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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 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.

Eternal God, who makes us one, use our lawmakers today as agents of reconciliation. Lord, give them the wisdom to build bridges that will enable diverse people to accomplish Your purposes on Earth. Lord, inspire our Senators with such oneness of spirit and resolve that they will provide our Nation with a model of cooperation. Remind them of the wisdom of Matthew 12:25, which states that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

Lord, we thank You for giving Senator GRASSLEY another birthday.

We pray in Your unifying Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

### ELECTIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, first of all, I thank the chaplain for the happy birthday that was part of the prayer. So they heard it in Heaven, as well as throughout the United States.

Before the 2016 election, Democrats speculated very feverishly: Would Donald Trump accept the results of the election of 2016?

Then he won, and it is the Democrats who have refused to accept the result. They sought to delegitimize the election, citing Russia's meddling or questioning our Presidential election system. On Inauguration Day, you know the famous Washington Post headline said it all: "The campaign to impeach President Trump has begun." He was President about 1 hour at that time.

In fact, we now know that efforts to fabricate a Russia collusion narrative were already under way well before the President was inaugurated. The same people are again fretting that President Trump might not somehow accept the election results if he loses. And, of course, under our Constitution, no President has any option but to accept those results because the term ends on January 20.

But can't we also ask the alternative? What if President Trump does win? Well, this was the advice from Hillary Clinton to former Vice President Biden: that Biden "should not concede under any circumstances."

So will the Democrats respect the election results this time?

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

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### PRESIDENT TRUMP

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning I was planning to address a number of topics, but the President

held a press conference yesterday afternoon that was so callous, so uninformed, so egomaniacal, so divisive that I am compelled to respond to it this morning.

We are in the middle of a global pandemic that has killed nearly 200,000 Americans, far more than the number of Americans who died in World War I—more than any other Nation on God's green Earth, more than countries with larger populations, and more than countries with mere fractions of our wealth and power.

Here is how the President spoke about the number of American deaths yesterday at his press conference:

If you take the blue states out, we're at a level that I don't think anybody in the world would be at . . . [If you take the blue states out,] we're really at a very low level.

Yes, Mr. President, if you don't count the total number of Americans who have died, you might think it is not so bad. If you close your eyes and pretend that half of the country doesn't exist, maybe some might think you didn't do such a spectacularly awful job.

What kind of person looks at the number of dead citizens in the country he is supposed to lead, and in an attempt to glamorize himself, dismisses every American who died in a State that didn't support the President politically? What a disgrace. It is monstrous. There is not a shred of empathy, not an ounce of sorrow. What kind of President do we have?

The President just wants you to see a graph about how his catastrophic failure to fight COVID-19 could have been worse.

I suggest President Trump spend some time reading the stories of the men and women across the country who have passed away from this terrible virus.

This isn't about a number. Oh, no, it is about the people families and communities have lost, whether they be in red States or blue States. Many of these families have been unable to hold

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



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funeral services to properly mourn their loved ones for fear of spreading COVID to another member of their family. That is why these remarks by the President are so horrific.

What does the outcome of an election determine if these lives should be counted? Isn't that awful? Why does the outcome of an election determine if these lives should be counted? Does he mean that the loss of Americans who lived in States with Democratic Governors shouldn't count? If that is the case, President Trump is saying that the deaths of David Pickman of Somers, CT; and Patrick McNamee of Ypsilanti, MI; and Virgil Sutton of Dallas, NC, don't count—don't count. How about Ralph Davis, the high school basketball coach in Milwaukee, WI? Did his life not count because he lived in a State with a Democratic Governor? What kind of demented person would say that those American lives don't count?

The President also said: "But some of those states, they were blue States and blue-state managed."

I suppose that means that the life of Dennis Wilson shouldn't count because he was an educator in Lenexa, KS. If only Mr. Wilson had lived 17 miles east in the Hickman Hills neighborhood of Kansas City, MO, maybe the President would think his life should have counted.

How about Captain Doug Hickok? If he lived—I don't know—in Cheyenne, WY, I suppose the President might have valued his life. Unfortunately for Captain Hickok, he lived 1,700 miles east in Bangor, PA, so President Trump says his life isn't worth counting.

Maybe I am giving the President too much credit. You never really know what the heck he means when he talks. So it is possible that his definition of blue States isn't limited to States with Democratic Governors. Maybe his definition of blue States includes States with more Democrats than Republicans in their congressional delegations. That would mean Valentina Blackhorse's life didn't count because she lived in Kayenta, AZ, nor would the life of a Des Moines toddler who died from COVID in June.

What kind of demented person would make that calculation? President Trump, that is who.

Of course, there is no bottom with President Trump. He is so contemptuous of every virtue, so dishonorable, so dishonest that the vices parade themselves forward one after another.

At the press conference after his disgusting comments about ignoring American lives from blue States, President Trump lied, once again, about his support for Americans with preexisting conditions, a lie he has told and retold while his administration is in court suing to eliminate those very protections.

Don't worry, though. President Trump promised that a brandnew, fantastic Republican healthcare plan is

just around the corner. He said you will see it in 2 weeks, just like he told FOX News in July when he said he would sign a healthcare plan in 2 weeks, a full and complete healthcare plan, and again in August, just 2 weeks away—just like his infrastructure bill, a new middle-class tax cut, lower prescription drug costs, a new stimulus package, a report on COVID-19's impact on minorities, and new COVID tests, all of which the President said would be "2 weeks" away but, in fact, never materialized, not in 2 weeks, not ever.

He must think the American people are chumps that he can say anything he wants with no accountability, not do it, and then do it again and again and again.

For centuries, American Presidents have faced challenges with honor and with courage. They have stepped up to the podium and used their bully pulpit to give honor to American lives. But when this President, President Trump, stands at that great podium, he reveals his cowardice, his callousness, his selfishness, his ignorance, and, most of all, his insistence on dividing us. His inability and unwillingness to unite a grieving nation will be his legacy.

When Donald Trump took the stage at the 2016 National Republican Convention, he painted a false portrait of a country in crisis, and declared, "I alone can fix it."

Four years later, the country faces actual crises—the greatest economic crisis in 75 years, the greatest public health crisis in a century—and President Trump now says: "It is what it is."

"Could you have done more to stop it?"

"I don't think so," he says.

"If you take the blue States out. . . . We're really at a very low level."

"I don't take any responsibility at all."

"It's going to disappear."

"A lot of people think the masks are no good."

"[W]hen it gets a little warmer, it miraculously goes away."

"I see the disinfectant, [where it] knocks it out in a minute . . . and is there a way [we] can do something like that, by injection?"

"I'm not a doctor, but I'm, like, a person that has a good, you know what."

This man, who said all these ridiculous, harmful things, is leading the country through the worst public health crisis in a century.

Americans don't have to ask themselves, as Reagan once asked, if they are better off now than 4 years ago. President Trump has told everyone exactly what the score is.

When Donald Trump said he was running for office, he said: "I alone can fix it." When Donald Trump is running the country during the worst pandemic in this century, he says: "It is what it is." Five words. Both times, five words. Five words that sum up an approach to

government and leadership that is completely antithetical to everything the word "leadership" means.

Promise big, deliver zero, deliver small. That is President Trump's view of government. Boast when you don't have any responsibility; shrink from it when you do. That is President Trump's view of public service.

It has diminished our institutions and our democracy. He has cost our country its moral standing in the world; he has threatened the future of our planet; and he has cost Americans their healthcare, their jobs, and their lives. But it is not so bad if you don't count the numbers.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, our Democratic colleagues have sought to spend this week discussing election security. Well, they really have sought to discuss absolutely anything besides pandemic relief since their leaders are still blocking bipartisan negotiations that could actually get a result.

So our friends across the aisle have tried to change the subject to election security or immigration from Venezuela or anything besides the hundreds of billions of dollars in relief they have been filibustering.

But the integrity of our democracy is a crucial issue. We are fewer than 50 days from November 3. Every voter deserves to know their State and local authorities are as well equipped as possible to oversee fair, safe, and secure elections.

So let's discuss the progress made since back in 2016, the threats still before us, and how it is when this non-partisan issue gets hijacked—literally hijacked—for partisan point-scoring.

Here is how the Democratic vice chair of the Intelligence Committee described our vulnerability to foreign influence in 2016 during the Obama-Biden administration. This is the Democratic vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee about 2016. He said: "We were caught flat-footed." "We were caught flat-footed."

That administration's relationships with State governments were dysfunctional; information sharing was weak; cross-sector partnerships hardly existed; and 8 years of weak foreign policy had emboldened Putin to push the envelope.

Now, for the last 4 years, thanks to the actions of this Senate and the leadership of the current administration, a huge number of dedicated experts have worked hard to improve our defenses and regain America's trust.

In 2016, the Department of Homeland Security was on an island, but under this administration, DHS officials have built partnerships with State and local officials who run our elections and stood up massive intelligence-sharing efforts that connect them with Federal authorities, the intelligence community, as well as the private sector.

In 2016, the outgoing administration hid their limited grasp of the threat from Congress and the American people. The Trump administration and intelligence experts have been far, far more transparent.

In 2016, only 14 State or local authorities had high-tech sensors to detect cyberattacks. Now all 50 States—all of them—have them. The Trump administration has imposed real pain on Russia: closing consulates, expelling spies, sanctioning oligarchs and agents of influence, and equipping neighbors that are threatened by Moscow to deter further aggression.

Here in the Senate, multiple committees have become major players in this effort. Our colleagues on the Intelligence Committee spent, literally, years producing their 5-part, 1,300-plus-page report on what happened back in 2016. Some of their bipartisan recommendations are already taking effect.

