualified Business Income Deduction'' ((RIN1545–BP12) (TD 9899)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4966. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Interoperability and Patient Access for Medicare Advantage Organization and Medicaid Managed Care Plans, State Medicaid Agencies, CHIP Agencies and CHIP Managed Care Entities, Issuers of Qualified Health Plans on the Federally-facilitated Exchanges and Health Care Providers'' (RIN0938–AT79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4967. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''High-3 Calculation for Certain Privatized Senate Restaurants and House Food Services Employees and Annuitants Covered Under the Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees' Retirement System'' (RIN3206–AN90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4968. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems: Redefinition of the Little Rock, Arkansas, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas'' (RIN3206–AN95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4969. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems: Definition of Pitt County, NC, to a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Area'' (RIN3206–AN94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4970. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Children's Toys, and Child Care Articles: Determinations Regarding ASTM F963 Elements and Phthalates for Unfinished Manufacturing Fibers'' (16 CFR Part 1253) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4971. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0095)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4972. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Cadiz, Caldwell, and Cambridge, Ohio'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1041)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4973. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Coffeyville, Kansas'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1039)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4974. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Anjou Aeronautique Torso Restraint Systems'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0537)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4975. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Support Services (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1073)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4976. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0404)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4977. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Empresa Brasileira de Aerona Utica S.A.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0466)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4978. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1081)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4979. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0461)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4980. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0547)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4981. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1109)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4982. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2018–0866)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4983. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2010–0240)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4984. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopter Inc., Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0064)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4985. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0204)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4986. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0026)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4987. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0096)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4988. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0455)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4989. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1060)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4990. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2010–1020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4991. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0990)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4992. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0683)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4993. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1024)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4994. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation Propellers'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4995. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0102)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4996. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1072)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4997. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rockwell Collins, Inc. Flight Management Systems'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2018–0977)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4998. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0238)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4999. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; XtremeAir GmbH Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0568)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5000. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0450)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5001. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0101)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5002. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0090)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5003. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0469)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5004. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0091)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5005. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tahlequah, Oklahoma'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0790)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5006. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0827)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5007. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Embraer S.A.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1074)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5008. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1079)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5009. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0092)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5010. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP))'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0349)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5011. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Weatherly Aircraft Company'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2018–0833)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5012. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Cirrus Design Corporation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0546)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5013. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0099)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5014. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1076)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5015. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0452)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5016. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Embraer S.A.)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0340)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5017. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0454)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5018. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; AERMACCHI S.p.A. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0419)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5019. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; PZL Swidnik S.A. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0390)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5020. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0832)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5021. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0947)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5022. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0088)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5023. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0978))) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5024. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines LLC, Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0906)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5025. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3902'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31308)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5026. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3904'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31311)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5027. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3903'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31310)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5028. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3908'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31315)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5029. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3906'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31313)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5030. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Relief for Certain Persons and Operations During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) Outbreak'' ((RIN2120–AL63) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0446)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5031. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA63) (Docket No. 31309)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5032. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31314)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5033. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3901'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31307)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5034. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Williston, North Dakota'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1061)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5035. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Jet Route J–105 and Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–15, V–63, V–272 , and V–583 in the Vicinity of McAlester, Oklahoma'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5036. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V–37 Due to the Planned Decommissioning of Aylmer, Canada, VHF Omnidirectional Range (VOR) Navigation Aid'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0538)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5037. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–125, V–178, V–313, and V–429 in the Vicinity of Cape Girardeau, Montana'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5038. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–7, V–52, and V–178 in the Vicinity of Central City, Kentucky'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5039. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–18, V–54, V–114, and V–583 in the Vicinity of Quitman, Texas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0893)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5040. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Removal of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Eastern United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0039)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5041. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Route T–333; Western United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2018–0986)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5042. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Western United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2018–0850)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5043. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Glens Falls, New York'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0474)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5044. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Berlin, New Hampshire'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0475)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5045. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Ithaca, New York'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0473)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5046. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of VHF Omnidirectional Range (VOR) Federal Airway V–61 and Amendment of Area Navigation Route T–286 Due to the Decommissioning of the Robinson, Kansas, VOR'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0677)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5047. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hardin, Montana'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0954)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5048. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Harlowton, Montana'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0023)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5049. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Gold Beach, Oregon'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0234)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5050. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Baraboo and Boscobel, Wisconsin'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0079)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5051. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Rockford, Illinois'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0349)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5052. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Greenville and Madisonville, Kentucky'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0140)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5053. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ada, Oklahoma'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0140)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5054. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Big Rapids, Michigan'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0142)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5055. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Siren, Wisconsin'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1042)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5056. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of the Class D and Class E Airspace; Meridian, Mississippi'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0598)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5057. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ely, Minnesota'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1043)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5058. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Shenandoah, Iowa'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0791)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5059. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; McAlester, Henryetta, and Poteau, Oklahoma'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1044)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5060. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Alpine, Texas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0034)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5061. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Sweetwater, Texas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0787)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5062. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Proposed Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pratt, Kansas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0902)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5063. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace; Jacksonville NAS, Florida, and Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Mayport, Florida'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0085)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5064. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace and Amendment and Revocation of the Class E Airspace; Multiple Texas Towns'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0808)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5065. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace, Jacksonville NAS,

Florida; and, Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Mayport, Florida'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0085)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5066. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Dillon, Montana'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–0874)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5067. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Dallas-Fort Worth, Fort Worth, and Stephenville, Texas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1030)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4150. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 4151. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow payments under the Medicare program for certain items and services furnished by off-campus outpatient departments of a provider to be determined under the prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4152. A bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 4153. A bill to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to evaluate the National Response Framework based on lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 4154. A bill to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 4155. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BURR):

S. 4156. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide relief from hardship due to the COVID–19 pandemic to agricultural producers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 4157. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to expand the authority of the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4158. A bill to examine the extent of the reliance of the United States on foreign producers for personal protective equipment during the COVID–19 pandemic and produce recommendations to secure the supply chain of personal protective equipment; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4159. A bill to amend the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act to accommodate emerging technologies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4160. A bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mrs. LOEFFLER):

S. 4161. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for inadmissibility for certain aliens seeking citizenship for children by giving birth in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4162. A bill to provide certainty for airport funding; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ROMNEY, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4163. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for timely and effective systematic testing to improve biosurveillance activities and practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4164. A bill to authorize emergency housing voucher assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 4165. A bill to repeal section 692 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4166. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory cases of death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 4167. A bill to set the interest rate applicable to certain economic injury disaster loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 4168. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award additional funding through the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program of the Indian Health Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4169. A bill to establish a National Commission on United States Counterterrorism Policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4170. A bill to reform pattern or practice investigations conducted by the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 4171. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish or certify a calculator to assist lenders and recipients with paycheck protection program loan forgiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 4172. A bill to provide emergency funding for child welfare services provided under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4173. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small employers for covering military spouses under retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JONES, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 4174. A bill to provide emergency appropriations to the United States Postal Service to cover losses related to the COVID–19 crisis and to direct the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service to develop a plan for ensuring the long term solvency of the Postal Service; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4175. A bill to secure the supply of drugs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. MORAN)):

S. 4176. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for home loans from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4177. A bill to authorize supplemental funding for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4178. A bill to provide for a credit against employment taxes for certain workplace safety expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4179. A bill to update the blood donation public awareness campaign of the Department of Health and Human Services to include public awareness on plasma donation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4180. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the national average wage index for any year shall not be less than the amount of the national average wage index for the preceding year; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4181. A bill to establish a Library Stabilization Fund to respond to and accelerate the recovery from coronavirus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 4182. A bill to provide nursing homes with resources for responding to the COVID–19 public health emergency to protect the health and safety of residents and workers, to reauthorize funding for programs under the Elder Justice Act of 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4183. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require organizations that spend more than $50,000 on Federal judicial nomination communications to file statements disclosing donors and certain other information with the Federal Election Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4184. A bill to require States to meet assisted living facility reporting requirements to qualify for future COVID–19 response funds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 4185. A bill to establish an independent dispute resolution process for surprise air ambulance bills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4186. A bill to provide grants to States that do not suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a driver's license of a person or refuse to renew a registration of a motor vehicle for failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 4187. A bill to establish the Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund to ensure a safe, sustainable, convenient transportation option for the people of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HARRIS:

S. 4188. A bill to provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 4189. A bill to provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources .

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

S. 4190. A bill to authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a regional program to assess, monitor, and benefit the hydrology of saline lakes in the Great Basin and the migratory birds and other wildlife dependent on those habitats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 4191. A bill to require a report on foreign investment in the pharmaceutical industry of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4192. A bill to increase portability of and access to retirement savings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4193. A bill to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about African-American history; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4194. A bill to establish the National Institute of Manufacturing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4195. A bill to authorize the Cybersecurity Education Training Assistance Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4196. A bill to modify, consolidate, or repeal unnecessary agency major rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 4197. A bill to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 4198. A bill to require health plans to provide coverage for COVID–19 serology testing; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4199. A bill to amend titles XI, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to lower prescription drug prices in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, to improve transparency related to pharmaceutical prices and transactions, to lower patients' out-of-pocket costs, and to ensure accountability to taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4200. A bill to establish a program to facilitate the adoption of modern technology by executive agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. JONES):

S. 4201. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to accelerate the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4202. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand online benefit redemption options under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4203. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to issuers of American Infrastructure bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 4204. A bill to establish an Interagency Task Force to analyze preparedness for national pandemics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4205. A bill to establish the Homeland Security Higher Education Advisory Council; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 4206. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to authorize the interest rate to be used on a secured loan to be the interest rate for United States Treasury securities of a similar maturity on the date of first disbursement of the loan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SASSE):

S. 4207. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended to require news outlets that are agents of a foreign principal to provide adequate disclosure of their status; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 4208. A bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, to ensure that such Agency has the necessary supporting resources, particularly during economic downturns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. REED, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4209. A bill to amend title IX of the Social Security Act to improve emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations; considered and passed.

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

S. 4210. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the transfer of certain equipment during a public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4211. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access in frontier States to mental health services furnished through telehealth, 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. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 645. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that mob violence should be condemned; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 646. A resolution recognizing the 70th Anniversary of the Fulbright Program in Thailand; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 647. A resolution recognizing the forthcoming centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 648. A resolution designating August 2020 as ''National Women's Suffrage Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 649. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2020 as ''American Grown Flower Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 650. A resolution designating July 10, 2020, as ''Collector Car Appreciation Day'' and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 651. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that, while the United States finds value and usefulness in the World Trade Organization in fulfilling the needs of the United States and other free and open economies in the 21st century, significant reforms at the World Trade Organization are needed and the United States must therefore continue to demonstrate leadership to achieve those reforms; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 360

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 360, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the submission by issuers of data relating to diversity, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 631, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1267, a bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

S. 1601

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1601, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a child safety alert system, and for other purposes.

S. 1986

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1986, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military status.

S. 2327

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2327, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for transfer of unused entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2397

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2397, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to State and Tribal courts in order to allow the electronic service of certain court orders, and for other purposes.

S. 2548

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2548, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 3129

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) 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. 3398

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3398, a bill to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 3423

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3423, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library, in accordance with section 1831 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the Capitol.

S. 3427

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3427, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3629, a bill to establish the Office to Enforce and Protect Against Child Sexual Exploitation.

S. 3703

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3703, a bill to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 3718

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3718, a bill to expand the waiver of affiliation rules for certain business concerns with more than 1 physical location, and for other purposes.

S. 3722

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 3722, a bill to authorize funding for a bilateral cooperative program with Israel for the development of health technologies with a focus on combating COVID–19.

S. 3747

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3747, a bill to help charitable nonprofit organizations provide services to meet the increasing demand in community needs caused by the coronavirus pandemic, preserve and create jobs in the nonprofit sector, reduce unemployment, and promote economic recovery.

S. 3851

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3851, a bill to prohibit high-level appointees in the Department of Justice from participating in particular matters in which the President, a relative of the President, or an individual associated with the campaign of the President is a party.

S. 3865

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3865, a bill to provide for the treatment of certain criminal violations under the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

S. 3874

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name and the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3874, a bill making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 4001

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 4001, a bill to amend title IX of the Social Security Act to improve emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations.

S. 4003

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4003, a bill to improve United States consideration of, and strategic support for, programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence from the onset of humanitarian emergencies and to build the capacity of humanitarian actors to address the immediate and long-term challenges resulting from such violence, and for other purposes.

S. 4019

At the request of Mr. REED, his name and the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4019, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday.

S. 4085

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4085, a bill to make certain States and political subdivisions of States ineligible to receive Federal finance assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 4095

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 4095, a bill to provide emergency benefits for broadband service during periods relating to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

S. 4097

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4097, a bill to provide a temporary moratorium on eviction filings, and for other purposes.

S. 4098

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4098, a bill to provide funding for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4143

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4143, a bill to extend the unemployment insurance provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the duration of the economic recovery, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 458

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 458, a resolution calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws.

AMENDMENT NO. 1729

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1729 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1775

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1775 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1793

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1793 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1829

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1829 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1917

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1917 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1929

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1929 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1931

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1931 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1952

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1952 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1954

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1954 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1955

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1955 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1962

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1962 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2112

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2112 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2184

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2184 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2244

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2244 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2245

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2245 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2284

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2284 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2295

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2295 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2313

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2313 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2324

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2324 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2329

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2329 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2384

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2384 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2396

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2396 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 4155. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from West Virginia, Senator JOE MANCHIN, in introducing the Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act. Our bill, known as the AUTO Act, would lessen the financial burden for severely disabled veterans who require special adaptive equipment to drive a motor vehicle by increasing the access to the Department of Veterans Affairs automobile grant program.