And then there is funding. The Senate has led the efforts to set aside more than \$1 billion in extra election assistance, from foreign interference to COVID-19. Through the end of the primaries, more than 70 percent of the huge sum we provided in the CARES Act is still unspent. As recently as a few months ago, more than 60 percent of the first tranche we provided all the way back in fiscal 2018 was still unspent. So we have made sure money is not an obstacle.

So these threats are still with us, and they have evolved. Not only Russia but also China, Iran, and other adversaries are looking constantly for ways to interfere in our politics, divide Americans, and erode confidence in our institutions. That is a fact.

The work goes on, but we certainly aren't flat-footed any longer. This progress should be cause for bipartisan celebration, but one side of the aisle seems to prefer pretending—pretending—there hasn't been any progress at all.

Frankly, while nonpartisan experts worked around the clock to fight our adversaries' destabilizing efforts, too many Democrats have been undermining America's confidence in our democracy to the degree that those adversaries could only dream of: baseless accusations that the last election was stolen; casual assertions that this one, too, must be illegitimate if they don't win.

On a monthly basis, we have heard new, hysterical pronouncements that our democracy was on death's door. Even sensitive intelligence became grist for the partisan mill.

This has not been universal. There has been good bipartisan work in some committees, but the Democratic leadership appeared to make a conscious choice: Instead of treating election security like the unifying, bipartisan issue it ought to be, they would use it as a partisan cudgel to hit the other side, playing right into our adversaries' hands.

This week, the Democratic leader attacked Republicans and basically questioned our patriotism because we did not rush to meet his latest demands for empty theatrics. He proposes to crowd out 4 years of bipartisan work from actual committees by inventing a brandnew Senate committee and pull experts off the frontlines during the home stretch for theatrical hearings here on Capitol Hill.

He says we must allocate more money. Never mind that the millions and millions of dollars we have already set aside remain unspent. He proposes that the administration pull experts off the frontlines to continue briefing him. Never mind that ODNI alone has supported 53 election security briefings to Congress since 2018—53 election security briefings to Congress since 2018. I am sure 54 will be the magic number that finally makes our colleague a reasonable voice on this issue.

The truth is, briefings are ongoing; the Intelligence and Armed Services Committees will be briefed this week; and all Senators will have access to written intelligence analysis by career professionals if new developments arise since last month's all-Senate briefings.

The Democratic leader's demands aren't solutions. These aren't what the experts say we need; they are just empty gestures concocted so the Democratic leader can complain that Republicans hate democracy and apple pie when we don't go along with them.

So remember, fear and division, reduced confidence in our democracy, Americans divided against ourselves: that is exactly what Russia wants—exactly. That is what China wants too. That is just what our adversaries want to achieve, and it is exactly what the Democratic leader helps them achieve when he turns a bipartisan national issue that should unite us into one more pretext for partisan finger-pointing.

Our colleague from New York said recently that "Republicans are the enemy of the good." No, Republicans and Democrats are not enemies. No fellow Americans are enemies.

Our people, our democracy, have real enemies in some corners of the world. I expect they are absolutely thrilled to hear our own politicians talking that way.

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 Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### HOT SPRINGS VA FACILITY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, South Dakota's veterans and the Hot Springs community are currently celebrating the VA's announcement that it has begun the process of rescinding its order to close the Hot Springs VA facility. This was a hard-fought victory in a battle that we weren't always sure we would win. It started almost a decade ago, in 2011, when the Obama administration announced its plans to realign—when I say "realign," reclose—the Hot Springs VA facility.

I was well aware of what the Hot Springs facility means to South Dakota veterans and to the entire Hot Springs community, and I determined that there wasn't going to be a closure if I could help it. I knew that closing the Hot Springs facility would put accessible care out of the reach of a lot of rural and Tribal veterans—not only rural and Tribal South Dakota veterans but rural and Tribal veterans from neighboring Wyoming and Nebraska who depend on the Hot Springs facility for care.

Traveling to Rapid City and Fort Meade for care, as the VA proposed, would be a real hardship, if not an impossibility, for many of these veterans. I also strongly disagreed with moving not only medical care but the vital Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Program from Hot Springs. Not only would this put the program out of reach of some veterans, I believed it was also a mistake to remove a tremendously effective program from the place where it has been so successful and try to reconstitute it elsewhere.

I got to work in Congress, along with other Members of the South Dakota delegation. My first priority was simply trying to get Hot Springs' veterans a hearing with the VA.

In 2016, after years of trying, we persuaded then-VA Secretary Bob McDonald to visit Hot Springs. Unfortunately, the visit didn't work, and soon

after the Secretary signed an order finalizing the decision to close the majority of the facility.

The battle wasn't over. In 2014, I had succeeded in attaching a measure to an appropriations legislation prohibiting the closure of the Hot Springs facility until a national VA realignment strategy was proposed. In each year, with appreciation to the Appropriations Committee, I have managed to renew this measure. And after a new VA Secretary—Secretary Robert Wilkie—took the helm, I repeatedly urged him to come to Hot Springs and to check out our facility for himself. Early this year, the Secretary announced that he would visit the facility in March.

I then organized a letter with the rest of the South Dakota delegation strongly urging the Secretary to make time to sit down with Hot Springs veterans and other stakeholders and listen to their concerns about the planned closure. To our great gratitude, the Secretary agreed.

Early in Secretary Wilkie's visit to Hot Springs on March 2, I requested that he revisit the order to close the facility signed over 3 years ago. A bit to our surprise and much to our relief, the Secretary agreed, reassuring us that the Hot Springs VA would remain open for our veterans.

That meeting with veterans was pivotal. I worked hard in Congress—along with other Members of the South Dakota delegation—to keep the Hot Springs facility open. But the campaign would never have succeeded without the passion of Hot Springs veterans and the Hot Springs community, which rallied in support of the facility and have proposed innovative ideas for the campus's future. And meeting with these veterans and other stakeholders and hearing their thoughts and stories played a major role in Secretary Wilkie's decision.

Now, 2020 has been a tough year. But even in tough times, good things can happen. And last week's announcement that the VA has begun the formal process of rescinding its order to close the Hot Springs facility, expected to take 30 to 60 days, has given a lot of us reason for gratitude. I am thankful to Secretary Wilkie for taking a real look at South Dakota veterans' concerns and reversing the VA's decision to close the facility. And I look forward to celebrating with South Dakota veterans the next time I am in Hot Springs—or, as a lot of us know it, the "Veterans Town."

#### AGRICULTURE

Mr. President, while most sectors of our economy were thriving before the coronavirus pandemic hit, farmers and ranchers were struggling. Low prices, extended trade disputes, and natural disasters had meant a lot of tough years for agriculture producers even before the arrival of the coronavirus.

Yesterday, I held virtual meetings with South Dakota farmers and ranchers and heard firsthand about the challenges they are facing because of the pandemic.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of my home State of South Dakota, and making sure our ag producers have what they need to keep feeding our Nation—and the world—is one of my top priorities here in Washington.

During debate on the CARES Act—our largest coronavirus relief bill to date—I fought to make sure that we included relief for farmers and ranchers. The final bill included \$14 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation, plus an additional \$9.5 billion in emergency support to allow the Department of Agriculture to provide income and price support for farmers and ranchers.

USDA has been putting these resources to work to provide assistance to producers in South Dakota and across the country who were affected by the pandemic, and they have been a lifeline to many farmers. But more needs to be done to support our Nation's agriculture industry. And part of doing that is funding the Commodity Credit Corporation in the continuing resolution—the appropriations measure that hopefully Congress will be considering soon.

The Commodity Credit Corporation ensures that USDA has the resources it needs to provide assistance through farm programs, including the programs included in the bipartisan 2018 farm bill—commodity programs like the Agriculture Risk Coverage, we call it the ARC Program; the Price Loss Coverage, what we call the PLC Program; and Marketing Assistance Loans; dairy programs like the Dairy Margin programs; disaster programs, like the Livestock Forage Disaster Program; and the Livestock Indemnity Program.

These programs are a critical part of farmers and ranchers' safety net, and we need to ensure that they are fully funded.

Later this morning, my colleague Senator HOEVEN from North Dakota will be hosting a colloquy to draw attention to the need to get USDA the resources it requires to help our agriculture producers weather this crisis. I appreciate Senator HOEVEN's work to highlight this issue, and I hope my Democratic colleagues will hear agriculture producers' concerns.

I see my colleague, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee—the committee on which I serve—is here as well to talk about these issues and to point to the need to ensure that we are doing everything we can to support our Nation's farmers and ranchers during this time of incredible challenge.

I look forward to working with the chairman of the Ag Committee and our other colleagues from our agriculture States—many of whom will be here momentarily to talk about this issue—to help our ranchers and farmers face down the challenges that are in front of them.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to work with Republicans to make sure that USDA has the resources it needs to support our agricultural producers—the men and women who feed not only this country but the entire world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I want to thank Senator THUNE for his very pertinent and cogent remarks. This is an important time to make a decision that affects all farmers and ranchers and growers all across our country during a time in which we are going through some very difficult times—weather and everything else that you can imagine.

I see Senator ERNST over there, who will be following me, I am assuming.

I want to thank Senator HOEVEN for reserving this time, as other members of the Agricultural Committee come and speak on an issue that we shouldn't really be having an issue.

As I said, I rise to engage in a colloquy on the importance of providing certainty and predictability. Those were the watch words we used when we passed the farm bill. To our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and growers, by replenishing the Commodity Credit Corporation, there should not be an issue.

First, I would like to thank Senator HOEVEN, who has just arrived on the floor, for his leadership and speaking to this issue, and other Senators for their commitment to agriculture in their respective States and across the country. No matter what they grow or where they live, farmers, ranchers, and growers have done their part to ensure the U.S. food, fiber, and fuel supply continues without disruption during these unprecedented times.

I think everybody is familiar with the situation. Every 5 years, Congress passes legislation that sets the national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy—commonly referred to as the farm bill. That is our commitment, and we did that. These are for the folks on the frontlines, in the fields, caring for livestock, managing the lands day in and day out, despite all the weather problems we are having today.

As chairman of this committee—the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee—we were successful in passing the 2018 farm bill in a bipartisan manner. Everybody says: Oh, we have to work together to get back to where we were bipartisan. We were. Eighty-seven Members in this Chamber voted in favor of this legislation.

That vote demonstrated that the 2018 farm bill did provide much certainty and predictability to all farmers and ranchers across all regions and all crops. However, it is no secret that times continue to remain tough in farm country. Farmers and ranchers continue to experience low commodity prices, a global pandemic, natural disasters, and the effects of retaliatory tariffs. That is a terrible combination.

The 2018 farm bill does provide essential programs to producers that allow them to mitigate some of the risks—some of the risks—that are outside their control. Many of these programs are implemented through the authority

and the annual funding Congress provides to Commodity Credit Corporation, or the CCC.

I want to stress to my colleagues that now is not the time for partisan gamesmanship. If Congress does not replenish the CCC, it could significantly harm or even halt these important programs. I can't imagine doing that. Farmers, ranchers, and others in farm country are counting on us to do our job. In fact, we have heard loud and clear from over 40 different organizations representing farmers, ranchers, and other rural stakeholders across the country that the CCC must be reimbursed before the end of the fiscal year.

I want to say this and make this emphatically clear: Failure to do so would result in delays of the 2018 farm bill programs. We are talking about other programs because of COVID-19 and the pandemic and all of that. But even during a global pandemic, U.S. farmers and ranchers continue to hold up their end of the bargain by producing their crops for the world's safest, most affordable food supply. The least we can do is to ensure that the 2018 farm bill—the piece of legislation that received 87 votes in this body right here in the Senate—continues to be fully implemented, on time, and without delay.

I hope that we can reach a bipartisan agreement. This business of at least holding up the CCC funds—I understand what people have with regard to their own top things that they want to get accomplished, but holding up the CCC is not an answer.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues in a bipartisan way to ensure that we provide farmers and ranchers with certainty and predictability from the 2018 farm bill.

I thank the distinguished Senator, Mr. HOEVEN, for asking for this time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I want to thank our Ag chairman. I want to thank him for being here today. I want to thank him for his many, many years of service in this body. And most of all, what I want to thank him for today is his leadership on farm issues, on ag issues, on working on behalf of our farmers and ranchers, and in working in a very bipartisan way. That is what he is here doing.

You heard from our whip, the Senator from South Dakota, an ag State. You heard from our Ag chairman, the Senator from Kansas, an ag State. You are going to hear from other members of our Ag Committee. You are going to hear from the Senator from Iowa, an ag State. You are going to hear from Senator BOOZMAN from Arkansas, an ag State; from Senator FISCHER, Nebraska, obviously a big farm and ranch State; the Presiding Officer, I know, would be right here speaking with us if he weren't presiding—again, an ag State.

What this is all about today is making sure that we support farmers and

ranchers. We are here in a very positive, encouraging way, and it is to make the point that we need to get assistance to our farmers and ranchers. We have some of that available. We have about \$14 billion that we secured in the CARES Act that is ready to go out. It is ready to go.

We have done a ton of work with the USDA. We want to thank the Ag Secretary, Sonny Perdue. Georgia is another ag State. His whole team worked hard on this. We worked hard with him.

That \$14 billion needs to get out to our farmers and ranchers and across the country. It really touches just about every State.

Then we need to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation, the CCC. I chair Ag Appropriations. I work with that every year. There is about \$30 billion, year in and year out, that goes in it. This is not a new thing. This is something we do every year. We need to get that done now in the CR so we can continue to provide that help and support for our farmers and our ranchers. This is what funds the key farm programs.

The countercyclical safety net. Very key programs—ARC, AGRIS coverage, and PLC, price loss coverage—are funded by the CCC. That is just fundable—that is the heart and soul of the bipartisan farm program we passed, as our Ag chairman just described. It is bipartisan, strongly supported in our committee, and strongly supported on the floor of this body, as well as in the House. As I say, this funding is the heart and soul of the farm program. It also funds conservation programs and other things. That safety net that our farmers and ranchers rely on every year is what is funded through the CCC. That is why we are here today.

As our Ag chairman said, we have over 40 farm groups from across the country that sent a letter to leadership and said: Absolutely, not only move forward with this aid we are talking about, the \$14 billion we have gotten through CARES—and I think we are close to getting there again, thanks to the USDA. I think you will see that very soon. But absolutely take that step to replenish the CCC so that we can continue to provide that countercyclical safety net, that farm program our farmers and our ranchers depend on.

Remember, this isn't just about our farmers and ranchers. This isn't just about good farm policy. In this country, we have the lowest cost, highest quality food supply in the world that benefits every single American every single day because of our farmers and ranchers. That is how important this is.

Let me turn next to my colleagues. I am going to turn to the Senator from Nebraska. She is a cattle rancher. Who better to hear from next than Senator FISCHER from Nebraska, a cattle rancher herself?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. I want to thank my colleague from North Dakota.

It is so appropriate, Madam President, that you are in the chair right now presiding because you are a cattle farmer from the great State of Mississippi, and we have many, many discussions on the importance of livestock and on the importance of agriculture to our States.

Nebraska is an ag State. In 2018, Nebraska generated around \$21.3 billion in agricultural cash receipts. Agriculture and ag processing accounts for 9.4 percent of the State's GDP. The agriculture production complex accounts for approximately one-quarter of our GDP workforce. By these measures, agriculture plays a greater role in my State of Nebraska than it does in the economy of any other State in the United States. When agriculture suffers, Nebraska suffers.

Over the last several years, our farmers and ranchers have done their fair share of suffering. As my colleague mentioned, USDA's most recent farm income projections forecast that cash receipts will be at their lowest level in more than a decade. As a rancher, I know it is difficult to plan for the future when you are facing so many factors that are outside of your control, whether it is low commodity prices or retaliatory tariffs or natural disasters that we have gone through and also a global pandemic.

Nebraska's farmers and ranchers have maintained their patience in these tough times, but they deserve to know without any kind of doubt that amidst all of this unpredictability they are experiencing, we here in Congress are going to hold up our end of the bargain.

For decades, the Commodity Credit Corporation has been routinely replenished to fund the programs that the Senator from North Dakota spoke about—those programs that are so important to the farm safety net. Producers count on programs like the agriculture risk coverage, price loss coverage, marketing assistance loans, the important conservation programs, and so many more.

For PLC alone, U.S. farmers are expected to receive \$4.7 billion in October. Out of that total, Nebraska farmers are anticipating \$180 million in program payments. Without that immediate CCC reimbursement, these payments and these programs are going to be significantly delayed. That will jeopardize the nearly 46,000 farms and ranches in my State of Nebraska.

We have seen more than 40 agriculture and commodity groups who have stepped forward and written congressional leadership this week with a very, very clear message: Blocking the inclusion of that CCC reimbursement in a CR will hurt farmers and ranchers, no question.

We need to come together. We need to come together and fund the programs that we, Republicans and Democrats alike, have voted on in countless

farm bills. Our farmers and ranchers rely on them, and they rely on them now more than ever. Congress must keep its commitment to these hard-working men and women.

I urge my colleagues in the House and here in the Senate not to allow politics to stand in the way of upholding our commitment to those hard-working men and women who get up every morning and work tirelessly day in and day out to put food on our tables. Our producers aren't thinking of just themselves; they are planning for future generations that will proudly carry on their life's work and continue feeding our world. Let's make sure we continue to fund these programs so that we can ensure that they can do that.

My thanks to my fellow ag State colleagues who know the importance of agriculture, not just to the States we represent but to this country as a whole. Thank you to the Senator from North Dakota for organizing us to come to the floor so that we as a group can stress that importance.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I would like to thank the good Senator from Nebraska and turn to the Senator from Iowa, who has also been an absolute champion on behalf of agriculture. Thanks so much for being here.

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

Ms. ERNST. Thank you, Senator HOEVEN and Senator FISCHER, as well. We have so many of our great ag State friends here on the floor today to join in this colloquy.

I did grow up on a small family farm in Southwest Iowa and grew up around hogs. We have row crops, of course, coming out of Iowa—soybeans and corn, which are very, very important.

This is an important discussion today because our farmers need certainty—I hear it time and again from Iowa's ag community—whether it is trade, biofuels, or the supports that are coming from USDA.

Just yesterday, I heard the message loud and clear as I was on a phone call with our farmers from the Iowa Farm Bureau. They said we need to make sure the CCC is fully funded. This isn't just because of COVID-19 aid payments. That is something different. Those have been helpful to most of our farmers. This is because our farm bill programs depend on the CCC being funded. The important supports out there for dairy, for conservation, for young and beginning farmers—you name it; it is the CCC.

Just a couple of weeks ago, USDA Secretary Perdue was in Iowa, and we toured one of the many conservation sites across the State and saw firsthand the good work that is being done with our farmers through USDA's conservation programs. They are working to improve their operations while also cleaning Iowa's water, air, and keeping our soil healthy. Without these conservation programs funded through the CCC, this work simply would not be happening.

Folks, since 1987, Congress has replenished the CCC back to \$30 billion every year. This is not the year to stop.

Iowa farmers in particular have been suffering through COVID-19; plus we had a derecho and a drought. The last thing we need is to take away something they have come to depend on.

Madam President, 2020 has been hard on everyone, and there is no time to play games with our farmers' futures. I hope our friends on the other side of the aisle join us in supporting the replenishment of the CCC in the upcoming funding bill.