The VA is currently authorized to provide eligible veterans with a one-time grant of approximately $21,400 to be used to purchase a new or used automobile and necessary adaptive equipment, such as specialized pedals or switches. This grant is often used together with the VA special adaptive equipment grants, which help veterans purchase adaptive equipment, such as powered lifts, for an existing automobile or van to make it safe for a veteran's use.

Although veterans can receive multiple special adaptive equipment grants over the course of their lives, they are, for some reason, limited to a single grant for the vehicle. The current limitation fails to take into account that a disabled veteran will need more than one vehicle in his or her lifetime. In fact, the Department of Transportation reports that the average useful life of a vehicle is 11.5 years, and a vehicle that has been modified structurally tends to have a shorter useful life.

According to the VA Independent Budget prepared by the Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the average cost to replace modified vehicles ranges from $40,000 to $65,000 when the vehicle is new and $21,000 to $35,000 when the vehicle is used. These are significant costs for a severely disabled veteran to bear to replace his or her primary mode of transportation. That is why veterans should be eligible to receive an automobile grant once every 10 years. Our bipartisan bill would do exactly that.

One disabled veteran in Maine, Neal Williams, from Shirley, used a VA automobile grant in 1999 to purchase an adapted vehicle—a Ford Econoline van. He has had to purchase several adaptive vehicles since 1999, with each one lasting 250,000 miles, until they were no longer roadworthy. Two hundred and fifty thousand miles is a lot of miles, particularly over Maine's roads and highways. Neal's current vehicle now has over 100,000 miles, and he probably only has a short time before he will need a new one. He told me that purchasing a new van, which he uses for his wheelchair, and then he transfers to the driver's seat—he is such an extraordinary person in what he is able to do, but he has told me that new van will cost him well over $50,000, which is more than he paid for his home in rural Maine.

This is an enormous burden on veterans like Neal who need to purchase expensive adaptive vehicles in order to drive safely and, also, in order to maintain their independence.

Our Nation owes American veterans our deepest gratitude. We must continue to honor that commitment to our veterans by supporting their needs, including the needs of disabled veterans who need adaptive technology for their vehicles long after they are discharged or retired from Active Duty. The AUTO for Veterans Act is an important step in helping those who have served our Nation so honorably and have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

I urge all of our colleagues to join Senator MANCHIN and me in honoring and supporting our Nation's disabled veterans.

I send the bill to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4159. A bill to amend the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act to accommodate emerging technologies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4159

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''E-SIGN Modernization Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSENT TO ELECTRONIC DISCLOSURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 101(c) (15 U.S.C. 7001(c))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

''(C) the consumer, prior to consenting, is provided with a statement of the hardware and software requirements for access to and retention of the electronic records; and

''(D) after the consent of a consumer in accordance with subparagraph (A), if a change in the hardware or software requirements needed to access or retain electronic records creates a material risk that the consumer will not be able to access or retain a subsequent electronic record that was the subject of the consent, the person providing the electronic record provides the consumer with a statement of—

''(i) the revised hardware and software requirements for access to and retention of the electronic records; and

''(ii) the right to withdraw consent without the imposition of any fees for such withdrawal and without the imposition of any condition or consequence that was not disclosed under subparagraph (B)(i).'';

(B) by striking paragraph (3); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively; and

(2) by striking section 105 (15 U.S.C. 7005).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, may be construed as affecting the consent provided by any consumer under section 101(c) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7001(c)) before the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4160. A bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4160

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY EXCEPTION FOR THE DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM DUE TO THE COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a hospital described in subsection (b) that, for an applicable calendar quarter, otherwise meets the requirements for being a covered entity under subparagraph (L), (M), or (O) of section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)(4)) but that, for such calendar quarter, does not meet the applicable requirement for the disproportionate share adjustment percentage described in subsection (c), shall be deemed a covered entity under such respective subparagraph for such applicable calendar quarter.

(b) HOSPITALS.—A hospital described in this subsection is—

(1) an entity that, on the day before the first day of the COVID–19 public health emergency, was a covered entity described in subparagraph (L), (M), or (O) of subsection (a)(4) of section 340B of the Public Health Service Act participating in the drug discount program under such section; or

(2) an entity that—

(A) prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency, submitted an application for participation in such program as a covered entity described in subparagraph (L), (M), or (O) of section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act;

(B) prior to or during such emergency, was approved for such participation; and

(C) during such emergency, began participating in such program.

(c) APPLICABLE REQUIREMENT FOR DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE ADJUSTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The applicable requirement for the disproportionate share adjustment percentage described in this subsection is—

(1) in the case of a hospital described in subsection (a) that otherwise meets the requirements under subparagraph (L) or (M) of section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act, the requirement under subparagraph (L)(ii) of such section; and

(2) in the case of a hospital described in subsection (a) that otherwise meets the requirements under subparagraph (O) of such

section 340B(a)(4), the requirement with respect to the disproportionate share adjustment percentage described in such subparagraph (O).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICABLE CALENDAR QUARTER.—The term ''applicable calendar quarter'' means a calendar quarter for which eligibility for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b) is based on a cost reporting period for which the COVID–19 public health emergency is in effect for all or part of such cost reporting period.

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' has the meaning given such term in section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)(4)).

(3) COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term ''COVID–19 public health emergency'' means the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID–19.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4173. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small employers for covering military spouses under retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague Senator HASSAN, to introduce the Military Spouses Retirement Security Act. This bipartisan bill would help spouses of active duty service members save for retirement by expanding access to employer-sponsored retirement plans.

According to the Employee Benefits Research Institute, American households face a retirement savings gap of $3.7 trillion. The Center for Retirement Research estimates an even larger gap of $7.1 trillion. When asked about their retirement preparedness, only 57 percent of Americans believe they will be able to live comfortably in retirement.

There are many reasons why American households struggle to save for retirement, including the shift away from employer-based ''defined benefit'' plans and rising health care and long-term care costs. Longer life spans increase the risk of outliving retirement savings. The economic and health impacts of the COVID–19 crisis are also posing a threat to retirement security.

Spouses of active duty service members face an additional hurdle to saving for retirement. According to the Department of Defense, about one-third of military service members experience a permanent change of station move every year. When a service member moves, their spouse often relocates with them, putting their own career on hold.

Following a move, a military spouse may face periods of unemployment, where they are not able to participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan. A 2017 survey found that the unemployment rate for active duty military spouses was 24 percent, more than five times the rate for the U.S. population as a whole at that time.

When military spouses find a new job, they often work part-time, despite preferring full-time work, or are only able to spend a few years with their employer before moving again. Their limited hours and short tenure often preclude them from being eligible to receive employer contributions to their retirement plan or from being fully vested in their plan.

Increasing access to employer-sponsored retirement plans would improve the financial security of many military spouses. The bill I am introducing today would help address this need by providing a tax credit to small employers who provide military spouses with accelerated eligibility for retirement plan participation, employer contributions, and vesting.

My bill would allow small employers—those with up to 100 employees—to claim a tax credit of up to $500 per year per military spouse. The credit would be available for three years per military spouse. The amount of the credit would be equal to $200 per military spouse, plus 100 percent of all employer contributions for that spouse, up to $300.

To receive the tax credit, small employers must make a military spouse immediately eligible for retirement plan participation within two months of hire. Upon plan eligibility, a military spouse must be eligible for any matching or non-elective contribution available to a similarly situated employee with at least two years of service, and must be 100 percent immediately vested in all employer contributions.

Military spouses are the unsung heroes of our country's national defense. They often put their professional lives on hold, threatening their long-term retirement security. The Military Spouses Retirement Security Act would help by encouraging small employers to provide military spouses with accelerated access to retirement plans and employer contributions. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JONES, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 4174. A bill to provide emergency appropriations to the United States Postal Service to cover losses related to the COVID–19 crisis and to direct the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service to develop a plan for ensuring the long term solvency of the Postal Service; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN, in sponsoring this legislation that would ensure the United States Postal Service survives the COVID–19 pandemic and advance the conversation needed to put it on a path to long-term solvency. I would also like to recognize Senators DAINES, JONES, and TESTER, who have joined as original cosponsors.

Throughout its 245–year history, the United States Postal Service has played a vital role in bringing our country together and moving our economy forward. The Postal Service allows us to remain connected with family and friends and helps small businesses reach their customers around the country.

The Postal Service is also the linchpin of a $1.6 trillion mailing industry that employs more than 7.3 million people. These jobs are as varied as paper manufacturers, publishing, printing, catalog companies, online retailers, and transportation providers.

The COVID–19 pandemic has changed our daily lives in fundamental ways, and the Postal Service is needed now more than ever. USPS is a lifeline for Americans across the country, particularly seniors and others living in rural areas. In a Harris poll conducted in May, Americans ranked the USPS as the most ''essential'' company amid the pandemic.

The agency's dedicated employees, like the rural letter carrier in Columbia Falls, go to work each day, facing increased risk as they continue to ensure reliable delivery of needed prescriptions, safety-net benefits, and other critical services that might otherwise be unavailable.

While COVID–19 has underscored the essential nature of the Postal Service, it has also caused significant declines in first-class and marketing mail revenues and increased costs, as the Postal Service has taken additional steps to protect its employees and the public from the virus.

Even with substantial increases in package volumes during the first phase of the pandemic, USPS estimates that COVID–19 will increase net losses and accelerate its cash crisis. If Congress does not act, the Postal Service warns it could run out of money for payroll within the next year. This would threaten its ability to continue providing essential services to the public, as well as support its 630,000 employees, including 3,300 in Maine.

I am committed to ensuring this vital institution survives the COVID–19 crisis and is positioned to support economic recovery. The legislation we are introducing today would provide the Postal Service with up to $25 billion in emergency funding to cover COVID–19-related losses and other operational expenses.

The legislation also includes several safeguards to ensure these funds are used only for their intended purpose. The funds would be appropriated to a separate ''Postal Service COVID–19 Emergency Fund'' rather than the general Postal Service Fund, and these funds would only be available until September 30, 2022. Prior to accessing these funds, the Postal Service would be required to certify in its quarterly and annual reports to the Postal Regulatory Commission that the expenditure of any such funds is necessary to cover losses or expenses resulting from

the COVID–19 pandemic. The Postal Service would also be required to prioritize the purchase of personal protective equipment for its employees and conduct additional cleaning and sanitizing of its facilities and delivery vehicles.

In addition to providing emergency relief, this legislation would clarify the terms and conditions of the $10 billion loan that Congress provided to the Postal Service as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security or CARES Act.

Although the COVID–19 emergency is contributing to the Postal Service's financing challenges, it did not cause all of its financial problems. According to the Government Accountability Office, USPS lost about $78 billion from fiscal year 2007 through 2019. This is why the legislation we are introducing today would also require the new Postmaster General and the Board of Governors to present to Congress a plan to ensure the long-term solvency of the Postal Service.

Growing up in Aroostook County, I experienced the essential nature of the United States Postal Service every day. As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, I've also seen the indispensable role that the Postal Service plays for our nation's seniors. The Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act would ensure the Postal Service is able to continue fulfilling its essential mission, while also providing for responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds and laying the groundwork to put the Postal Service on a path to long-term viability. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4181. A bill to establish a Library Stabilization Fund to respond to and accelerate the recovery from coronavirus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, to help libraries respond to and recover from the COVID–19 pandemic and continue providing communities with needed services, resources, technology, and broadband access, I am introducing the Library Stabilization Fund Act along with Senators BROWN, BOOKER, BLUMENTHAL, UDALL, CARDIN, WARREN, WHITEHOUSE, HEINRICH, VAN HOLLEN, MENENDEZ, WYDEN, HIRANO, and MARKEY. Our bill would provide the $2 billion the American Library Association has estimated is necessary for a library stabilization fund under the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

COVID–19 has wreaked havoc on every aspect of our daily lives. Libraries, which anchor our local communities, are no exception. Local budget shortfalls have left libraries to grapple with severe cuts, furloughs of staff, and reduced operations just when communities need their services the most. In addition to providing additional resources to enable schools to reopen safely, close the homework gap, and strengthen the social safety net, we need to invest in libraries to help our communities recover.

Libraries are a critical piece of our education, economic development, and social infrastructure. Although many libraries remain closed or have limited hours, libraries are meeting urgent community needs by increasing technology access (including boosting WIFI and lending hotspots, tablets, and computers), offering digital content, providing books and materials for delivery or pick-up, and hosting online story times, classes, and discussion groups. In this way, libraries are providing enrichment to our young people, ensuring students can connect to remote and summer learning, enabling those with jobs to telework, helping job seekers find employment and receive training, and offering a lifeline to vulnerable adults and seniors who need health information, a portal to government services, and ways to avoid social isolation.

To strengthen the ability of libraries to serve communities affected by COVID–19, our bill would provide funding to states on a formula basis, with a minimum allotment of $10 million; to tribes; and on a competitive basis. The funding could be used to support general operations, including paying staff and ensuring the safe handling of library materials; to offer greater access to technology, including expanding digital networks and enabling the purchase and lending of hotspots, laptops, and digital resources; to strengthen services and resources, including those relating to literacy, distance learning, adult education, workforce and economic development, and health information; and to link patrons to government, community, and cultural resources.

This legislation will help ensure libraries can continue to find new ways to bridge the digital divide and safely provide information, programming, and services that people of all ages need to stay engaged and informed. This smart investment in our libraries will keep people and communities connected and contribute to our economic recovery.

I thank the supporters of the bill, including the American Library Association; Association for Rural & Small Libraries; Association of Research Libraries; Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; Common Sense Media: International Dyslexia Association; National Association of Elementary School Principals; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Coalition for Literacy; National Digital Inclusion Alliance; National Humanities Alliance; National League of Cities; Reach Out and Read; Reading Is Fundamental; and Urban Libraries Council. Companion legislation is being introduced on a bipartisan basis in the other body by Congressman ANDY LEVIN.

I urge our colleagues to join us in pressing for the inclusion of the Library Stabilization Fund Act in the next COVID–19 response package.

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

S. 4189. A bill to provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Water for Agriculture and Conservation Act to help expand critical water conservation infrastructure that helps improve water use efficiency, fish and wildlife habitat, and agriculture productivity.

Throughout the West, communities are experiencing high levels of drought that are hurting agriculture and conservation efforts. The Water for Conservation and Farming Act aims to help communities better plan and prepare for the increased demand for clean water by funding projects that improve dam safety, create more resilient watersheds, and benefit agricultural and urban water users.

States, Tribes, and local communities are working diligently to upgrade crumbling water infrastructure but have lacked the critical resources to make meaningful improvements that last. The Water for Conservation and Farming Act would provide $120,000,000 over three years for disadvantaged communities to increase environmental protections, support agriculture, and make significant steps to improve the water supply for their communities.

The Water for Conservation and Farming Act would create a Bureau of Reclamation fund of $300 million to support water recycling projects, water-use efficiency projects and dam safety projects, as well as expanding existing programs, like WaterSMART, to get more bang for the conservation buck.

The bill would establish several new programs at the Bureau of Reclamation, which are designed to help disadvantaged communities plan and implement water conservation projects, a program to help farmers improve migratory bird habitat, and programs to implement aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.

At a time when the nation is suffering increased droughts, when farmers and ranchers are asked to do more with less, and critical habitats are suffering from less and less water, this bill will make needed investments in water conservation infrastructure that reduces demand for water, improves biodiversity, and helps farmers and ranchers plan and prepare for droughts. I look forward to getting this bill across the finish line.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ERNST, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4199. A bill to amend titles XI, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to lower prescription drug prices in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, to improve transparency related to pharmaceutical prices and transactions, to lower patients' out-of-pocket costs, and to ensure accountability to taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2020. This is a bill that I have been working on for the past 18 months. I made lowering prescription drug costs one of my top priorities as I resumed the role of Chairman of the Finance Committee at the beginning of this Congress.

I made it my priority as it's a top concern for Iowans and all Americans. My constituents throughout the state voice concern about being able to afford their prescription medications. I hear about this issue as much as any other. Poll after poll shows that the concern I hear in Iowa is shared across the Nation. The need for Congress to act to provide patients with much-needed relief is also a common takeaway from these polls and from talking to my colleagues. Iowans want action. Americans want action.

Lowering prescription drug costs and providing relief to patients is actually what this bill does.

For the vast majority of my time working on the bill, the Senator from Oregon, Ranking Member WYDEN, has been my partner. All of the policies in this bill, which improve Medicare and Medicaid and bring much needed transparency across the supply chain, were co-authored by the Ranking Member. The Finance Committee reported the initial version of this robust bill in July 2019 by a vote of 19–9. I worked with Ranking Member WYDEN and others to make bipartisan improvements to the bill. These improvements have made an already good bill better. I'm introducing this updated version today. It remains a truly bipartisan bill.

It's a bipartisan bill that helps patients and reduces government spending. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the bill would save seniors and Americans with disabilities $72 billion in out-of-pocket costs in Medicare Part D and reduce premiums by $1 billion. The entire bill would save taxpayers nearly $100 billion—a rare source of bipartisan budget savings in an era of trillion dollar deficits. Even Americans in the commercial market would see savings.

It's a bipartisan bill that helps patients, reduces Federal spending, and lowers commercial costs. That's a rare feat. It's something of which we should all be proud.

So why is the bill only being introduced with Republicans as co-sponsors?

The reason, unfortunately, is that the Democrats recently walked away from the bill. They walked away from the good faith negotiations that produced this bipartisan product. They did so for political reasons. They put politics, and their drive for power, ahead of patients. From conversations I have had with colleagues on the other side of the aisle, this was a leadership-driven decision. Maybe the thinking is that they'll block Senate Republicans from securing a win, or that they'll be able to say that President Trump hasn't followed through.

They can say that, but it doesn't make it true. The introduction of this bill, with a number of my Republican colleagues, shows that Republicans are the ones on the side of patients. And to question the commitment of President Trump to lowering prescription drug prices is outlandish.

President Trump campaigned on expanding prescription drug affordability and fairness. He released a comprehensive plan that included numerous policy ideas. He and his Administration have taken bold regulatory action. Some of those actions are being fought in the courts by stakeholders that support the status quo. Some have been opposed by Congressional Democrats.

As the Administration's ability to act through regulation can only take us so far, President Trump called on Congress to pass an overhaul of the drug pricing system. In fact, he mentioned my work on this specific bill in his State of the Union address earlier this year, and he called on Congress to send a bipartisan bill to his desk.

We should be celebrating the introduction of this bill today as another key step closer to responding to President Trump's call for bipartisan action. While it remains the most prominent reform bill that contains bipartisan policy solutions, today's introduction reveals that Democrats are more interested in positioning for elections than producing results. This is disappointing to me. But it makes clear to the American people that they can count on Republicans to take action on the issues that are important to them.

President Trump has worked harder to lower prescription drug prices than any President in memory. He has stood up to special interests. I, along with my colleagues cosponsoring this bill, and other Republicans, stand with him. I only wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were as committed. I urge that they stop the political posturing and work in a bipartisan way to deliver the relief that Iowans and all Americans deserve.

I yield the floor.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4202. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand online benefit redemption options under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4202

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. ONLINE PORTAL FOR SNAP BENEFIT REDEMPTION.

Section 7(h)(14) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Subject to subparagraph (B), the'' and inserting ''The''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) EBT ONLINE REDEMPTION PORTAL.—

''(i) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subparagraph is to expand options for and access to food for eligible households by making the online redemption of program benefits, including the acceptance of EBT cards, more widely available to grocery stores, small retailers, and farmers who face barriers in implementing their own online payment portals.

''(ii) CONTRACTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2020, the Secretary shall award on a competitive basis 1 or more contracts to 1 or more eligible entities described in clause (iii) to develop an online portal, to be known as the 'EBT Online Redemption Portal'—

''(I) to allow program participants to use online or mobile electronic benefits transactions, including through the acceptance of EBT cards, to purchase program foods from, and make online payments to, authorized program retailers under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

''(II) to facilitate food purchase delivery for program participants using the transactions described in subclause (I).

''(iii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity referred to in clause (ii) is any for-profit or nonprofit entity with demonstrable expertise in the development, operation, or maintenance of electronic payment systems (including systems with advanced security protocols), which may include expertise in benefits management or administration of State systems, as determined by the Secretary.

''(iv) APPLICATION; PORTAL FEATURES.—

''(I) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

''(aa) a description of how the eligible entity plans to implement the requirements described in clause (v); and

''(bb) a beta plan that has been user-tested.

''(II) PORTAL FEATURES.—In awarding a contract to an eligible entity under clause (ii), the Secretary shall give preference to an eligible entity that demonstrates an ability to implement the following features of an EBT Online Redemption Portal:

''(aa) Client-facing technology with a primary preference for mobile device or smartphone application.

''(bb) Fail-safe systems to maintain privacy and online security of data.

''(cc) Ability to redirect a consumer to an existing online platform of a vendor, if applicable.

''(dd) Ability to update as technologies evolve.

''(ee) Ease of operation for program participants, including multilingual functionality.

''(ff) Interoperability with delivery technologies and interfaces.

''(gg) Identification of participating retailers within geographic proximity to the user.

''(hh) Ability to perform single transactions using mixed tender, including a single transaction for eligible food items using an EBT card and noneligible items using another form of payment.

''(ii) Adherence to a comprehensive business continuity and disaster recovery plan—

''(AA) to allow the portal to recover from any interruption of service; and

''(BB) that includes sufficient back-up systems, equipment, facilities, and trained personnel to implement the plan.

''(v) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Online EBT Redemption Portal developed by the eligible entity awarded the contract under clause (ii) shall—

''(aa) enable the integrated processing of an online EBT transaction by providing a platform and facilitating the purchasing interaction between the consumer, retailer, third-party processors (for EBT card processing and the secure online entry of a personal identification number), and delivery vendor, as applicable;

''(bb) to deter fraud, have in place for program participants privacy and security protections, similar to protections provided under existing electronic benefit transfer methods, including entry of a personal identification number in a manner that complies with the guidelines of leading national consensus standards organizations, as determined by the Secretary, for encrypting personal identification number entry;

''(cc) be secure and operate in a manner that maintains program integrity, including food item eligibility;

''(dd) be available in an initial or beta version not later than 120 days after the date on which the eligible entity is awarded the contract;

''(ee) be ready to be fully deployed in all States not later than 180 days after the date described in item (dd);

''(ff) be available for use by any retail food store or wholesale food concern authorized under section 9 to accept and redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program—

''(AA) at no charge beyond a nominal fee that is not more than reasonably necessary to support maintenance of the portal and subject to the approval of the Secretary; and

''(BB) on an application-based and browser-based platform for smartphones and a browser-based online platform for tablets and computers;

''(gg) adhere to commercial standards for service level availability to ensure the viability of the portal and the use of the portal by retail food stores and wholesale food concerns authorized under section 9 to accept and redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

''(hh) perform ongoing maintenance services and retailer enrollment and termination of enrollment activities to ensure continuous operability of the portal.

''(II) EVALUATION OF BETA VERSION.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of the initial or beta version of the Online EBT Redemption Portal under subclause (I)(dd), including by soliciting feedback from program participants.

''(vi) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of the Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2020, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of activities carried out under this subparagraph.

''(vii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $25,000,000 to provide under the contract described in clause (ii).''.

SEC. 3. BROAD ACCEPTANCE OF SNAP BENEFITS THROUGH ONLINE TRANSACTIONS.

Section 7(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(k)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''on-line'' each place it appears and inserting ''online'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''Subject to paragraph (4), the'' and inserting ''The''; and

(B) by inserting ''in any State'' after ''stores''; and

(3) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) COVERED ENTITY.—The term 'covered entity' means a public or private nonprofit entity.

''(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a retail food store or wholesale food concern authorized under section 9 to accept and redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

''(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall, on a competitive basis, award 1 or more grants to, or enter into 1 or more cooperative agreements with, 1 or more covered entities to establish a technical assistance center, to be known as the 'SNAP Online Purchasing Technical Assistance Center', to provide—

''(i) to State agencies, eligible entities, and program participants information on and technical assistance with, as applicable—

''(I) accepting program benefits through online transactions;

''(II) using the EBT Online Redemption Portal described in subsection (h)(14)(B);

''(III) in the case of State agencies, conducting outreach to eligible entities to ensure that those eligible entities are informed of the technical assistance provided by the center;

''(IV) research, training, and best practices relating to redeeming program benefits through online transactions; and

''(V) facilitating communication between eligible entities, applicable State agencies, and the Department of Agriculture; and

''(ii) to eligible entities direct grants to defray the technological costs of carrying out the activities described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i).

''(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—At least 1 covered entity that receives a grant or enters into a cooperative agreement under subparagraph (B) shall have expertise in providing technical assistance to food retailers operating under a Federal nutrition program.

''(D) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRIORITY.—In providing technical assistance to eligible entities, the SNAP Online Purchasing Technical Assistance Center shall give priority to eligible entities that are small and limited-resource retailers.

''(E) FUNDING.—There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $75,000,000 to carry out this paragraph, to remain available until expended, of which not more than 3 percent may be used by the Secretary for administrative expenses.

''(5) PUBLICATION OF ONLINE VENDORS.—The Secretary shall maintain on the website of the Department of Agriculture a publicly available listing, organized and searchable by region, locality, and State, of all approved retail food stores accepting benefits from recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance, including through online transactions.''.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4205. A bill to establish the Homeland Security Higher Education Advisory Council; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4205

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Homeland Security Higher Education Advisory Council Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNCIL.—The term ''Council'' means the Homeland Security Higher Education Advisory Council established under section 3.

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a council to be known as the ''Homeland Security Higher Education Advisory Council''.

(b) DUTIES OF COUNCIL.—The Council shall provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters concerning homeland security and the academic community relating to the following:

(1) The threat of malign foreign influence and interference in the United States.

(2) Proposed regulatory changes impacting institutions of higher education.

(3) Promoting the openness of academic research and the exchange of ideas between institutions of higher education and the Federal Government.

(4) Promoting campus resilience resources to address a range of threats or hazards affecting institutions of higher education.

(5) Homeland security academic and research programs.

(6) Student and recent graduate recruitment to Federal Government employment.

(7) Issues relating to international students, including—

(A) obtaining and maintaining a visa; and

(B) processing visas and Optional Practical Training.

(8) Cybersecurity.

(9) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed of not fewer than 21 members appointed by the Secretary, of whom 9 shall be from governmental positions specified in paragraph (2), and not fewer than 12 members shall be from non-governmental positions specified in paragraph (3).

(2) GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS.—Governmental positions specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State.

(B) The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State.

(C) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(D) The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security.

(E) The Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

(F) The Office of Science and Technology Cooperation of the Department of State.

(G) The Student and Exchange Visitor Program of the Department of Homeland Security.

(H) United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(I) Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman.

(J) Homeland Security Investigations of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

(K) The Department of Justice.

(L) The intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(3) NON-GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS.—Non-governmental positions specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Twelve presidents or chancellors of a university, with a distribution of such universities being private, public, and regionally diverse.

(B) Senior leaders of relevant higher education associations.

(4) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointments to the Council shall be made not later than 4 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Council shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that term until a successor has been appointed.

(6) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Council shall be designated by the Secretary at the time of the appointment of the members pursuant to paragraph (4), and when a vacancy of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson occurs, as the case may be.

(d) MEETING.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—The Council shall hold its initial meeting not later than 30 days after the final appointment of all members under subsection (c)(4).

(2) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not fewer than 3 times each year at the call of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.

(3) QUORUM.—Sixteen members of the Council, of whom 8 members shall be appointed from governmental positions and 8 members shall be appointed from non-governmental positions, shall constitute a quorum.