I yield back to Senator HOEVEN, the great Senator from North Dakota. Again, my thanks to the Senator and all of our farm State participants today for joining in the colloquy.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would like to thank the Senator from Iowa. Again, she directly brings that experience from the farm, growing up in agriculture.

Somebody else who is here represents Mississippi, so you can see we are going from North Dakota to Mississippi to Iowa to Nebraska. This is the whole country we are talking about.

The Senator also is somebody who has a long background in agriculture. I would like to turn to the good Senator from Mississippi.

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

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, as a former commissioner of agriculture in Mississippi, this is so vital and so important. In Mississippi, agriculture is the No. 1 industry. One in every four jobs is related to agriculture. So this is very vital for my State.

With the end of the fiscal year fast approaching, we must act to ensure important agriculture and conservation programs administered by the Department of Agriculture do not come to a screeching halt on October 1.

The 2018 farm bill, which was supported by 87 Members of the Senate, authorized important safety-net programs to protect producers against sharp price and revenue declines; provide short-term loans and interim financing to help producers meet cash flow needs; assist dairy producers affected by low milk prices and high feed costs; compensate landowners for taking fragile land out of production and implementing conservation improvements to help the environment; and assist producers when natural disasters destroy feed for livestock, cause above-average livestock mortality, and damage commercial orchards and fruit trees.

Current law requires many of these program payments to be made annually after October 1, which highlights the importance of this matter on this day.

As Congress discusses measures to keep the government open and Federal programs operating beyond the current fiscal year, it is essential for any continuing resolution to include a provision allowing the USDA Commodity

Credit Corporation to continue financing these programs. Failure to include such a provision would pose a serious risk to America's farmers and ranchers in these already challenging times. It would cause harmful delays in program funding and benefits at a time when many producers across the country simply cannot afford to wait months to recover for these losses.

This issue is not just about supporting American agriculture; it is about Congress living up to its promises. More than 1.7 million producers signed contracts for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs. Millions of private landowners have signed conservation contracts to take their land out of production. These are contracts, and the terms of those contracts must be met.

I remind my colleagues that this is not a situation to be taken lightly. In recent years, America's farmers and ranchers have experienced unfair foreign tariffs, depressed prices, catastrophic flooding and other natural disasters, market disruptions, and now COVID-19.

I applaud my fellow Republican colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committee for raising awareness on this issue. It is our job to feed this country. We need to be allowed to do that.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, again, I thank Senator HYDE-SMITH of the State of Mississippi. Not only is she a strong advocate for our farmers and ranchers, but as I say, all of these people you are hearing from this morning have backgrounds in agriculture. They have been out there, and they know what they are talking about, as does the next Senator, somebody who himself has raised cattle—the Senator from the good State of Arkansas.

This documents again that ag touches every region of the country and that the people you are hearing from have strong ag backgrounds. So, when they talk about this issue, they know how important it is, and they know that this help is very much needed at this time.

I turn to the good Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BOOZMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I thank Senator HOEVEN and Senator ROBERTS for organizing this and getting us down here to talk about a topic that is so, so very important.

I am not going to say anything new. I am going to be saying that we need to include reimbursement to the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation in the upcoming continuing resolution. The CCC is the funding mechanism for the bulk of our Nation's agriculture and conservation programs that are authorized with broad bipartisan support in the farm bill.

In order for these programs to work as intended, the CCC must be reimbursed by Congress on an annual basis. For decades, the CCC has been reimbursed by Congress without fanfare, and I am hopeful this year will be a continuation. Earlier this year, the Senate voted unanimously to allow the USDA to use \$14 billion from the CCC to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. This provision was included in the CARES Act.

As our farmers and ranchers face the most challenging year in recent history, we have an obligation to advance this provision so the important farm and conservation program payments are made on time and in full to our farmers and ranchers.

Earlier this week, over 40 agricultural organizations representing farmers and ranchers across the country sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee, urging this provision be included in the continuing resolution.

Preventing a CCC reimbursement would only exacerbate the tremendous hardship and challenges facing our farmers and ranchers. So I am here with so many other members of the Senate Ag Committee and Members who represent rural States to urge the Senate to help farmers and ranchers and prevent the uncertainty that would come from not including this important provision.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank Senator BOOZMAN for his strong leadership on ag. He said it very well and very clearly and very simply.

We have heard from more than 40 ag groups from across the country, including from the Presiding Officer's State. The last I checked, he has tremendous agriculture in his State of Florida, whether it be with the cattle raised in Central Florida or those wonderful oranges that we all enjoy all year round. It is just one more example of how agriculture touches everybody's life every day in the most important ways.

Our farmers and ranchers feed the country. They feed the world. What could be more important? Look at the challenges they have faced. They have come into this cycle with very low commodity prices when they have had years of low commodity prices. We have tough trade agreements in which countries like China and others have targeted us on trade. Then you put COVID on top of that. In the midst of that, they have continued to provide the food supply that feeds every American every single day. What could be more important? As we have said, that food supply is the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the history of the world. Do you know what else? It is safe, and they have never missed a beat.

What we are talking about today, make no mistake, is of making sure that we fund the heart and soul of the farm program. The bill passed on a bi-

partisan vote in this body with about 87 votes. That is what we are talking about with regard to funding the CR. It is vitally important that we do it. I thank these members of the Ag Committee for making that point so clearly and so well.

We will wrap up, actually, pretty close to on time, which is fairly remarkable as seven Senators have just gone through this colloquy process, and I thank them all.

Remember what we are talking about here—the food supply that benefits every single American every single day.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### MEDICARE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the election is only weeks away. Voting has already begun in some places. I know that folks at home in Oregon, where some of our communities are literally reduced to ashes, are already thinking about how they are going to vote. They will have a lot on their minds when they fill out their ballots, obviously, and I hope all Americans will fill out their ballots early as a raging pandemic and catastrophic fires in Oregon and across the West have taken a huge toll on our communities.

What I want to do this morning—and I am going to use public records to sound an alarm—is talk about another issue that isn't getting nearly the attention it deserves—not even close. A Medicare crisis is headed our way and fast. Whoever wins the next Presidential election will be in charge during the biggest crisis Medicare has ever faced.

Based on these public records, I want to warn the public—particularly seniors—about something I believe they already know: You cannot trust Donald Trump to protect Medicare, so you have to protect Medicare from Donald Trump.

Donald Trump has proposed extreme budget cuts to Medicare for 3 straight years. In 2018, he proposed cutting \$500 billion, and in 2019, more than \$800 billion. In 2020, Donald Trump proposed cutting \$450 billion from Medicare. The Democrats blocked him from making those cuts, but in another Presidential term, he could undermine Medicare on his own. Here is how the situation comes to be.

Our economy melted down earlier this year because the President downplayed the coronavirus. Millions were out of work, and businesses shuttered—whole sectors of our economy mothballed. The economy collapsed. Again, I base this on public records. It has been devastating to Medicare's finances. According to the nonpartisan experts in charge of Medicare's books, the Medicare trust fund is going to be insolvent within 4 years.

These funds are essential to Medicare as we know it. They pay for basic services that millions of seniors need each day—treatment for heart attacks and

strokes, care for a broken bone or a bout with the flu that lands an older person in the emergency room, and access to skilled nursing care. Once you reach insolvency, you are sending this country's seniors out into no man's land.

Whether Medicare is going to continue to function the way it does today is a big unknown. If Donald Trump is in a position to be in charge, these Trump budgets are going to be the end of the Medicare guarantee. Ever since I was the director of the Oregon Gray Panthers, we had always looked at that Medicare guarantee as sacred. It meant that there would be defined, secure, high-quality health benefits for America's seniors and that they would be available under any type of Medicare that older people received.

Based on some of these Trump budget proposals, older Americans are going to have to figure out some other way to pay for their healthcare and their prescription drugs. That includes the millions and millions of seniors who have very modest incomes—many who are just scraping by on Social Security. What we know based on the policies of Trump's favoritism for the insurance lobby, they could be at the mercy of insurance companies and be stuck with huge premiums and bills they couldn't afford to pay.

The reason I wanted to put this into the RECORD today and sound this alarm is that this is not some far-off crisis that Americans and particularly seniors can ignore and can afford to ignore. If you are on Medicare now or if you plan on getting on Medicare anytime soon, these are direct threats to your healthcare. Whoever is sitting behind the desk in the Oval Office on January 21 is going to be in charge when this crisis hits.

Everybody ought to understand that the special interests that want to see Medicare crumble will have an advantage this time around. This isn't like repealing the Affordable Care Act or slashing Medicaid, where Trump can't act without Congress. If he has his way, he won't need Congress to help him undermine Medicare; he would be able to just sit back in front of the television, forget about his obligation to protect that sacred Medicare guarantee, and let Medicare just drift into a crisis on its own. Any attempt to fix it then would have to happen on his terms, and, for seniors, good luck with that.

The Trump administration has spent years doing the bidding of healthcare's special interests. In my view, there is no question they would seize on this Medicare crisis as another way to let those special interests make a buck, and there would be no way for Americans to know what kind of financial interests Trump and his cronies would have in undermining this program that tens of millions of American seniors rely on every day.

Now, if you were the President and you were to ask him "Well, what about

these comments that are being made?" and you were to ask about the budget documents that I have cited today that would unravel the Medicare guarantee, he would probably tell one of his bold-faced whoppers. He would probably say he would be the only person who could fix Medicare's challenges and would mislead the public about the agenda of those of us on this side of the aisle, who want to uphold and expand on the Medicare guarantee, who want to make sure, for example, that there will be affordable medicine for senior citizens, that we are using the bargaining power of the Federal Government to get seniors a fair shake and are protecting Medicaid, which is a lifeline for millions. We will also unravel the damage Donald Trump has done to the Affordable Care Act, such as trying to let the insurance companies discriminate again against those with preexisting conditions.