(e) COMPENSATION.—

(1) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Council may not receive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Council.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the request of the Council, the Secretary shall provide to the Council, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Council to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Council holds its initial meeting under subsection (d) and annually thereafter, the Council shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing a detailed statement of the advice and recommendations of the Council pursuant to subsection (b).

(h) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Council.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. REED, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4209. A bill to amend title IX of the Social Security Act to improve emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations; considered and passed.

S. 4209

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting Nonprofits from Catastrophic Cash Flow Strain Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF FOR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 903(i)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1103(i)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''during'' and inserting ''with respect to'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''3309(a)(1)'' and inserting ''3309(a)''; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds transferred to the account of a State under subparagraph (A) shall be used exclusively to reduce the amounts required to be paid in lieu of contributions into the State unemployment fund pursuant to such section by governmental entities and other organizations described in section 3309(a) of such Code.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 2103 of the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act (contained in subtitle A of title II of division A of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136)).

(2) APPLICATION TO WEEKS PRIOR TO ENACTMENT.—For weeks of unemployment that occurred after March 12, 2020, and prior to the date of enactment of this section, States may—

(A) issue reimbursements in accordance with section 903(i)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act, as in effect prior to the date of enactment of this section; or

(B) reduce the amounts required to be paid in accordance with such section 903(i)(1)(C), as amended by subsection (a).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 645—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT MOB VIOLENCE SHOULD BE CONDEMNED

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.:

S. RES. 645

Whereas the United States of America was founded in 1776 on universal principles of freedom, justice, and human equality;

Whereas throughout our nation's history, Americans have struggled to realize those ideals, falling short, as imperfect human beings always do, but nonetheless making greater progress toward them than any nation on earth;

Whereas the United States is today, as ever, an ethnically, racially, religiously, and culturally diverse nation, morally committed to cultivating respect, friendship, and justice across all such differences, and protecting the God-given equal rights of all Americans under the law;

Whereas America's law enforcement officers do an extremely difficult job extremely well, and despite the inexcusable misconduct of some, the overwhelming majority of such officers are honest, courageous, patriotic, and rightfully honored public servants;

Whereas in recent weeks, people across the United States have organized legitimate, peaceful, constitutionally protected demonstrations against instances of police brutality and racial inequality, serious problems meriting investigation and reform;

Whereas some Americans, unsatisfied with peaceful and positive demonstrations, have instigated and indulged in mob violence and criminal property destruction, not in service of any just or coherent cause, but simply as an arrogant, bullying tantrum of self-righteous illiberalism and rage; and

Whereas these mobs have demonstrated not only contempt for public safety (as evidenced, among other crimes, by an unprovoked physical assault on a Wisconsin State Senator and the shooting of a motorist in Provo, Utah) and common decency (as evidenced by their routine harassment and obscene berating of law enforcement officers standing their posts to protect their communities), but also their manifest ignorance and historical illiteracy (as evidenced by their destruction of public memorials to historical heroes like Ulysses S. Grant, St. Junipero Serra, Miguel Cervantes, George Washington, Hans Christian Heg, and a reported plan to target a statue of Abraham Lincoln financed in 1876 entirely by private donations from freed African-American slaves): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the rising tide of vandalism, mob violence, and the mob mentality that feeds it—including its cruel and intolerant ''cancel culture''—should be condemned by all Americans;

(2) peaceful demonstrations and mob violence are different in kind;

(3) physical assault and property destruction are not forms of political speech but violent crimes whose perpetrators should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law; and

(4) the innocent law enforcement officers, public officials, and private citizens who suffer the mob's violence and endure its scorn while protecting our communities from them deserve the thanks and appreciation of every American.

SENATE RESOLUTION 646—RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IN THAILAND

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

S. RES 646

Whereas the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America first established relations in 1818 and entered into the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833;

Whereas the Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State;

Whereas the Fulbright Program currently operates in over 150 countries;

Whereas the Thailand-United States Educational Foundation (TUSEF) was established by a formal agreement in 1950;

Whereas 2020 is the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright Program partnership with the Kingdom of Thailand;

Whereas, recognizing the value of bilateral exchange, the Government of Thailand has financially contributed to the binational TUSEF annually since 1989;

Whereas nearly 2,000 Fulbright students and scholars from Thailand have studied, conducted research, or lectured in the United States since TUSEF's founding;

Whereas over 1,300 Fulbright grantees from the United States conducted research or gave lectures in Thailand since TUSEF's founding; and

Whereas the United States Government supports additional programs in Thailand in the areas of education, rule of law, and internationally recognized human rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright Program in Thailand; and

(2) encourages the President to maintain and expand interaction with the Kingdom of Thailand in ways that facilitate close coordination and partnership in the areas of education and cultural exchange throughout all of Thailand and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 647—RECOGNIZING THE FORTHCOMING CENTENNIAL OF THE 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 647

Whereas, in the early 20th century, *de jure* segregation confined Tulsa's Black residents into the ''Greenwood District'', which they built into a thriving community with a nationally renowned entrepreneurial center known as the ''Black Wall Street'';

Whereas, at the time, white supremacy and racist violence were common throughout the United States and went largely unchecked by the justice system;

Whereas reports of an alleged and disputed incident on the morning of May 30, 1921, between two teenagers, a Black man and a white woman, caused the white community of Tulsa, including the Tulsa Tribune, to call for a lynching amidst a climate of white racial hostility and white resentment over Black economic success;

Whereas, on May 31, 1921, a mob of armed white men descended upon Tulsa's Greenwood District and launched what is now known as the ''Tulsa Race Massacre'';

Whereas Tulsa municipal and county authorities failed to take actions to calm or contain the violence, and civil and law enforcement officials deputized many white men who were participants in the violence as their agents, directly contributing to the violence through overt and often illegal acts;

Whereas, over a period of 24 hours, the white mob's violence led to the death of an estimated 300 Black residents, as well as over 800 reports of injuries;

Whereas the white mob looted, damaged, burned, or otherwise destroyed approximately 40 square blocks of the Greenwood district, including an estimated 1,256 homes of Black residents, as well as virtually every other structure, including churches, schools, businesses, a hospital, and a library, leaving nearly 9,000 Black Tulsans homeless and effectively wiping out tens of millions of dollars in Black prosperity and wealth in Tulsa;

Whereas, in the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Governor of Oklahoma declared martial law, and units of the Oklahoma National Guard participated in the mass arrests of all or nearly all of Greenwood's surviving residents, removing them from Greenwood to other parts of Tulsa and unlawfully detaining them in holding centers;

Whereas Oklahoma local and State governments dismissed claims arising from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for decades, and the event was effectively erased from collective memory and history until, in 1997, the Oklahoma State Legislature finally created a commission to study the event;

Whereas on February 28, 2001, the commission issued a report that detailed, for the first time, the extent of the Massacre and decades-long efforts to suppress its recollection;

Whereas none of the law enforcement officials nor any of the hundreds of other white mob members who participated in the violence were ever prosecuted or held accountable for the hundreds of lives lost and tens of millions of dollars of Black wealth destroyed, despite the Tulsa Race Massacre Commission confirming their roles in the Massacre, nor was any compensation ever provided to the Massacre's victims or their descendants;

Whereas government and city officials not only abdicated their responsibility to rebuild and repair the Greenwood community in the wake of the violence, but actively blocked efforts to do so, contributing to continued racial disparities in Tulsa akin to those that Black people face across the United States;

Whereas the pattern of violence against Black people in the United States, often at the hands of law enforcement, shows that the fight to end State-sanctioned violence against Black people continues; and

Whereas the year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the forthcoming centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre;

(2) acknowledges the historical significance of this event as one of the largest single instances of State-sanctioned violence against Black people in American history;

(3) honors the lives and legacies of the estimated 300 Black individuals who were killed during the Massacre and the nearly 9,000 Black individuals who were left homeless and penniless;

(4) condemns the participants of the Tulsa Race Massacre, including white municipal officials and law enforcement who directly participated in or who aided and abetted the unlawful violence;

(5) condemns past and present efforts to cover up the truth and shield the white community, and especially State and local officials, from accountability for the Tulsa Race Massacre and other instances of violence at the hands of law enforcement;

(6) condemns the continued legacy of racism, including systemic racism, and white supremacy against Black people in the United States, particularly in the form of police brutality;

(7) encourages education about the Tulsa Race Massacre, including the horrors of the massacre itself, the history of white supremacy that fueled the massacre, and subsequent attempts to deny or cover up the Massacre, in all elementary and secondary education settings and in institutions of higher education in the United States; and

(8) recognizes the commitment of Congress to acknowledge and learn from the history of racism and racial violence in the United States, including the Tulsa Race Massacre, to reverse the legacy of white supremacy and fight for racial justice.

SENATE RESOLUTION 648—DESIGNATING AUGUST 2020 AS ''NATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MONTH''

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 648

Whereas Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, guided by the shared ideals of freedom, sovereignty, democracy, civil liberty, and individual rights;

Whereas, from 1919 to 1920, the 66th Congress debated, and State legislatures considered, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide suffrage for women;

Whereas the ratification of the 19th Amendment was the culmination of decades of work and struggle by advocates for the rights of women across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in the democracy of the United States and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of the Nation;

Whereas August 18, 2020, marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by ¾ of the States, providing the support necessary under article V of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment becoming a part of the Constitution of the United States, providing for women's suffrage; and

Whereas the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded and celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 2020 as ''National Women's Suffrage Month'';

(2) honors the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further promoting the core values of the democracy of the United States, as promised by the Constitution of the United States;

(3) reaffirms the opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in the Nation's democracy;

(4) reaffirms the desire of Congress to continue strengthening democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established by the 19th Amendment;

(5) recommits to persevering through these unexpected times to celebrate the suffragists, educate new generations about this critical chapter in the history of the Nation's democracy, and create a legacy that will inspire the next 100 years; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Women's Suffrage Month and commemorate this milestone of the Nation's democracy by ensuring that the untold stories of women's decades-long battle for the ballot are recognized and celebrated across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 649—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2020 AS ''AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH''

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 649

Whereas cut flower growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and greens grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend almost $27,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, nearly 30 percent of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and greens from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the ''Certified American Grown Flowers'' logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers from domestic producers;

Whereas, as of April 2017, millions of stems of domestically grown flowers are now ''Certified American Grown'';

Whereas domestic flower farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, and larkspur in Texas;

Whereas the five flower varieties produced in the largest quantities in the United States are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolas, and irises;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers, yet only one in five flowers sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower industry creates almost $42,000,000 in economic impact daily and supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas more people in the United States are expressing interest in growing flowers locally, which has resulted in an increase of approximately 20 percent in the number of domestic cut flower farms between 2007 and 2012;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and greens are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers in the United States by domestic flower farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 2020 as ''American Grown Flower Month'';

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and greens in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and greens grown in the United States in order to show support for the flower farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States as well as agriculture in the United States overall.

SENATE RESOLUTION 650—DESIGNATING JULY 10, 2020, AS ''COLLECTOR CAR APPRECIATION DAY'' AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE COLLECTION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC AND CLASSIC CARS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PRESERVING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 650

Whereas many people in the United States maintain classic automobiles as a pastime and do so with great passion and as a means of individual expression;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the effect that the more than 100-year history of the automobile has had on the economic progress of the United States and supports wholeheartedly all activities involved in the restoration and exhibition of classic automobiles;

Whereas the collection, restoration, and preservation of automobiles is an activity shared across generations and across all segments of society;

Whereas thousands of local car clubs and related businesses have been instrumental in preserving a historic part of the heritage of the United States by encouraging the restoration and exhibition of such vintage works of art;

Whereas automotive restoration provides well-paying, high-skilled jobs for people in all 50 States; and

Whereas automobiles have provided the inspiration for music, photography, cinema, fashion, and other artistic pursuits that have become part of the popular culture of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 10, 2020, as ''Collector Car Appreciation Day'';

(2) recognizes that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to engage in Collector Car Appreciation Day events and commemorations—

(A) that create opportunities for collector car owners to educate young people about the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the United States, including through the collection and restoration of collector cars; and

(B) in accordance with applicable public health guidelines.

SENATE RESOLUTION 651—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, WHILE THE UNITED STATES FINDS VALUE AND USEFULNESS IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION IN FULFILLING THE NEEDS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FREE AND OPEN ECONOMIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY, SIGNIFICANT REFORMS AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION ARE NEEDED AND THE UNITED STATES MUST THEREFORE CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE THOSE REFORMS

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 651

Whereas the United States had led the formation, as well as reform, of rules governing the multilateral trading system since World War II;

Whereas the United States is a founding member of the World Trade Organization (in this preamble referred to as the ''WTO'') and a key architect of the organization;

Whereas the United States secured important commitments in the WTO to facilitate trade in goods and services, to prevent the application of non-scientific restrictions on United States agriculture, and to protect United States intellectual property;

Whereas the United States uses the rules of the WTO to benefit workers, farmers, and businesses in the United States by facilitating access to the 90 percent of the world's

consumers who live outside the borders of the United States;

Whereas the fundamental purpose of the WTO is to create space for members to negotiate with each other, and the WTO reserves to those members exclusively the right to negotiate and adopt rules that reduce and eliminate trade barriers and discriminatory treatment;

Whereas the prompt settlement of disputes in which a member of the WTO considers that its rights are being impaired by the actions of another member is essential to the functioning of the WTO and the maintenance of a proper balance between the rights and obligations of members;

Whereas the WTO's dispute settlement function, including in particular the Appellate Body, has increasingly failed to enforce the rules of the WTO in a timely manner, and has usurped the negotiating prerogative of members by creating new obligations and rights that are inconsistent with the rules negotiated by members;

Whereas the creation of those obligations and rights undermines—

(1) the WTO's negotiating function by discouraging members from making concessions; and

(2) the WTO's dispute settlement function by encouraging overuse of the process and undermining its legitimacy, including by preventing free market economies from responding to globally trade distortive practices by nonmarket economies;

Whereas the WTO does not have sufficient rules to discipline the distortive economic policies of nonmarket economies, such as policies relating to excess capacity and forced technology transfer, the special treatment those economies afford to state-owned enterprises, and their massive and opaque industrial subsidies;

Whereas there is long-standing bipartisan support in the United States Congress to reform the WTO to address those failings;

Whereas the current presidential administration, as well as prior administrations, raised concerns about the failings described in this preamble and have made reform of the WTO a top priority of United States trade policy;

Whereas the United States urges WTO members to work constructively with the United States to assess the reasons why the existing WTO rules have proven inadequate in order to create an atmosphere within the WTO that is conducive to the development of new rules less subject to jurisprudential drift;

Whereas the guiding principle for reform of the WTO, and the lens through which WTO members should consider specific reform proposals, is the restoration of the WTO's capability and capacity for negotiation between members; and

Whereas, given that the United States has achieved its trade policy objectives through active leadership at the WTO, and that an absence of that leadership would be filled by nonmarket economies that are hostile to a host of United States interests: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) while the United States finds value and usefulness in the World Trade Organization (in this resolution referred to as the ''WTO'') in order to fulfill the needs of the United States and other free and open economies in the 21st century, significant reforms are needed;

(2) the United States must therefore continue to demonstrate leadership to achieve reforms that restore the effectiveness of the WTO's—

(A) negotiating function;

(B) dispute settlement function so that it transparently, efficiently, and fully enforces outcomes negotiated by members rather than usurping their primacy by creating new rights or obligations; and

(C) rules for special and differential treatment to ensure those rules promote development for truly disadvantaged countries, rather than becoming tools for globally competitive countries to engage in protectionism and market distortions;

(3) the efforts to reform the negotiating function of the WTO should revitalize the negotiating function by providing confidence to members that the WTO operates according to the rules as negotiated and adopted by members;

(4) a revitalized negotiating function must include new rules that reflect the 21st century economy, further combat anticompetitive and protectionist barriers, and ensure disputes are efficiently resolved;

(5) the United States Trade Representative should continue to lead efforts to work with WTO members to pursue reforms at the WTO that—

(A) ensure the dispute settlement mechanism faithfully applies the rules adopted by members, including by undertaking measures to ensure the WTO's Appellate Body does not create new rights and obligations;

(B) improve public confidence in dispute settlement by promoting greater transparency and efficiency in the conduct of proceedings;

(C) redress the consistent failure by certain members to satisfy their notification obligations under various WTO agreements, including through measures that strengthen accountability;

(D) ensures rules for special and differential treatment are appropriately reserved for countries whose state of development and global competitiveness actually warrants such flexibility;

(E) create new rules and structures that can serve the interests of the United States while promoting peace, prosperity, good governance, transparency, effective operation of legal regimes, the rule of law, and free enterprise; and

(F) expand upon the trilateral negotiations currently underway with Japan and the European Union; and

(6) the United States Trade Representative should explore and assess specific reform proposals, including—

(A) pursuing plurilateral agreements that further the interests of the United States while limiting the benefits accruing to countries that are not parties to those agreements;

(B) efforts to ensure that incorrect interpretations by the Appellate Body, including with respect to the Agreement on Safeguards, the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, are corrected, and not to be deemed precedential;

(C) new rules and norms to address practices of nonmarket economies, such as practices relating to state-owned enterprises, which certain countries often utilize for objectives that cause severe trade distortions; and

(D) better implementation of existing rules, such as the prohibition in paragraph 4 of Article XIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on currency manipulation, to ensure that those rules are effective to preserve the rights of free market economies.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2420. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2421. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2422. Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra.

SA 2423. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2424. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1253, to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

SA 2425. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2426. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2427. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2428. Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SASSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2429. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2430. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2431. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2432. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2433. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2434. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301

proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2435. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2420. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 847. REQUIREMENT TO AWARD CONTRACTS UNDER COMMERCIAL E-COMMERCE PORTAL PROGRAM.

The Administrator of General Services shall afford all commercial e-commerce providers that meet the requirements established under section 846 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115–91; 41 U.S.C. 1901 note) and the General Service Administration's requirements on data sharing and protection the ability to participate in the commercial e-commerce portal program established under such section.

SA 2421. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 752. SENSE OF SENATE ON THE ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Armed Forces Institute for Regenerative Medicine (in this section referred to as ''AFIRM'') delivers critical regenerative-based technologies lead to functional and aesthetic recovery from injuries incurred during service in the Armed Forces;

(2) AFIRM is a highly rated, nationally respected public-private consortium leading the development of restorative therapies for battlefield trauma as part of several research and development programs directed to meet defined medical technology gaps for warfighter groups;

(3) the efforts by AFIRM span from research and development to clinical translation, implementation, and commercialization, with therapies developed for extremity and craniofacial trauma, skin and genitourinary injuries, and transplantation;

(4) each AFIRM project specifically addresses a key need of the wounded warfighter, which has helped guide research projects toward partnerships with industry that can be reviewed for approval and entered into clinical trials for eventual placement in the marketplace;

(5) technologies developed by AFIRM include, in part, those that will result in the ability to generate and integrate functional composite tissue, neural pathways, vascularization, aesthetic skin, bone, and muscle;

(6) despite the technology challenges, the public-private teaming approach to medical research and development used by AFIRM has resulted in more than 24 products reaching clinical trials;

(7) it is essential that Congress continue to provide the necessary resources to sustain the technology exploration, maturation, and transition in regenerative medicine set forth by AFIRM; and

(8) the Senate highly encourages allocation of additional funds to AFIRM from the undistributed medical research funds provided in this Act to facilitate the continued implementation of the innovative consortium model used by AFIRM that has a proven track record of success.

SA 2422. Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Wireless Supply Chain Innovation and Multilateral Security

SEC. 1091. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) 3GPP.—The term ''3GPP'' means the Third Generation Partnership Project.

(2) 5G NETWORK.—The term ''5G network'' means a radio network as described by 3GPP Release 15 or higher.

(3) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

(4) NTIA ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''NTIA Administrator'' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(5) OPEN-RAN.—The term ''Open-RAN'' means the Open Radio Access Network approach to standardization adopted by the O-RAN Alliance, Telecom Infra Project, or 3GPP, or any similar set of open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability.

(6) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''relevant committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(G) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(K) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(L) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1092. COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SECURITY FUNDS.

(a) USE OF DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION AND PUBLIC SAFETY FUND.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall transfer from the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Fund established under section 309(j)(8)(E) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(E))—

(1) $50,000,000 to the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund established under subsection (b) of this section; and

(2) $25,000,000 to the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund established under subsection (c) of this section.

(b) PUBLIC WIRELESS SUPPLY CHAIN INNOVATION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the ''Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''R&D Fund'').

(B) AVAILABILITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited in the R&D Fund shall remain available through the end of the tenth fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) REMAINDER TO TREASURY.—Any amounts remaining in the R&D Fund after the end of the tenth fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

(2) USE OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited in the R&D Fund shall be available to the NTIA Administrator to make grants under this subsection in such amounts as the NTIA Administrator determines appropriate, subject to subparagraph (B) of this subparagraph.

(B) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—The amount of a grant awarded under this subsection to a recipient for a specific research focus area may not exceed $50,000,000.

(3) ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.—The NTIA Administrator, in consultation with the Commission, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, shall establish criteria for grants awarded under this subsection, and administer the R&D Fund, to support research and the commercial application of that research, including in the following areas:

(A) Promoting the development of technology, including software, hardware, and microprocessing technology, that will enhance competitiveness in the fifth-generation (commonly known as ''5G'') and successor wireless technology supply chains.

(B) Accelerating development and deployment of open interface standards-based compatible, interoperable equipment, such as equipment developed pursuant to the standards set forth by organizations such as the O-RAN Alliance, the Telecom Infra Project, 3GPP, the Open-RAN Software Community, or any successor organizations.

(C) Promoting compatibility of new 5G equipment with future open standards-based, interoperable equipment.

(D) Managing integration of multi-vendor network environments.

(E) Objective criteria to define equipment as compliant with open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability.

(F) Promoting development and inclusion of security features enhancing the integrity and availability of equipment in multi-vendor networks.

(G) Promoting the application of network function virtualization to facilitate multi-vendor interoperability and a more diverse vendor market.

(4) NONDUPLICATION OF RESEARCH.—To the greatest extent practicable, the NTIA Administrator shall ensure that any research funded by a grant awarded under this subsection avoids duplication of other Federal or private sector research.

(5) TIMING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the NTIA Administrator shall begin awarding grants under this subsection.

(6) FEDERAL ADVISORY BODY.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The NTIA Administrator shall establish a Federal advisory committee, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), composed of government and private sector experts, to advise the NTIA Administrator on the administration of the R&D Fund.

(B) COMPOSITION.—The advisory committee established under subparagraph (A) shall be composed of—

(i) representatives from—

(I) the Commission;

(II) the Department of Defense;

(III) the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(IV) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(V) the Department of State;

(VI) the National Science Foundation; and

(VII) the Department of Homeland Security; and

(ii) other representatives from the private and public sectors, at the discretion of the NTIA Administrator.

(C) DUTIES.—The advisory committee established under subparagraph (A) shall advise the NTIA Administrator on technology developments to help inform—

(i) the strategic direction of the R&D Fund; and

(ii) efforts of the Federal Government to promote a more secure, diverse, sustainable, and competitive supply chain.

(7) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the NTIA Administrator shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report with—

(i) additional recommendations on promoting the competitiveness and sustainability of trusted suppliers in the wireless supply chain; and

(ii) any additional authorities needed to facilitate the timely adoption of open standards-based equipment, including authority to provide loans, loan guarantees, and other forms of credit extension that would maximize the use of designated funds.

(B) ANNUAL REPORT.—For each fiscal year for which amounts in the R&D Fund are available under this subsection, the NTIA Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that—

(i) describes how, and to whom, amounts in the R&D Fund have been deployed;

(ii) details the progress of the NTIA Administrator in meeting the objectives described in paragraph (3); and

(iii) includes any additional information that the NTIA Administrator determines appropriate.

(c) MULTILATERAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECURITY FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the ''Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund''.

(B) USE OF FUND.—Amounts deposited in the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund shall be available to the Secretary of State to make expenditures under this subsection in such amounts as the Secretary of State determines appropriate.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited in the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund—

(I) shall remain available through the end of the tenth fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) may only be allocated upon the Secretary of State reaching an agreement with foreign government partners to participate in the common funding mechanism described in paragraph (2).

(ii) REMAINDER TO TREASURY.—Any amounts remaining in the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund after the end of the tenth fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the NTIA Administrator, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Commission, shall establish a common funding mechanism, in coordination with foreign partners, that uses amounts from the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund to support the development and adoption of secure and trusted telecommunications technologies.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each fiscal year during which amounts in the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund are available, the Secretary of State shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report on the status and progress of the funding mechanism established under paragraph (2), including—

(A) any funding commitments from foreign partners, including each specific amount committed;

(B) governing criteria for use of the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund;

(C) an account of—

(i) how, and to whom, funds have been deployed;

(ii) amounts remaining in the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund; and

(iii) the progress of the Secretary of State in meeting the objective described in paragraph (2); and

(D) additional authorities needed to enhance the effectiveness of the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund in achieving the security goals of the United States.

SEC. 1093. PROMOTING UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Commission, or their designees, shall consider how to enhance representation of the United States at international forums that set standards for 5G networks and for future generations of wireless communications networks, including—

(1) the International Telecommunication Union (commonly known as ''ITU'');

(2) the International Organization for Standardization (commonly known as ''ISO'');

(3) the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (commonly known as ''CITEL''); and

(4) the voluntary standards organizations that develop protocols for wireless devices and other equipment, such as the 3GPP and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (commonly known as ''IEEE'').

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Commission shall jointly submit to the relevant committees of Congress an annual report on the progress made under subsection (a).

SA 2423. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE FACE MASKS DURING THE COVID–19 EMERGENCY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary, the Postmaster General, and the heads of any other relevant Federal agencies, and in consultation with Governors, units of local government, and appropriate labor unions, shall establish a program to eliminate all shortages of face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks in the United States as soon as practicable.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The program required to be developed under paragraph (1) shall provide for the following:

(A) HOUSEHOLD DELIVERIES.—A one-time supply of face masks shall be provided and delivered through the United States Postal Service, free of charge, to every individual and household in the United States.

(B) ADDITIONAL DELIVERIES.—A one-time supply of face masks shall be provided, free of charge, to individuals who do not receive face masks that are delivered to households by the United States Postal Service, including—

(i) all individuals who are experiencing homelessness; and

(ii) all individuals who are living in group quarters, as defined by the Census Bureau for the purposes of the most recent decennial census.

(C) HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—Needed surgical masks and N–95 respirator masks shall be provided to all health care providers in the United States, free of charge, either directly or to each State for distribution to health care providers.

(3) PROHIBITION ON IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The program developed under paragraph (1) shall not require any individual in the United States to provide identification or proof of citizenship in order to receive face masks.

(b) USE OF AUTHORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section, the President shall make use of any and all available authorities at the disposal of the Federal Government to procure, manufacture, and support the domestic manufacturing of face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks, including emergency authorities, such as the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Any face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks procured or manufactured for purposes of carrying out this section shall be purchased in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation guidance on fair and reasonable pricing.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $5,000,000,000, to remain available until the date described in paragraph (4), to the Administrator to carry out this section.

(2) LIMITATION.—No funds made available under this subsection shall be provided to—

(A) any person who is a Federal elected official or serving in a Senior Executive Service position; or

(B) any entity that is controlled in whole or in part by a Federal elected official or serving in a Senior Executive Service position.

(3) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided under this section are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(B) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this section is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

(4) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this paragraph is the date on which no new cases of COVID–19 are reported in the United States for a period of not less than 14 consecutive days.