The fact is that Donald Trump has not been straight with the seniors of this country about his Medicare policies. He hasn't told the truth about them, and in the days ahead, I intend to make sure that this truth gets out and that seniors really understand what is on the line in the weeks ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### JENNA QUINN LAW

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as families have been quarantined at home over the past several months, their lives have been filled with a whole new set of stressors. Loss of income, isolation, anxiety about their own health, and the stress of teaching children at home can test even the healthiest families and relationships.

But it also puts children at higher risk of child abuse and neglect. In April this year, nationwide reports of abuse or neglect dropped by an average of about 40 percent compared to the same time last year. That doesn't mean there are fewer instances of abuse—probably far from it—just fewer reports.

One of the things about children attending school is that their teachers and counselors can monitor them for signs of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and report that to the appropriate authorities. In 2018, two-thirds of the reports of child abuse were submitted by people who came in contact with treatment as part of their jobs—police officers, lawyers, social services, and, of course, teachers, as I said.

Teachers, education professionals, and other support staff at school, like bus drivers, are responsible for more than half of the child abuse reports. But with children home during the pandemic, out of sight from the teachers and others who would otherwise see them on a routine basis, abuse is becoming more difficult to identify and report.

Child sexual assault abuse was a crisis before the pandemic, with more than 42 million adult survivors in

America. As the stresses of the pandemic and lack of reporting have taken a violent toll across the country, there is an urgent need for Congress to act.

Over the years, I have listened to courageous victims in Texas who have shared their stories and advocated for reforms to prevent more children from experiencing this tragic abuse. One of those inspirational individuals is Jenna Quinn, a child abuse survivor and fierce advocate for children who are often suffering in silence. She was the driving force behind what is now known as Jenna's Law in Texas, which requires training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children on how to prevent, recognize, and report child sexual abuse. The signs of child sexual abuse are unique from other forms of child abuse, and correctly identifying these signs is integral to bringing children out of a sexually abusive situation.

After it passed in 2009, a study found that educators reported child sexual abuse at a rate almost four times greater after the training they had received than before they had received that training. It was one of the first child sexual abuse prevention laws in the United States demanding this training, and now more than half of our States have adopted some form of Jenna's Law.

The kicker is that in many States, including Texas, they don't provide funding for the training, for the program. That is what Senator HASSAN, the Senator from New Hampshire, and I want to change.

Last year we introduced the Jenna Quinn Law, which would take the successful reforms in Texas and other States and make them a reality for children across the country. This bill would allow current grant funds to be used for specialized training for students, teachers, and other caregivers to learn how to identify, safely report, and hopefully prevent future child sexual abuse. This legislation also encourages the States without similar laws to implement innovative programs to address such abuse.

Again, I want to express my appreciation to Senators HASSAN and BRAUN, who have joined me in this bipartisan effort, and I hope we can get this bill to the President's desk soon. No child should experience abuse or neglect, and the Jenna Quinn Law will bring us closer to identifying and stopping abuse in its tracks.

I came to the floor initially with the thought of offering a unanimous consent request to pass the Jenna Quinn Law, Jenna's Law. It has cleared on our side. There is some discussion going forward between our Democratic colleagues and us about pairing this with another piece of legislation which, like Jenna's Law, is not controversial. And based on the commitment that this will be passed as part of the wrapup this evening, I will not offer that unanimous consent request at this time, but I will depend on that com-

mitment we have gotten that it will be passed in wrapup today. So I want to express again my appreciation to Senator HASSAN and Senator BRAUN for working with us on this.

So often, the best of intentions go awry because there is no funding mechanism to help facilitate and pay for the training, and that is where the money that we appropriated that goes to the Department of Justice—their grant programs for various law enforcement initiatives—is so valuable. Those are the funds that are already appropriated that we want to tap into for this type of essential training.

I yield to my friend from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator CORNYN for his partnership and support his call. I urge my colleagues to support our legislation, the Jenna Quinn Law, and I, too, look forward to its being passed as part of wrapup this evening.

Every child has the fundamental right to be safe, to be treated with dignity, to be cared for, and to have the opportunity to seize their vast potential. Sexual abuse robs children of those rights. Too often, these horrific crimes go unrecognized or unreported, and children are left in dangerous situations without access to safety and justice.

During my time as Governor of New Hampshire, I worked with Republicans and Democrats to sign into law a bill that mandated that child abuse prevention be taught as a part of the health education curriculum, and I am proud to work with Senator CORNYN to strengthen these efforts on a national level.

The Jenna Quinn Law would better protect children from sexual assault by helping ensure that teachers, caregivers, and other adults working with children are equipped with the tools and knowledge to prevent, recognize, and report sexual abuse and exploitation. It would also ensure that children receive age-appropriate education on how to recognize and report these heinous acts.

By encouraging States to provide training and education on child sexual abuse recognition and prevention, we can help keep our young people safe. But we know that there is much more work ahead of us.

The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating challenges that many vulnerable people face, including children who are abused, and as reporting of abuse has gone down during this pandemic, experts have made clear that it is because many children have been out of view of the people who often provide support and make reports, including teachers and school officials.

So as we work to pass the Jenna Quinn Law today, we also have to focus on passing a broader bipartisan reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide

even more tools to support children and families who are struggling. It is our duty to nurture and protect all of our country's children, and the Jenna Quinn Law is a strong step to help move us forward in meeting that responsibility.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and to work together on additional bipartisan measures to protect the safety and well-being of children across the country. Again, I thank my friend from Texas for his leadership in moving this important bill forward, and I look forward continuing to work with him on these issues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on Calendar No. 816, the nomination of Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, be withdrawn and that the Senate proceed to vote on the nomination under the previous order at 11:45 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.  
The Senator from Michigan.

#### AGRICULTURE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to talk about what we need to be doing certainly to support the farmers across our country. I know Republican colleagues spoke just a while ago about the need to refill what we call the CCC to make sure that we are providing the funding for the October payments for the farm bill.

As one of the authors of the farm bill, I certainly know we have to make those payments, and the good news is that there is enough money there now to do that, although we certainly also want to be providing emergency support, disaster support, for growers who have been hit and have had losses as a result of the Trump chaotic trade policies, as a result of what has happened under COVID-19. Our farmers have been hit every which way, including what is happening on climate change and the weather, prices, everything else, and we certainly want to make sure that they have what they need.

I want to raise two points today. One is that in order to do that, the USDA should be focusing on a GAO report that was released on Monday that indicated and actually reaffirmed a report that I released with our Senate Democratic colleagues on the Agricultural Committee that, in fact, the payments going out to farmers have not been fair. They have been picking winners and losers; they have been picking regions in the South, big farms in the South, not over the Midwest or our smaller farmers and over many of those who, frankly, have had the biggest losses.

So when I hear my colleagues talk about the fact that we need to be supporting farmers and we need to make sure that the farm bill payments go

out, I absolutely agree that money is in there right now to do that. If we are going to add other money, I think we ought to be paying attention to what the GAO has now affirmed, which is we should be making sure we are funding those with losses—those who need the help the most in these chaotic times for farmers.

But something has now come up today that is even more alarming to me, and that is related to what the Trump administration appears to be considering right now, which is to take at least \$300 million in funds, cash aid, and give it to U.S. oil refineries out of the funds we are talking about—that my colleagues just talked about—that were supposed to be going to farmers.

We have had 3½ years of this administration siding with big oil companies over our ethanol producers. And, by the way, ethanol biofuels are about jobs, about clean energy, and about supporting small towns in rural communities. Then, just this week, at the very last minute—it is election year—they announce that they are going to make a decision that will help ethanol and be able to deal with some of the waivers that they have been doing for the oil companies. They announced that earlier this week, and then, guess what. Through the back door, they are going to take—if this is accurate in Reuters—\$300 million away from our farmers to give back to Big Oil.

Every time we turn around, they are deciding to support Big Oil over farmers in our rural communities. I want to know from colleagues—I had hoped to get to the floor to ask the question directly, and I am certainly going to ask it of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who I know support ethanol and biofuels—when they are advocating for more money in the CCC, are they advocating for \$300 million going to the oil companies? Because, oh, heavenly days, we couldn't really side with ethanol.

You know, if we really sided with ethanol, they wouldn't be worried about the oil companies who have been fighting this every step of the way, fighting the efforts to support ethanol and biofuels, and fighting the efforts that are critical for jobs in rural communities in my State and all across the country. If they really meant it, they wouldn't be trying, through the back door, to find some way to go back and get hundreds of millions of dollars for the oil companies so they wouldn't be upset.

So I find this pretty outrageous today. We are certainly going to dig deep, and, certainly, we are in the process right now of putting together a letter to the USDA. But the reality is that over and over again there is a lot of lip service for farmers and a lot of money going to Big Oil, and there is a lot of lip service to small and medium-sized farmers across Michigan and across the country, while 95 percent of these payments that are being done are going to big operations with political friends in the South.

It is not fair. It is not fair. It is creating a situation where too many family farms are barely making it or, in fact, not making it and having to put the farm up for sale, and that is wrong. It is not good for America. It is not good for diversity in agriculture. We don't need just a few huge farms in America. We need to make sure that we are supporting our small farmers and medium farmers. This is the foundation of so much of the economy in small towns like where I grew up in Northern Michigan.

What we have seen is an administration that has chosen to basically throw the farm bill out the window. My colleagues talked about the great bipartisan farm bill. I agree. As the partner with Senator ROBERTS in putting that together, I agree. It was a great bipartisan effort that the USDA has basically torn up and thrown out the window, and instead of creating markets for our farmers and supporting them with risk management, now it is back to big government payments. By the way, let's make sure they are focused on our friends. That is basically what the report from the GAO has shown us.