(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Beginning 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 7 days thereafter until the requirements of this section are met, the Administrator and the Secretary shall jointly submit to Congress a detailed report on the implementation of and activities authorized by this section, including—

(1) detailed plans to establish and implement the program required under this section, including information on progress made toward eliminating all shortages of face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks in the United States as soon as practicable, and a timeline for when such shortage elimination will be achieved;

(2) information on—

(A) the use of funds under this section;

(B) the current and projected supply of face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks;

(C) the sources of face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks;

(D) the distribution of face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks, by State, geographic area, and need;

(E) the prices paid by the Federal Government and to which suppliers such amounts were paid; and

(3) any other information requested by Congress.

(e) EFFECT ON STATE REQUESTS FOR PPE.—Any face masks delivered under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(2) shall not be taken into account for purposes of the Federal Government responding to State or health care provider requests for surgical masks, N–95 respirator masks, personal protective equipment, or other supplies related to COVID–19.

(f) REQUIRED CONSULTATION.—The consultation with appropriate labor unions required under subsection (a)(1) shall include consultation with labor organizations representing employees of the United States Postal Service, including regarding the safety of such employees who carry out the activities authorized under this section.

(g) EXCESS MASKS.—Any face masks, surgical masks, and N–95 respirator masks in the possession of the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of carrying out this section that have not been distributed as of the date described in subsection (c)(4) shall be added to the strategic national stockpile.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) FACE MASK.—The term ''face mask'' means a tight-weave cloth mask.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term ''Indian tribe'' in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

(4) ONE-TIME SUPPLY.—The term ''one-time supply'' means not less than 3 face masks per individual.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(6) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE POSITION.—The term ''Senior Executive Service position'' has the meaning given that term in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(7) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) any State of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(G) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

(I) the Republic of Palau;

(J) the United States Virgin Islands; and

(K) each Indian Tribe.

(8) UNITED STATES.—The term ''United States'' means—

(A) each of the several States of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(G) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

(I) the Republic of Palau;

(J) the United States Virgin Islands; and

(K) each Indian Tribe.

SA 2424. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1253, to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or an amendment made by this section, may be construed to affect or otherwise alter any provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including its implementing regulations.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____. UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF E-CIGARETTE USE BY ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

(a) STUDY.—The National Institutes of Health, in coordination with other appropriate agencies, shall conduct a study on the short-term and long-term health impacts of e-cigarette use by youth and young adults under 21 years of age, that includes the following:

(1) An examination of the health impacts of using liquids obtained from the legal market, including liquids that may not have premarket approval from the Food and Drug Administration, compared to liquids obtained illicitly.

(2) A determination of the precise relationship between underage vaping and underage smoking, which may include using national survey data, in which the reporting of smoking and vaping usage classifications (such as current users, former users, or never users) shall be integrated and not treated as separate or unrelated categories.

(3) A determination of the precise relationship between vaping and smoking among young adults, who are 21 to 24 years of age, using national survey data, in which the reporting of smoking and vaping usage classifications (such as current users, former users, or never users) shall be integrated and not treated as separate or unrelated categories.

(4) An examination of e-cigarette usage data from cities, localities, and States that have adopted e-cigarette product bans to evaluate—

(A) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who return to smoking combustible cigarettes;

(B) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who access products from illicit markets; and

(C) the proportion of e-cigarette users in those areas who stop using all nicotine products or reduce their overall nicotine product use.

(5) A determination of the frequency of use of each specific and multiple tobacco products among high school students in the United States, including—

(A) the number of high school students who use each specific and multiple tobacco products less than 20 days per month; and

(B) the number of high school students who use each specific and multiple tobacco products 20 or more days per month.

(6) An examination of the rates of underage e-cigarette use in cities, localities, and States that have adopted Tobacco 21 laws prior to the date of enactment of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94).

(7) An examination of illegal smuggling of tobacco products in cities, localities, and States that have—

(A) banned such products;

(B) enacted taxes on such products that are higher than the national median; or

(C) enacted other legal restrictions on such products.

(8) A determination of how prevalence estimates of tobacco use in the National Youth Tobacco Survey differ from prevalence estimates of tobacco use in other national surveys, including the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health and the Knowledge Panel.

(9) A determination of the prevalence of the following high-risk behaviors among high school students, and their relationship, if any, to vaping and smoking:

(A) Using marijuana or alcohol.

(B) Binge drinking.

(C) Underage sexual activity.

(D) Using an electronic device while driving.

(E) Knowingly riding in a motor vehicle with a driver who was recently drinking.

(F) Seriously considering suicide.

(10) An examination of the role flavors play in youth initiation and use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products.

(11) An examination of the risk of youth addiction to nicotine, including the impact of e-cigarettes that use nicotine salts.

(12) An examination of risks to youth of nicotine use and exposure to harmful and potentially harmful constituents emitted from some e-cigarettes, including flavorings used in e-cigarettes.

(13) A determination of a credible estimate of the difference in health risks between combustible cigarette smoking and vaping, if a valid estimate can be made, to inform tobacco regulation in the United States, taking into account—

(A) the findings of the British Royal College of Physicians in their 2016 report, ''Nicotine without smoke: Tobacco harm reduction'';

(B) the article entitled ''Invalidity of an Oft-Cited Estimate of the Relative Harms of Electronic Cigarettes'' published in the American Journal of Public Health in February 2020;

(C) the findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in their 2018 report, ''Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes'';

(D) relevant reports and advisories of the Surgeon General; and

(E) other peer reviewed research.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institutes of Health shall submit a report to Congress on the findings of the study required to be conducted under subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report required under paragraph (1) is submitted, all data, research products, and reports from the study required to be conducted under subsection (a) shall be made publicly available online.

(c) NO NEW FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section.

SA 2425. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PENALTIES FOR REPRESENTING VETERANS AS AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS WITHOUT RECOGNITION BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5905 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 5905. Penalty for certain acts

''Whoever commits any of the following acts shall be fined as provided in title 18, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both:

''(1) Acts or attempts to act as an agent (including as a financial planner, benefits claim advisor, or benefits claim prepper) or attorney for the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim under a law administered by the Secretary—

''(A) without recognition by the Secretary as an agent or attorney under section 5904 of this title; or

''(B) while suspended or excluded under subsection (b) of such section.

''(2) The act of unlawfully withholding from any claimant or beneficiary any part of a benefit or claim under the laws administered by the Secretary that is allowed and due to the claimant or beneficiary.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to acts committed after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) BIENNIAL REVIEWS BY GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 5904 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) BIENNIAL REVIEWS BY GENERAL COUNSEL.—(1) Not less frequently than once every two years, the General Counsel of the Department shall submit to Congress a report on activities under this section.

''(2) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, for the period covered by the report, the following:

''(A) A discussion of the rates generally charged for services covered by this section.

''(B) A discussion of the requests made by claimants under subsection (c)(3)(A).

''(C) A discussion of the fees reduced under such subsection.

''(D) The number of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary that were prepared, presented, or prosecuted by an individual acting as an agent or attorney who did so while not recognized under this section.''.

SA 2426. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Amend section 144 to read as follows:

SEC. 144. MINIMUM AIR FORCE BOMBER AIRCRAFT LEVEL.

(a) MINIMUM.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees recommendations for a minimum number of bomber aircraft, including penetrating bombers in addition to B–52H aircraft, to enable the Air Force to carry out its long-range penetrating strike capability.

(b) REPORT ON B–1 AIRCRAFT FLEET SUSTAINMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the sustainment of the B–1 aircraft fleet. The report shall include the following:

(1) A cost benefit analysis of bombers compared with the Air Force Arsenal Plane program.

(2) A description of any structural issues found in full-scale fatigue testing or inspections of B–1 aircraft.

(3) A description of future structural mitigation strategies for B–1 aircraft, including an analysis of the support requirement for each aircraft.

(4) A potential modernization plan for B–1 aircraft capability, including hypersonic and other advanced weapons, to ensure survivability and combat efficacy of such aircraft until the B–21 aircraft is operational

(c) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended in support of the Air Force Arsenal Plane program, and the Department may not otherwise implement any such activity, until the report required under subsection (b) is submitted.

SA 2427. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title IX, insert the following:

SEC. 952. THREATS TO UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) United States military forces face an ever increasing and constantly evolving threat from small unmanned aerial systems in operations worldwide, whether in the United States or abroad.

(2) The Department of Defense is already doing important work to address the threats from small unmanned aerial systems worldwide, though the need for engagement in that area continues.

(b) EXECUTIVE AGENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army is the executive agent of the Department of Defense for programs, projects, and activities to counter small unmanned aerial systems (in this section referred to as the ''Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program'').

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Secretary as executive agent shall be as follows:

(A) To develop the strategy required by subsection (c).

(B) To carry out such other activities to counter threats to United States forces worldwide from small unmanned aerial systems as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army consider appropriate.

(3) STRUCTURE.—The Secretary as executive agent shall carry out the functions specified in paragraph (2) through such administrative structures as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) STRATEGY TO COUNTER THREATS FROM SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army, as executive agent for the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program, shall develop and submit to relevant committees of Congress a strategy for the Armed Forces to effectively counter threats from small unmanned aerial systems worldwide. The report shall be submitted in classified form.

(d) REPORT ON EXECUTIVE AGENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army, as executive agent for the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program, shall submit to Congress a report on the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description and assessment of the structure and activities of the executive agent as established and put in place by the Secretary, including the following:

(i) Any obstacles hindering the effective discharge of its functions and activities, including limitations in authorities or policy.

(ii) The changes, if any, to airspace management, rules of engagement, and training plans that are required in order to optimize the use by the Armed Forces of counter-small unmanned aerial systems.

(B) An assessment of the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (c), and a description of any updates to the strategy that are required in light of evolving threats to the Armed Forces from small unmanned aerial systems.

(e) REPORT ON THREAT FROM SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the submittal of the strategy required by subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sets forth a direct comparison between the threats United States forces in combat settings face from small unmanned aerial systems and the capabilities of the United States to counter such threats. The report shall be submitted in classified form.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the report required by paragraph (1) in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, and with such other appropriate officials of the intelligence community, and such other officials in the United States Government, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An evaluation and assessment of the current and evolving threat being faced by United States forces from small unmanned aerial systems.

(B) A description of the counter-small unmanned aerial system systems acquired by the Department of Defense as of the date of the enactment of this Act, and an assessment whether such systems are adequate to meet the current and evolving threat described in subparagraph (A).

(4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(f) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ASSESSMENT OF COUNTER-SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS PROGRAM.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the submittal of the strategy required by subsection (c), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the results of an assessment, conducted by the Comptroller General for purposes of the report, of the efficacy of the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An identification of metrics to assess progress in the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (c), which metrics shall take into account the threat assessment required for purposes of subsection (e).

(B) An assessment of progress, and key challenges, in the implementation of the strategy using such metrics, and recommendations for improvements in the implementation of the strategy.

(C) An assessment of the extent to which the Department of Defense is coordinating adequately with other departments and agencies of the United States Government, and other appropriate entities, in the development and procurement of counter-small unmanned aerial systems for the Department.

(D) An assessment of the extent to which the designation of the Secretary of the Army as executive agent for the Counter-Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Program has reduced redundancies and increased efficiencies in procurement of counter-small unmanned aerial systems.

(E) An assessment whether United States technological progress on counter-small unmanned aerial systems is sufficient to maintain a competitive edge over the small unmanned aerial systems technology available to United States adversaries.

SA 2428. Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SASSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DISCLOSURE OF STATUS BY NEWS OUTLETS THAT ARE AGENTS OF A FOREIGN PRINCIPAL.

Section 4(b) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 614(b)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''It shall be unlawful for any news or press service or association, newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other publication that is an agent of a foreign principal and required to register under the provisions of this Act to fail to include in any transmission in the United States mails or any transmission made by any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce (including a transmission by radio, television, or the internet) that is transmitted into the United States a conspicuous statement that the transmission is made by an agent of a foreign principal, and that additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.''.

SA 2429. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 549. ANNUAL REPORTS ON MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 28 each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that sets forth a description and assessment of the interaction between members of the Armed Forces and extremist ideologies during the preceding year.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, for the year covered by such report, the following:

(1) A description of the current policies of the Department of Defense, and each Armed Force, on affiliations between members of the Armed Forces and recruits to the Armed Forces and white supremacist, neo-Nazi, terrorist, gang, and other extremist ideologies.

(2) A description and assessment of the current procedures used by the Department, and each Armed Force, to identify and mitigate the affiliations described in paragraph (1).

(3) An assessment of the recruitment tactics and practices used by organizations that propound ideologies referred to in paragraph (1) toward members and potential members of the Armed Forces, including a description of the evolution of such tactics and practices.

(4) If the disciplinary action authorized for violations of policies against the affiliations described in paragraph (1) included administrative separation from the Armed Forces—

(A) the number of individuals administratively separated from the Armed Forces in connection with such violations; and

(B) the number of individuals retained in the Armed Forces notwithstanding a substantiated finding of such a violation.

(5) An identification and assessment of the extent to which the number of violations described in paragraph (4) is on the increase, and a description and assessment of any trends in the number of such violations.

(6) A description and assessment of the training provided to members of the Armed Forces in order combat the ideologies referred to in paragraph (1), and an identification of each Armed Force that provides implicit bias training, including a description of such training, the frequency of such training, and the recipients of such training.

(c) ADDITIONAL REPORTS IN CONNECTION WITH INCREASE IN VIOLATIONS.—If the report under subsection (a) in any of 2022 through 2027 identifies an increase in violations described in subsection (b)(4) between the two years preceding the year in which such report is submitted, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an additional report setting forth the results of a study, conducted for purposes of this subsection by an entity outside the Department of Defense selected by the Secretary for purposes of this subsection, on the following:

(1) The causes of the increase.

(2) Recommendations for measures to address the increase.