I am very concerned that one more time there is a lot of lip service for farmers, and we are going to see—and we are certainly going to stop this, by the way—\$300 million going to oil companies out of our agriculture support fund. It is stunning to me.

By the way, I would just conclude by saying that the Secretary of Agriculture has said he didn't have the authority to help the ethanol producers, couldn't help our corn growers, couldn't help our biofuel and soybeans growers—he didn't have the authority. He didn't have the authority to help our farmers, but somehow he has the authority to dip into agriculture support funds to be able to fund \$300 million to Big Oil. This is wrong.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who were here speaking earlier about the importance of supporting agriculture will join us in saying to the USDA: You do not have the authority to use dollars for producers that have been hit so hard by the chaos of their trade policies and every other effort that has gone on in the real world that has lowered their prices and created havoc for our farmers. You don't have the right to take their funds and give them to Big Oil.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

#### WILDFIRES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about what we are seeing in this country in the West with the horrific wildfires that are happening right now. I have to say, so many of my colleagues have been speaking out, and rightfully so. My heart, along with all of theirs, goes out to everyone who has been affected by the fires raging across the West and, most of all, to those who have lost members of their families or their homes.

You know, I am thinking of the hundreds of thousands of people in Oregon under evacuation orders, of the brave firefighters in California who are battling flames in the middle of a pandemic, of Nevadans whose skies are blanketed with hazardous smoke—everyone in the West who is pooling all of their efforts and resources to support one another from Washington to Oregon, to California, to Nevada—everywhere that we have seen.

I also want to honor the efforts of two courageous pilots who died in a crash over Caliente, NV, in July while dropping fire retardant on the Bishop Fire. David Blake Haynes and Scott Thomas lost their lives while protecting the people of Nevada, and I join all Nevadans in sharing my condolences with their families.

You know, Americans are up against the brutal reality of the climate crisis. Science tells us that climate change is making the West hotter and drier and contributing to wildfires. Scientists have been sending a consistent message about climate change for the past 30 years. In the entire Western United States, we have seen just some of the dire effects scientists have predicted. That is why we need Federal action to slow the very clear effects of climate change.

We have seen those effects in my home State of Nevada where, this year alone, almost a quarter million acres have burned so far. Since I have been in the Senate, over 2½ million acres in Nevada have burned in tragedies like the Poeville Fire, the South Sugarloaf Fire, the Range 2 Fire, and the Martin Fire, which was the State's largest fire in our country. That is why the entire Nevada delegation has worked so hard to get Nevada the resources it needs to prepare for these fires, combat them when they occur, and rebuild afterward.

We have helped get funds to the University of Nevada, Reno, for its ALERTWildfire Program, which uses state-of-the-art cameras to monitor the fires. We have requested that the Nevada Air National Guard get the tools it needs to combat these fires, including C-130J aircraft that could fight fires all over the West. Yet, inexplicably, this request was turned down earlier this year.

Along with my colleagues in the Senate, we have worked to pass a bill to create a permanent Forest Service contingency account so that Federal agencies aren't left empty-handed when they need the money the most.

Last summer, I convened the first of its kind wildfire summit in Nevada. I was honored to join our firefighters, our ranchers, our conservationists, our scientists, our power companies, and representatives of government agencies in thinking through new ways to coordinate and collaborate around how to address these wildfires.

There is so much that we can do working together—from developing innovative digital platforms to monitor

the fire to funding research, to restoring native plants, to helping neighborhoods plan for and adapt to fire seasons. We need to make our farms and landscapes more resilient. We need to preserve our national treasures and improve the health and well-being of those who live in our cities and rural areas alike because the truth is that it is not getting cooler.

Anyone in Los Angeles, which saw temperatures of 120 degrees Fahrenheit this month, or in Las Vegas, which hit 113 degrees in July, can tell you that. Taking climate seriously shouldn't be a partisan issue. This is about safeguarding property, protecting local economies, and saving lives—lives of first responders who have too much to do with too few resources and lives of civilians throughout Nevada and the West frightened by what they are seeing literally in their backyards.

So I plan to listen to what the scientists are telling us. I am listening to Nevadans in places like Winnemucca and Elko, where ranchers and local officials have lived through these fires. I am listening to Nevada's Tribal leaders, whose people have been stewards of the land for millennia, and to other communities of color that are among the hardest hit when disaster strikes. And, yes, I am listening to my colleagues who have devastating stories of what is happening to their own constituents in their States right now.

The climate crisis is all around us—from the wildfires we are seeing in the West to the hurricanes we are seeing right now in the South. It is time for us to take bipartisan action, address the climate crisis, and make sure we are doing what we do best: funding short-term and long-term policies and goals to address these issues.

I look forward to working with my colleagues around the States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that has been scheduled for 11:45 begin immediately.

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

#### VOTE ON VALDERRAMA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Valderrama nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS),

the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 182 Ex.]

#### YEAS—68

Alexander	Grassley	Reed
Baldwin	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Roberts
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Booker	Inhofe	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cassidy	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Tillis
Coons	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	McConnell	Udall
Cortez Masto	McSally	Van Hollen
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Graham	Portman	

#### NAYS—26

Barrasso	Ernst	Perdue
Blackburn	Gardner	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeben	Sasse
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Loeffler	Thune
Enzi	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—6

Burr	Harris	Sanders
Capito	Moran	Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I don't think anyone would disagree if I said that 2020 has truly been a difficult year. No one could ever have expected what we have faced this year, and it has been a tough one for Tennesseans. We hear about it regularly. We know it is a tough one for constituents and for our citizens all across the country.

The months of lockdowns will constitute a defining moment for multiple generations of Americans. My kids and I were talking about how we think that, in years to come, our grandkids are going to talk about what they did during the COVID summer and how they went to school during the COVID pandemic.

Unfortunately, Congressional Democrats have decided not to let the opportunity that moment presents go to waste. Democrats are taking advantage of the American people's uncertainty and pain in an attempt to force them to lose faith in their government, in their fellow countrymen, and in themselves. We are hearing from people that this causes them concern because they want to see us work together; they want to see us address these issues that are causing heartache together.

I have to tell you, I think it was so unfortunate that last week, some of our friends across the aisle blocked yet another targeted relief package that would have brought billions of dollars in support to the American people. I think we have to realize that this was not a vote on final passage; this was a vote to end cloture and begin the debate on that package.

Basically, what our friends across the aisle said to the American people last week is this: We don't want to talk about this. We don't want to discuss it. We don't want to debate it.

That is unfortunate. If you look at the bill that the Senate Republicans proposed and brought forward on a cloture vote last week, it is hard to tease out exactly what the problem was with it. It included another round of paycheck protection plan funding. I will tell you, in Tennessee, a lot of our entertainment venues and a lot of our restaurants need this. They need that consideration to stay afloat.

There was funding for vaccine development. Is there anybody who does not think we need a vaccine for coronavirus? I haven't met people who think we don't need to be working on that. Everybody is saying: Let's get this to market as safely and quickly as is possible.

There was support for healthcare workers.

There was support for students and teachers who are still trying to adapt to online learning.

I was just doing a virtual townhall with one of our counties in Tennessee. One of their issues is, when will there be additional funding to help us with technology, because 30 percent of our students elected an e-learning format.

Do you know what? There was even money for the post office. Back in August, our friends across the aisle thought that was a crisis, but I guess it was their drama of the day because they voted against all of this funding.

They voted for weakening the economy, I guess, and they voted against the prospects of American workers. But what they were doing was strengthening the false premise that they are the only ones capable of sparking an economic recovery. This, of course, is demonstrably false.

This week, the Census Bureau released its annual report. I will tell you that the numbers prove that the Trump administration's pro-growth policies are working. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that we passed in 2017 is working.

It has spurred economic growth. It has spurred an economy like I have never seen in my lifetime.

In 2019, incomes grew at the highest pace ever recorded. Last year, the official poverty rate fell to an all-time record low of 10.5 percent. Think about that—10.5 percent. A decade ago, there were more people than ever on assistance. Between 2018 and 2019 alone, more than 4 million Americans rose out of poverty. Think about those numbers. That is a good thing. It was the largest reduction in poverty in over 50 years. The Black poverty rate fell below 20 percent for the first time in history, and child poverty also fell to a near 50-year low.

Our record on this is very clear: The Trump administration policies worked. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act worked. That is what the American people are wanting to get back to.

I encourage all of my colleagues in this Chamber to read that report and look at these stats, and everyone should remind themselves of the progress we have made as a nation on growing this economy over the last 4 years.

Politically, everybody talks about how this is a divided nation, but we have to come together and work under an umbrella of policies that will make life better for all Americans. For the life of me, I cannot fathom why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would throw that opportunity away.

Our citizens want us to work on a relief package that is going to help them get back to work, help our children get back to school, and allow our communities, our schools, our governments, and our businesses to safely operate with liability protections.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to talk about the importance of aviation and continuing to focus on the workforce employed in aviation. I want to speak about the importance of the thousands of workers, including pilots, flight attendants, gate agents, baggage handlers, mechanics, catering workers, and many others, who are feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I believe we should continue to address the very important issues of the health aspects of the pandemic and the economic impact of the pandemic, but while we are working on developing a vaccine and developing better therapeutics and testing and stopping the spread of this virus, we also need to keep in mind that we do need transportation.

Prior to the pandemic, the aviation industry supported nearly 11 million American jobs, put \$1.8 trillion to work in our economy, and contributed to about 5.2 percent of our GDP. In fact, civilian aviation is the seventh leading contributor of overall productivity. These are skilled, high-wage jobs that

are critical to our economy that cannot be easily replaced. Maintaining our aviation sector is vital to the long-term economic success of our country.

When the pandemic hit, we saw a 96-percent drop in air travel, which instantly jeopardized thousands of jobs in this sector. We worked very hard in the CARES Act to create the right balance of capital for the aviation sector to continue because it is essential. We also have workers who are essential to their jobs, so we must keep moving to solve these problems from the pandemic.

The Payroll Support Program, which was created in the CARES Act and is being administered through the Department of the Treasury, was designed to compensate aviation industry workers and preserve jobs in order to help protect the essential aspects of aviation and airline services. The program continues to cover the costs of keeping people employed and keeping this vital piece of transportation moving. This is critically important because, in just a very short period of time, September 30, this program is going to expire.

Congress needs to act to extend the program. It is important that we provide this support through the PSP program for the aviation workers who are so essential to continuing to deliver these services. Aviation not only helps people move around the country for personal reasons and essential business reasons, but it also delivers good medicine and essential mail services. The fact is that most people probably have forgotten how important airlines are to delivering the U.S. mail, but they are important.

The CARES Act included requirements to ensure that smaller markets continue to receive air service and its associated benefits. As you can see, many of the airlines, in the uncertainty of what is happening with the CARES Act extension, are now cutting services to those communities. Doing another CARES Act bill would help us to keep those services in these smaller communities. It was announced that as many as 50,000 airline jobs will be at risk if we don't continue the Payroll Support Program.

Now is not the time to be uncertain. Now is the time to give the airline sector the importance that it deserves by having airline workers continue to do their jobs. Every job lost means a worker earns less. It means the slowdown of the economy as a whole. It means that consumer spending, which is a big engine of our economy, will slow down, and 70 percent of our GDP comes from that consumer spending. So these programs are important.

If the Payroll Support Program is not extended, the cost for workers who will lose their jobs will simply be shifted to the States in the form of unemployment benefits, and since we aren't solving the problems of the States, the States also add to the GDP, so we are not helping the GDP unless we come to a resolution within the CARES Act.

Unemployment doesn't cover the cost of a full salary. Each worker would have less to spend on gas and groceries, on a mortgage, and on medicine. In the downturn of the economy that we have been facing, we can't afford more loss.

Our economy is showing some signs of modest recovery as the result of the economic stimulus from the CARES Act, but many of those benefits are expiring. I can tell you, as a Member from the Pacific Northwest, I hear a lot from businesses that didn't get help and support in the PPP program and want it to continue so that they, too, can be on par with some of their friends and neighbors who have been able to succeed economically.

Right now, we are at a turning point at which we need the PSP program to continue and to help give certainty about transportation. Nationally, on average, we know an aviation mechanic takes home about \$1,600 per week in pay, but when these jobs are cut, the weekly incomes are cut. Let's look at a few States and a few examples.

Right now, in North Carolina, the weekly income for a mechanic is only \$350 a week in unemployment benefits, and that worker is facing a 79-percent cut in weekly income. So I ask our colleagues to consider, as you think about shifting these transportation workers from these salaries that they are getting now to unemployment benefits, how dramatic these cuts will be in some of these States.

I am proud that I come from a State in which we have a pretty robust unemployment benefit. I thank our State and the people who vote for and support a robust unemployment benefit, but if we continue to not act on the CARES Act and the PPP, we will be sending people home to States with unemployment benefits that will be much less robust than in my State. Right now, to face a 79-percent cut in one's weekly income I don't think is good for the aviation sector.

On average, when you look at the weekly income for ramp agents in Georgia, it is about \$850, but now that any additional weekly benefits have run out, these workers face a 57-percent income cut. In State after State, we see these cuts in these weekly incomes. This means, as I said, less money to spend on groceries and less money to spend on essentials at home. Without any additional weekly benefits, in Florida, pilots will see a 92-percent drop in income, flight attendants a 75-percent drop, mechanics an 83-percent drop, and ramp agents a 68-percent drop. In Texas, pilots will see an 85-percent drop in weekly income, flight attendants a 52-percent drop, mechanics a 68-percent drop, and ramp agents a 48-percent drop.

My point here is to think about the need for us to continue this program in that not all States are going to be treated equally in how aviation workers will be affected. We have to think about how we are going to keep that

important air travel moving for our economy.

Without the extension, flight crews, flight attendants, and others will be impacted in another way, in that, when you stop air transportation services, people, after a period of time, will have to come back and be retrained and recertified. Many times here, I have participated in debates about tax credits or tax policy. Oftentimes, we go past our deadline of December 31 and into the new year. Even though we can't reach a conclusion, most people think: Well, that is OK. We will make it retroactive, so going past our deadline doesn't impact anything. In this case, it does impact something because, once we hit the October 1 deadline and we start seeing these people in unemployment situations, the time starts ticking for the cost of recertifying them to be in that cockpit or to be of service.

For example, pilots have to meet certain flying requirements to maintain currency in their pilot licenses. So, without an extension of the PSP, flight crews and flight attendants would need to be retrained at the cost of starting up again. A PSP extension also means supporting their wages and making sure that they have available healthcare during this time period.

I don't want to see one more American lose one's healthcare benefits because of COVID. We are in a COVID crisis. We want people to be covered with healthcare so that we can help to fight this pandemic. I know people here in Congress are looking at the very short time period that we have left before September 30. I call on my colleagues to set aside our differences and come back to the table and make sure that we address these issues before this major layoff.

This is important because, as I said, this affects the GDP of our country. We still have an opportunity to sustain 950,000 frontline aviation workers, which is important to helping our economy recover. As I said, it is important because aviation helps to grow opportunities for the future.

My colleague Senator SCOTT and I will tomorrow be announcing other aviation legislation that we, too, think will help the aviation sector. For every 10 percent of travel that returns to aviation, it drives more than \$1.5 billion into our economy. Those are salaries and wages and other aspects of this sector. That is the economic impact that we will have by returning flight service.

The original premise around the COVID bill was for us not to decimate the airline industry so much, because of the COVID impact, that it wouldn't recover and so that we wouldn't be there to retrain and take advantage of the upside as the public responds. We have now gone from that 95-percent loss of travel to, right before the Labor Day weekend, about 40 percent of airline capacity and travel. We want to continue being ready to serve the public who has to fly, and we want to

make sure it is safe for the public to fly. Getting this extension of the COVID bill done before September 30 still remains a key priority.

On the point of aviation, I would say to my colleagues, besides the Cantwell-Scott bill we will be dropping tomorrow to help focus on more aviation safety, my colleague Senator WICKER and I remain committed to continuing to work on aviation safety as it relates to certification legislation. I hope all of our colleagues on the Commerce Committee will continue to focus on that as well.

#### WILDFIRES

Madam President, I would now like to say a few words about another pressing issue in the State of Washington, and that is the issue of fire.

Yesterday, we heard from the Deputy Forest Chief that we needed 5,000 firefighters in the United States to help fight fires. It is clear that we don't have 5,000 firefighters helping as COVID has impacted our ability to fight fire. So I call on the President to help us reach out to the international community to help us get more firefighters into the United States.

While Washington and Oregon may eventually see wetter weather in October, we still have massive fires that we are going to see in California in the month of October. We need to get more firefighters into the United States to help us fight this incredible attack by Mother Nature on our communities. We can't leave them defenseless. We need to give them a frontline in the defense, so I call on the President to help us get more international support for fighting fires in the United States of America.

Additionally, I will be supporting my colleague Senator WYDEN's efforts today on prescribed burns and the ability to change our policies and do prescribed burns at different times of the year, which is to say burn some of the fuel that we think could become fire breaks and stop fires from becoming larger and larger. The fuel break helps to create a line of defense. We supported this legislation several years ago. Unfortunately, it didn't make it into the big fire fix bill when we stopped fire borrowing. Nonetheless, it remains a big priority.

What we have come to learn now is that trying to do prescribed burns in the summer months, when you have clearer air, doesn't really help—it is not helping us because we have such large-scale fires and these very unhealthy smoke events that last for days and days. Now, thanks to the new fire forecasting models that we have and the new fire forecasters that we put in the previous bill, we are now seeing how unhealthy those conditions really are. They are so unhealthy that they are cause of major concern for health officials across the whole West.

So what do we need to do now?

We need to pass this proposal that I support, along with my colleague Senator WYDEN, to move prescribed burns

to other parts of the year. Yes, will it create a few smoky days here or there during parts of our year? Yes, but it will help us to better fight these fires when it comes to these very hot, dry climates that we are now seeing with greater frequency in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the West.

It is time for us to take dramatic action in responding to these fires. We have taken action, but now we need to use these tools that are right in front of us today. Get more firefighters and get the prescribed burn policies and move forward with protecting some of our most vulnerable communities throughout the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1135

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I am going to be talking about a bill of mine that is, I think, very appropriate and very timely, the Protect Our Heroes Act, which will federalize certain violent crimes against public safety officers across the country, like the police and first responders, in order to deter these kinds of crimes and show the men and women in our law enforcement community that we have their backs.

Before I get into the details of my bill, I want to talk a little bit about a very moving event.

I was back home last week in Alaska. I was at the American Legion Post No. 15 in Palmer, AK, and it was on the commemoration of September 11. It was a wonderful remembrance dinner. There were tons of veterans, patriots. My State is blessed with more vets per capita than any State in the country.

But it was focused on law enforcement. We had the Palmer police chief there. We had members of the police department from Anchorage there because we were focused on so many things that came out of that day—9/11.

But honoring our first responders is something that I think America learned—that we need to respect the men and women epitomized by the police and firemen who went up the Tower. Many of them knew they were going to die, and they did that. They did that to protect us, and there was this newfound respect for our first responders that came out of the tragedy of 9/11.