(d) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS ON TRENDS IN VIOLATIONS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall also include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the trend in violations described in subsection (b)(4) between the year covered by such report and the year preceding the year covered by such report.

(2) A description and assessment of the work undertaken by the Department of Defense with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to identify the extent and nature of such trend.

(e) FORM.—Each report under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include information in a classified annex only to the extent that submittal of such information in classified form is the sole basis on which such information is submittable to Congress.

SA 2430. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 549. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT SMALL AND REMOTE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of

this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on a review, conducted by the Comptroller General for purposes of the report, on the participation in covered transition assistance programs of members of the Armed Forces assigned to small military installations and remote military installations in the United States.

(b) COVERED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—For purposes of this section, covered transition assistance programs are the following:

(1) The Transition Assistance Program.

(2) The programs under section 1143(e) of title 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as ''Job Training, Employment Skills, Apprenticeships and Internships (JTEST–AI)'' or ''Skill Bridge'').

(3) Any other program of apprenticeship, on-the-job training, or internship offered at a small military installation or remote installation that the Comptroller General considers appropriate for inclusion in the review under this section.

(c) SMALL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS; REMOTE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) A small military installation is an installation at which are assigned not more than 10,000 members of the Armed Forces.

(2) A remote military installation is an installation that is located more than 50 miles from any city with a population of 50,000 people or more (as determined by the Office of Management and Budget).

(d) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In conducting the review, the Comptroller General shall evaluate participation in covered transition assistance programs at a number of small military installations and remote military installations that is sufficient to provide a complete understanding of the participation in such programs of members of the Armed Forces at such installations throughout the United States.

(e) ELEMENTS.—The review under this section shall include the following:

(1) Rates of participation of members of the Armed Forces in covered transition assistance programs at small military installations and remote military installations in the United States.

(2) In the case of the Transition Assistance Program, the following:

(A) A comparison between rates of participation in person and rates of participation on line.

(B) The average ratio of permanent, full-time equivalent program staff to participating members at small military installations and at remote military installations.

(C) The average number of program staff (including full-time equivalent staff and contractor staff) physically and permanently located on installation at small military installations and at remote military installations.

(3) Such other matters with respect to participation in covered transition assistance programs of members assigned to small military installations and remote military installations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term ''Transition Assistance Program'' means the program of counseling, information, and services under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 2431. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 173.

SA 2432. Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.

Title IV of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 402 (15 U.S.C. 7102)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (2) and (5);

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) monitor the plans, programs, and operations of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government to identify barriers to new business formation by women entrepreneurs, or barriers experienced by women-led startups in accessing and participating in the plans, programs, and operations of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.''; and

(B) in subsection (c), in the first sentence, by inserting '', including through the use of research and policy developed by the Council'' after ''Council'';

(2) in section 403 (15 U.S.C. 7103)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''the executive director of the Council and'' before ''1 representative''

(II) by adding at the end the following:

''(K) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

''(L) The Environmental Protection Agency.

''(M) The Deputy Director of Management of the Office of Management and Budget.

''(N) The Bureau of Labor Statistics.

''(O) The Department of Homeland Security.

''(P) The Department of Veterans Affairs.''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Small Business Administration Reauthorization Act of 1997'' and inserting ''Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise Act of 2020''; and

(II) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) by striking ''Small Business''; and

(bb) by striking ''National Women's Business Council established under section 405'' and inserting ''Council''; and

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b) APPOINTMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise Act of 2020, the President, in consultation with the Administrator, shall appoint one of the members of the Interagency Committee to serve as chairperson.

''(2) VACANCY.—In the event that a chairperson is not appointed within the time frame required under paragraph (1), the Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall serve as acting chairperson of the Interagency Committee until a chairperson is appointed under paragraph (1).''; and

(3) in section 404 (15 U.S.C. 7104)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''1995'' and inserting ''2020'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(D) by striking paragraph (3).

SA 2433. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 911(a)(1), strike ''not later than'' and insert ''not earlier than''.

SA 2434. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to MQ–4 TRITON, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''411,570''.

In the funding table in section 4101, under the heading Other Procurement, Navy, under the heading Generators, in the item relating to Surface Combatant HM&E (line 2), strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''8,497''.

In the funding table in section 4101, under the heading Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, under the heading Other Airlift, in the item relating to MC–130J (line 10), strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''291,807''.

In the funding table in section 4201, under the heading Advanced Component Development & Prototypes, in the item relating to Improved Homeland Defense Interceptors (line 111), strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''144,138''.

SA 2435. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment

SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1287. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO DEPLOY DEFENSE ARTICLES, SERVICES, OR TRAINING TO CERTAIN ANNEXED TERRITORIES IN THE WEST BANK OR TO FACILITATE ANNEXATION OF SUCH TERRITORIES.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2020, this Act, or any other Act enacted before the date of the enactment of this Act, or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense, may be obligated or expended to deploy, or support the deployment of, United States defense articles, services, or training to territories in the West Bank unilaterally annexed by Israel after July 1, 2020, or to facilitate the unilateral annexation of such territories.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 2 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 THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brooke Hornberger, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the day.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Macy Tipton, an intern in Senator PAUL's office, be granted privileges for the day.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Megan McCulloch, a defense fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges throughout the remainder of this Congress.

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

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader and the senior Senator from Kansas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions through Monday, July 20, 2020.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

PROTECTING NONPROFITS FROM CATASTROPHIC CASH FLOW STRAIN ACT OF 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4209, introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4209) to amend title IX of the Social Security Act to improve emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4209) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4209

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting Nonprofits from Catastrophic Cash Flow Strain Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF FOR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 903(i)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1103(i)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''during'' and inserting ''with respect to'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''3309(a)(1)'' and inserting ''3309(a)''; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds transferred to the account of a State under subparagraph (A) shall be used exclusively to reduce the amounts required to be paid in lieu of contributions into the State unemployment fund pursuant to such section by governmental entities and other organizations described in section 3309(a) of such Code.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 2103 of the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act (contained in subtitle A of title II of division A of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136)).

(2) APPLICATION TO WEEKS PRIOR TO ENACTMENT.—For weeks of unemployment that occurred after March 12, 2020, and prior to the date of enactment of this section, States may—

(A) issue reimbursements in accordance with section 903(i)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act, as in effect prior to the date of enactment of this section; or

(B) reduce the amounts required to be paid in accordance with such section 903(i)(1)(C), as amended by subsection (a).

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 648, 649, and 650.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions (S. Res. 648, S. Res. 649, S. Res. 650) were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 4049

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments with respect to the cloture motions filed during today's session be at 5 p.m., Monday, July 20. I further ask that no second-degree amendments be in order to the following amendments: 2252, 2411, 1788, 2244, 1729, and 1972, as modified.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 7120

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, at the request of my Democratic colleagues, I am going to rule XIV the House police reform bill.

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 (H.R. 7120) to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies.

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. The objection having been heard, the bill will receive its next reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020, THROUGH MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following days and times; and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, July 6, at 11:15 a.m.; Thursday, July 9, at 10 a.m.; Monday, July 13, at 5:30 p.m.; and Thursday, July 16, at 10:30 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, July 16, it convene at 3 p.m., Monday, July 20, and 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; further, that upon the closing of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume the Vought nomination; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the confirmation vote on the Vought nomination occur at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020, AT 11:15 A.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:26 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 6, 2020, at 11:15 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

THOMPSON MICHAEL DIETZ, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE VICTOR J. WOLSKI, TERM EXPIRED.

TAYLOR B. MCNEEL, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI, VICE LOUIS GUIROLA, JR. , RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TONY D. BAUERNFEIND

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID NATHANSON

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 2, 2020:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2022.

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2023.

THOMAS A. SUMMERS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2020.

JOYCE LOUISE CONNERY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THOMAS A. SUMMERS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2025.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. GUSTAVE F. PERNA

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OWEN MCCURDY CYPHER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THOMAS L. FOSTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

TYREECE L. MILLER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KIRK W. GREENE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF PATTERSON G. ALDUEZA, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL F. COERPER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROHUL AMIN AND ENDING WITH D015498, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER V. EMMONS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NATHANIEL A. STONE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARGARET C. BRAINARDBLAND, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL B. MCGUIRE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RALPH PEAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER M. HARTLEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MAURO QUEVEDO, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSHUA W. KRUPA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PETER C. RENALS, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROBERT C. BIRCH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF TORI J. MOFFITT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATTHEAU B. WILLSEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 2, 2020 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ARMY NOMINATION OF MAJ. GEN. SEAN P. SWINDELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT GENERAL, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, in this historical moment, we are all working to find ways to eliminate racial injustice and the disparities it causes. Certainly, people of color must be treated with fairness and respect by law enforcement. But it will take far more than that to begin to make a dent in the race and sex discrimination that keeps far too many people locked out of the American dream. In this context, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise or DBE Program, which is reauthorized in this legislation, is essential. As we have over the past decades since the DBE program was originally enacted in 1983, this Committee has received enormous amounts of evidence demonstrating that discrimination continues to plague the industries that make up the surface transportation market. One of the studies referenced in our Committee Report involves the Nashville and the surrounding metropolitan area. The numbers are devastating—especially in prime contracting. Firms owned by African Americans earned 3 cents on the dollar of what we would expect them to earn given their availability in Architecture and Engineering markets. For Asian Americans the number was 18 cents on the dollar and for Hispanic Americans it was 47 cents on the dollar. That is simply unacceptable. In construction contracting, African Americans did better, but Hispanic Americans did much, much worse—and none did as well as white males. In prime construction contracts, African American owned firms earned 55 cents on the dollar of what we would have expected given their representation in the availability for prime construction contracting. Asian Americans earned 25 cents on the dollar and Hispanic Americans earned 1 cent on the dollar. Metro Nashville Tennessee Disparity Study Final Report, Griffin and Strong, P.C., August 2018, at 83 through 84. These numbers make clear that minority business owners in this country are trapped in a cycle of discrimination from which escape is close to impossible. We cannot permit this situation to continue.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BRIAN DAVIS AND HIS THIRTY-FIVE YEAR CAREER WITH THE CATTARAUGUS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Brian Davis, Cattaraugus County Soil and Water Conservation District Field Manager.

Brian dedicated thirty years of his life to serving as the district field manager and oversaw a considerable amount of projects that ranged from agriculture to wildlife issues, as well as forest issues and streambank protection. Previously, he served as a technician with the conservation district for five years.

His dedication to the cause of conservation has been evidenced by his hard work, successful projects over the years and his enthusiasm for the task at hand. He has overseen millions of dollars of projects over the years that have aided businesses, farmers and highway superintendents across the area. These efforts have had a considerable impact on the district and have improved the environment in various ways.

Brian has provided dedicated leadership during his tenure at the Cattaraugus County Soil and Water Conservation District and he will be missed by all. He leaves behind a legacy of service and commitment that will be difficult to replace, however, he has certainly earned his retirement. We hope his next steps on this new path will be rewarding and bountiful, as his contributions have been to the communities he has served.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to congratulate Brian Davis of the Cattaraugus County Soil and Water Conservation District on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, today I was unable to vote on Tuesday, June 30 and Wednesday, July 1. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 130; NAY on Roll Call No. 131; NAY on Roll Call No. 132; NAY on Roll Call No. 133; YEA on Roll Call No. 134; YEA on Roll Call No. 135; NAY on Roll Call No. 136; YEA on Roll Call No. 137; and NAY on Roll Call No. 138.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JAMESTOWN POLICE CHIEF HARRY SNELLINGS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Jamestown Police Chief Harry Snellings.

Chief Harry Snellings has been with the Jamestown Police Department in Jamestown, New York since 1996. He began as a police officer, was promoted to Sergeant in 2004 and later, Lieutenant in 2009. In 2010, Harry took over as Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety.

From 2001 to 2009, Harry was a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics team (S.W.A.T.), serving as a team leader and a team commander during that time. In 2011, he attended and graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Prior to his service as a police officer, Harry served in the United States Army for twenty-three years and was deployed three times. He selflessly dedicated his life to public service and public safety throughout his career, and has certainly earned his retirement. We applaud his efforts and wish him the best in the next chapters of his life.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to congratulate Chief Harry Snelling upon his retirement.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4169–S4241

Measures Introduced: Sixty-two bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4150–4211, and S. Res. 645–651. **Pages S4220–22**

Measures Passed:

Preventing Online Sales of E–Cigarettes to Children Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 1253, to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4174–76**

Feinstein (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 2424, to require the National Institutes of Health to conduct a study and report on the short-term and long-term health impacts of e-cigarette use by youth and young adults under 21 years of age. **Pages S4174–75**

Hong Kong: Senate passed H.R. 7440, to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons involved in the erosion of certain obligations of China with respect to Hong Kong. **Pages S4179–80**

Social Security Act: Senate passed S. 4209, to amend title IX of the Social Security Act to improve emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. **Page S4240**

National Women's Suffrage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 648, designating August 2020 as "National Women's Suffrage Month". **Page S4240**

American Grown Flower Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 649, expressing support for the designation of July 2020 as "American Grown Flower Month". **Page S4240**

Collector Car Appreciation Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 650, designating July 10, 2020, as "Collector Car Appreciation Day" and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States. **Page S4240**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S4183–98**

Adopted:

Inhofe (for Moran/Tester) Amendment No. 1694 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the unemployment rate of female veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001. **Pages S4184–85**

Inhofe (for Hyde-Smith) Amendment No. 1881 (to Amendment No. 2301), to designate the week of September 20 through September 26, 2020, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week". **Pages S4184–85**

Inhofe (for Romney) Amendment No. 1883 (to Amendment No. 2301), to state the policy of the United States on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. **Pages S4184–85**

Reed (for Peters) Amendment No. 1753 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on the screening practices for Great Lakes and inland waterways seaports. **Pages S4184–86**

Reed (for Warner) Amendment No. 1803 (to Amendment No. 2301), to improve efficient use of sensitive compartmented information facilities. **Pages S4184–86**

Reed (for Coons) Amendment No. 1808 (to Amendment No. 2301), to provide for Federal coordination of activities supporting sustainable chemistry. **Pages S4184–86**

Inhofe (for Portman/Schatz) Amendment No. 1891 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publish an annual report on the use of deepfake technology. **Pages S4184–86**

Inhofe (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 1987 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide States with information regarding unredeemed matured savings bonds. **Pages S4184–86**

Reed (for Warner) Amendment No. 1907 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a report by the Comptroller General of the United States on diversity and inclusion within the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense. **Pages S4184–86**

Inhofe (for Romney/Lee) Amendment No. 2018 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a report on the Chemical and Biological Defense Program of the Department of Defense. **Pages S4184–86**

Inhofe (for Sullivan) Amendment No. 2391(to Amendment No. 2301), to require reports on diversity and inclusion in the Armed Forces. **Pages S4184–87**

Reed (for Tester/Moran) Amendment No. 1968 (to Amendment No. 2301), to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces. **Pages S4184–87**

Reed (for Bennet/Portman) Amendment No. 1977 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a briefing on the assignment of members of the Armed Forces on active duty to the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center of the Department of Defense. **Pages S4184–87**

Inhofe (for Johnson) Amendment No. 2077 (to Amendment No. 2301), to strengthen Federal anti-discrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government. **Pages S4184–87**

Reed (for Smith/Hyde-Smith) Amendment No. 2058 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and issue a report on the affordability of insulin. **Pages S4184–88**

Inhofe (for Wicker) Amendment No. 2178 (to Amendment No. 2301), to improve the cyber workforce and establish cyber challenges. **Pages S4184–88**

Reed (for Cortez Masto) Amendment No. 2186 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report assessing the billing practices of the Department of Defense for care received under the TRICARE program and at military medical treatment facilities. **Pages S4184–88**

Inhofe (for King/Sasse) Amendment No. 2215 (to Amendment No. 2301), to strengthen the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. **Pages S4184–88**

Reed (for Merkley) Amendment No. 2251 (to Amendment No. 2301), to extend the prohibition on commercial export of certain munitions to the Hong Kong Police Force. **Pages S4184–88**

Inhofe (for Fischer) Amendment No. 2231 (to Amendment No. 2301), to ensure appropriate prioritization, spectrum planning, and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things. **Pages S4184–88**

Reed (for Cantwell) Amendment No. 2255 (to Amendment No. 2301), to extend real-time sound monitoring at Navy installations where tactical fighter aircraft operate. **Pages S4184–89**

Inhofe (for Risch/Shaheen) Amendment No. 2238 (to Amendment No. 2301), to improve coordination of United States sanctions policy. **Pages S4184–89**

Reed (for Cantwell) Amendment No. 2256 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require an analysis of sourcing and industrial capacity issues related to aluminum. **Pages S4184–89**

Inhofe (for Gardner) Amendment No. 2241 (to Amendment No. 2301), to express the sense of Congress on the implementation of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 with respect to Taiwan arms sales. **Pages S4184–90**

Reed (for Hirono/Sullivan) Amendment No. 2269 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a report on the impact of the children of certain Filipino World War II veterans on the national security, foreign policy, and economic and humanitarian interests of the United States. **Pages S4184–90**

Inhofe (for Portman) Amendment No. 2243 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require an assessment of United States manufacturing surge capacity. **Pages S4184–90**

Reed (for Menendez) Amendment No. 2270 (to Amendment No. 2301), to provide assistance for United States citizens and nationals taken hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad. **Pages S4184–90**

Inhofe/Reed Amendment No. 2248 (to Amendment No. 2301), relating to the Space Force. **Pages S4184–90**

Reed (for Peters) Amendment No. 2275 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a plan for the continuity of the economy. **Pages S4184–90**

Inhofe (for Toomey/Van Hollen) Amendment No. 2277 (to Amendment No. 2301), to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons involved in the erosion of certain obligations of China with respect to Hong Kong. **Pages S4184–91**

Inhofe Amendment No. 2204 (to Amendment No. 2301), to amend the Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997 to authorize the transfer of funds for the endowment fund for the Oklahoma City National Memorial. **Pages S4184–91**

Reed (for Cantwell/Manchin) Amendment No. 2417 (to Amendment No. 2301), to modify the requirements for the Department of Energy response to the review by the Nuclear Weapons Council of the budget of the National Nuclear Security Administration. **Pages S4184–91**

Reed (for Jones/Sullivan) Amendment No. 1797 (to Amendment No. 2301), to improve the authority for operations of unmanned aircraft for educational purposes. **Pages S4184–91**

Inhofe (for Lankford) Amendment No. 1825 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule. **Pages S4184–91**

Inhofe (for Loeffler) Amendment No. 1878 (to Amendment No. 2301), to authorize certain postgraduate health care employees and health professions trainees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment via telemedicine. **Pages S4184–91**

Reed (for Tester/Grassley) Amendment No. 1966 (to Amendment No. 2301), to provide assistance to manage farmer and rancher stress and for the mental health of individuals in rural areas. **Pages S4184–92**

Reed (for Tester/Rounds) Amendment No. 1971 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans read-only access to the documents of such veterans contained in the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record. **Pages S4184–92**

Inhofe (for Kennedy/Jones) Amendment No. 1991 (to Amendment No. 2301), to establish limitations regarding Confucius Institutes. **Pages S4184–92**

Reed (for Markey) Amendment No. 2053 (to Amendment No. 2301), to impose reporting requirements relating to the SBIR and STTR programs of the Small Business Administration. **Pages S4184–92**

Inhofe (for Cruz) Amendment No. 2138 (to Amendment No. 2301), to leverage commercial satellite remote sensing. **Pages S4184–92**

Reed (for Durbin/Grassley) Amendment No. 2168 (to Amendment No. 2301), to express the Sense of Congress on support for coordinated action to ensure the security of Baltic allies. **Pages S4184–92**

Reed (for Feinstein) Amendment No. 2217 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on military aviators and aviation support personnel to determine the incidence of cancer diagnosis and mortality among such aviators and personnel. **Pages S4184–93**

Reed (for Heinrich/Barrasso) Amendment No. 2220 (to Amendment No. 2301), to express the sense of the Senate on the extension of limitations on the importation of uranium from the Russian Federation. **Pages S4184–93**

Inhofe (for Rounds) Amendment No. 2235 (to Amendment No. 2301), to authorize a pilot program to explore the use of consumption-based solutions to address software-intensive warfighting capability. **Pages S4184–94**

Reed (for Brown/Portman) Amendment No. 2257 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a report on the use and potential refurbishment of existing operating and mothballed Federal research and testing facilities to support hypersonics activities of the Department of Defense. **Pages S4184–94**

Inhofe (for Sasse) Amendment No. 2287 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on cyberexploitation of members of the Armed Forces and their families. **Pages S4184–94**

Inhofe (for Boozman) Amendment No. 2298 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a report on round-the-clock availability of childcare for members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense who work rotating shifts. **Pages S4184–94**

Reed (for Harris) Amendment No. 2317 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of Defense to commission an independent scientific study of the impacts of transboundary flows, spills, or discharges of pollution or debris from the Tijuana River on the personnel, activities, and installations of the Department of Defense. **Pages S4184–95**

Reed (for Klobuchar) Amendment No. 2319 (to Amendment No. 2301), to provide an exception to the limitation on period of care provided to newborn children of veterans. **Pages S4184–95**

Inhofe Amendment No. 2326 (to Amendment No. 2301), to strike the provision relating to laboratory-or production facility-directed research and development programs. **Pages S4184–95**

Inhofe (for Young) Amendment No. 2327 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require a study and plan on the use of additive manufacturing and three-dimensional bioprinting in support of the warfighter. **Pages S4184–95**

Inhofe (for Shelby) Amendment No. 2331 (to Amendment No. 2301), to modify the authorities on micro nuclear reactor programs. **Pages S4184–95**

Reed (for Wyden) Amendment No. 2341 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require the Secretary of the Army to submit to Congress a plan to finish remediation activities conducted by the Secretary in Umatilla, Oregon. **Pages S4184–95**

Inhofe (for Blackburn) Amendment No. 2370 (to Amendment No. 2301), to improve section 212, relating to governance of fifth-generation wireless networking in the Department of Defense. **Pages S4184–95**

Inhofe (for Blackburn) Amendment No. 2378 (to Amendment No. 2301), to amend the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to authorize the Open Technology Fund of the United States Agency for Global Media and to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. **Pages S4184–95**

Inhofe (for Moran) Amendment No. 1693 (to Amendment No. 2301), to provide compensation and credit for retired pay purposes for maternity leave taken by members of the reserve components. **Pages S4184–95**

Inhofe Amendment No. 2418 (to Amendment No. 2301), to eliminate a provision relating to the distribution of launches for phase two of the acquisition strategy for the National Security Space Launch program. **Pages S4184–95**

Reed (for Sanders) Amendment No. 2419 (to Amendment No. 2301), to provide incentives for the Department of Defense to achieve a clean audit opinion on its financial statements. **Pages S4184–96**

Inhofe (for Lee/Paul) Amendment No. 2084 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require an annual allied burden sharing report. **Pages S4184–96**

Reed (for Van Hollen/Cardin) Amendment No. 1849 (to Amendment No. 2301), for the relief of Richard W. Collins III. **Pages S4184–96**

Reed (for Hassan/Johnson) Amendment No. 2103 (to Amendment No. 2301), to improve the response of the Department of Defense to threats to United States forces from small unmanned aerial systems worldwide. **Pages S4184–97**

Inhofe (for Rubio) Amendment No. 2422 (to Amendment No. 2301), to support supply chain innovation and multilateral security. **Pages S4184–97**

Pending:

Inhofe Amendment No. 2301, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4183**

McConnell (for Portman) Amendment No. 2080 (to Amendment No. 2301), to require an element in annual reports on cyber science and technology activities on work with academic consortia on high priority cybersecurity research activities in Department of Defense capabilities. **Page S4183**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Inhofe Amendment No. 2301, in the nature of a substitute, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Tester Modified Amendment No. 1972. **Page S4197**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Inhofe Amendment No. 2301 (listed above). **Page S4197**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, the following amendments be made pending, en bloc, and Senate vote on or in relation to the amendments in the order listed with a 60 affirmative vote threshold for adoption: Schatz Amendment No. 2252, Inhofe Amendment No. 2411, Sanders Amendment No. 1788, Cornyn Amendment No. 2244, Shaheen Amendment No. 1729, Tester Modified Amendment No. 1972; and that there be 2 hours of debate on each amendment, equally divided between the two Leaders or their designees, prior to the vote on or in relation to each amendment. **Page S4183**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments with respect to the cloture motions be 5:00 p.m., on Monday, July 20, 2020; and that no second-degree amendments be in order to the following amendments: Schatz Amendment No. 2252, Inhofe Amendment No. 2411, Sanders Amendment No. 1788, Cornyn Amendment No. 2244, Shaheen Amendment No. 1729, and Tester Modified Amendment No. 1972. **Page S4240**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Majority Leader and the Senior Senator for Kansas be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions through Monday, July 20, 2020. **Page S4240**

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S4240**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, July 6, 2020, at 11:15 a.m.; Thursday, July 9, 2020, at 10 a.m.; Monday, July 13, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, July 16, 2020, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, July 20, 2020. **Page S4241**

Vought Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Russell Vought,

of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Pages S4170–74, S4176–79, S4180–83, S4198–S4210

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 47 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. E.X. 130), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4198**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 3 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at 5:30 p.m. **Page S4241**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Joseph Bruce Hamilton, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2022.

Jessie Hill Roberson, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2023.

Thomas A. Summers, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2020.

Owen McCurdy Cypher, of Michigan, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Thomas L. Foster, of Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Virginia for the term of four years.

Tyreece L. Miller, of Tennessee, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

Joyce Louise Connery, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2024.

Thomas A. Summers, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2025.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Pages S4210–11**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Thompson Michael Dietz, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Taylor B. McNeel, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general. **Page S4241**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

1 Army nomination in the rank of general. **Page S4241**

Messages from the House: **Page S4215**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S4215**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4215–20**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4222–24**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4224–33**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4213–15**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4233–40**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4240**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4240**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—130) **Page S4198**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:26 p.m., until 11:15 a.m. on Monday, July 6, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4241.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

OPERATION WARP SPEED

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine Operation Warp Speed, focusing on researching, manufacturing, and distributing a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine, after receiving testimony from Francis Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health, Robert R. Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Gary Disbrow, Acting Director, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 3398, to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: On Wednesday, July 1, 2020, Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Peter Michael Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 7480–7489 were introduced.

Page H3062

Additional Cosponsors: Page H3063

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Armed Services: On July 1, 2020, Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6395, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021''. H.R. 6395 was ordered reported, as amended.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO PROCURE, STOCKPILE, AND DISTRIBUTE CRITICAL SUPPLIES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hearing entitled ''The Administration's Efforts to Procure, Stockpile, and Distribute Critical Supplies''. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral John Polowczyk, Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force, Vice Director of Logistics, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense; Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services; and Kevin Fahey, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Department of Defense.

SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing entitled ''Supply Chain Resiliency''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine human rights at home, focusing on implications for United States leadership, after receiving testimony Ian Kelly, former United States Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Malcolm Momodou Jallow, Swedish Member of Parliament and General Rapporteur on Combating Racism and Intolerance, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and Nkechi Taifa, The Taifa Group, LLC, and Columbia University Center for Justice.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, markup on FY 2021 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, 4 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, markup on FY 2021 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 6 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, markup on FY 2021 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 8 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11:15 a.m., Monday, July 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Monday, July 6

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E613
Reed, Tom, N.Y., E613, E613
Roby, Martha, Ala., E613

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