Now, in my remarks to my fellow veterans in Palmer at the American Legion post last Friday, I did mention that one of the elements of what is happening in our country, unfortunately, is that these memories are fading. They are fading, and in some ways the respect for the police is not just fading. It is being reversed.

You see these movements, these national movements of defunding our police—a horrible idea, in my view. My State needs more law enforcement, not less. We have seen on our TV screens and our social media channels that there are people—criminals—who are

focused on harming the police, killing the police, attacking the police, and even taking glee in the killing and the violence against law enforcement.

So we have all seen in the past few years a dramatic increase in killings, in ambushes. In Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Georgia this has been happening. It certainly hit home in my State.

In Anchorage, in 2016, we had a brave police officer, Arn Salao, who was the victim of a cowardly ambush in 2016. Thankfully, he survived, barely. What was the result of the arrest of the individual who tried to kill him? He ended up being a serial killer, killing five others in Anchorage. But this brave police officer found him, stopped him, and almost lost his life.

Unfortunately, another officer in a shooting in Alaska the same year, 2016, in Fairbanks, wasn't so fortunate. On October 16, 2016, Sergeant Allen Brandt, an 11-year veteran of the Fairbanks Police Department, pulled over a suspect to question him, and he was shot five times. He eventually succumbed to the complications related to his injuries.

I went to the memorial service. There were hundreds of Alaskans. He had a young family, a young wife. It was brutal to watch this.

These are selfless men and women in my State, who are every day getting up to risk their lives and to wear the uniform in the line of duty.

All of this inspired me to put together my Protect Our Heroes Act, which will enhance Federal penalties for the killing or assaulting of public safety officers and first responders, especially increasing penalties for criminals who ambush or lure law enforcement officers for the purpose of committing crimes against them—dramatically enhancing penalties.

This is something that I think the vast majority of us in the Senate agree with.

Now, I take the opportunity to go running most days, whether I am here or back home. And when I go running on Capitol Hill, what I see every morning—and I saw it this morning—are police officers. No matter the time of day, Capitol Police are sitting in their vehicles or on patrol. Their sole purpose is to protect this institution and the Members.

This morning, as I usually do when I run past them sitting in their car, I just gave them a thumbs-up. Thank you. Thank you. We respect you, and we certainly have your back.

So that is why I am offering this legislation today. I hope my Senate colleagues can come together to support this. I think it would be inconceivable to vote against this bill, especially now when we are seeing these kinds of heinous activities like we saw in Compton, CA. But we also want to send a message to our first responders and law enforcement: We are watching. We are going to pass laws to disincentivize

this kind of heinous action against you, and we have your back and the back of your family members, who are probably worried when you go out on your duty every day.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1135 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Sullivan substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Is there objection?

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, thank you for the recognition.

Mr. President, I reserve my right to object.

As a former assistant U.S. attorney and New Mexico attorney general, I worked hard to prosecute violent crimes, including those committed against law enforcement.

The recent shootings of two law enforcement officers in California were heinous. My deepest condolences and prayers go out to the officers and their families. The perpetrator must be brought to justice. All such violence is appalling.

However, this bill is both unnecessary and, potentially, a problematic expansion of Federal criminal law. It is already a Federal crime to kill or attempt to kill an officer or employee of the United States.

Most, if not all, States already make killing a police officer a specific crime, and, of course, murder and assault are crimes in all 50 States and Territories.

So it is unclear that this bill will increase deterrence, and the bill is very broad, covering not only murder and attempted murder but also any assault against hundreds of thousands or perhaps millions of people.

One new crime created by the bill is death eligible, raising historic concerns about executing the innocent and the death penalty being arbitrarily applied.

This bill has not gone through the regular order, with no hearings on such a sweeping change in the balance of State and Federal criminal law.

For many years, the Heritage Foundation, the Hoover Institution, the Federalist Society, and congressional Republicans have all spoken out against the expansion of Federal criminal law. It is not just conservatives. There is bipartisan support for that view and broad consensus among criminal law experts and the Federal judiciary itself.

The Judicial Conference of the U.S. courts has testified to Congress against the over-criminalization of Federal law, citing the burdens they already face.

And former Reagan Attorney General Ed Meese wrote for the Hoover Institution over 20 years ago, in 1999, highlighting the following problems with over-criminalization of Federal law. He warned about these:

An unwise allocation of scarce resources needed to meet the genuine issues of crime;  
An unhealthy concentration of policing power at the national level;

An adverse impact on the federal judicial system;

Inappropriately disparate results for similarly situated defendants, depending on whether essentially similar conduct is selected for federal or state prosecution;

A diversion of congressional attention from criminal activity that only federal investigation and prosecution can address;

The potential for duplicative prosecutions at the state and federal levels for the same course of conduct, in violation of the spirit of the Constitution's double jeopardy protection.

I think the Senate should consider those warnings and should not rush to approve such a measure without hearing testimony and a long and careful study.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2843

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to call attention to key legislation that addresses violence, and this piece of legislation should come to the floor. That is the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

VAWA reauthorization expired over a year and a half ago, on February 15, 2019. Funding continues, but key improvements are being delayed by the lack of reauthorization.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 is supported by all 47 Democratic Senators. The House passed the bill 236 to 158. Thirty-three House Republicans voted yes on that bill.

The bill would extend VAWA for 5 years, through 2024, while making key improvements.

As the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I know how critical VAWA reauthorization is to Indian Country.

Data from the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that Native women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average murder rate. There are more than 5,000 cases of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women, and 55 percent of Native women have experienced domestic violence. More than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women experience violence in their lifetime.

Without the enactment of a VAWA reauthorization, these Tribes will lack the jurisdictional tools they need to keep their communities safe.

The House-passed bill strengthens Tribal sovereignty, provides important protections for LGBT people, and bars dating partners convicted of domestic violence from having handguns.

The bill would make a real difference in preventing violent crimes against

women and making Native communities safer, and I ask that the Senate take up its consideration immediately.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2843, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have to say this sounds a lot like yet another attempt to just change the subject and obfuscate.

I was on this floor earlier this week. The Senator from Alaska has just spoken about his goal here. Both of us have slightly different approaches to try to achieve the same thing, which is to discourage these attacks on law enforcement officials.

It seems like almost every day we read about some horrific attack on men and women across the country just because they are police. It is absolutely appalling, and we are trying to do everything we can to discourage that, to create disincentives, and to make sure that violent criminals know that they will pay a very steep price if they commit the appalling kinds of acts that we have seen.

I commend the Senator from Alaska for an approach to this. Yet, again, our Democratic colleagues refuse to support this effort and instead say: Let's change the subject to VAWA.

Well, let's talk a little bit about VAWA. Look, there is a very real problem with violence against women. I don't know anyone who would dispute that. And VAWA, the legislation, has a number of programs, some of which are very constructive.

I voted in favor of the last reauthorization of VAWA because I do think it is that important, and I have led the effort in this body to ensure that crime victims—very much including women—get the resources they are supposed to get from the Crime Victims Fund, which they historically have not been. But the fact is, it is a big bill, it is a complicated bill, and there are multiple programs, and some of it is very controversial.

So the way we have actually gotten an outcome and achieved something with VAWA is through a bipartisan process. That is what was done in the past, and that effort has been underway. Senator ERNST, working with Senator FEINSTEIN, has tried to find common ground. I think they are not quite there yet. But this legislation is not that bill. It is not that effort.

This is a bill that our Democratic colleagues have declared they know has no chance of actually passing. So

rather than changing the subject and putting forward a bill that everybody knows can't pass, I wish our Democratic colleagues would join me and my colleague from Alaska in doing something we can do, something modest but constructive that would help to diminish the risks that our law enforcement folks take every single day. So, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania. I know he and I both share a passion on this issue. I think the vast majority of the Senators share a passion on this issue—that we should be standing here in the U.S. Senate to make sure our law enforcement knows that we have their backs.

As Senator TOOMEY just mentioned, this is happening all across the country. The men and women who put on the uniform to protect us are being targeted simply because they wear the uniform to protect us. If this is not an issue that cries out for some kind of action, some kind of discussion to prevent this and tell these brave men and women, whether in Alaska or Pennsylvania or New Mexico, that we have their backs, I don't know what that topic is—I don't know what that issue is.

Unfortunately, Senator TOOMEY tried to move his legislation the last couple of days, and it was thwarted. Now my legislation to send the message that we are not going to let criminals get away with these kinds of heinous crimes, that the Senate is watching, and that we have the backs of law enforcement and their families—that is a really important message to send right now.

I am disappointed in my colleague for objecting. We will continue to work on this issue and, as Senator TOOMEY mentioned, the violence issue, which is a hugely important issue in my State for my constituents. But right now, I think we should be acting on the issue we are seeing, and that issue is, there is a movement across the country that is really focused on perpetrating violence against the men and women who are sworn to protect us. I can't believe anyone here thinks that is a good movement, but it is happening in America right now. We need to send a message that it is unacceptable and that we are going to do everything in our power to stop it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 1:30 p.m. be allowed to start at this time.

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BARR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Alexander	Feinstein	Portman
Baldwin	Fischer	Reed
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Bennet	Graham	Roberts
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Blunt	Hassan	Rosen
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Heinrich	Rubio
Brown	Hoehn	Sasse
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Carper	Inhofe	Shaheen
Casey	Jones	Shelby
Cassidy	Kaine	Smith
Collins	Kennedy	Stabenow
Coons	King	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Tester
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Loeffler	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Van Hollen
Daines	McSally	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	Young
Ernst	Peters	

NAYS—14

Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schatz
Booker	Markey	Schumer
Cantwell	Menendez	Warren
Gillibrand	Merkley	Wyden
Hirono	Murray	

NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Johnson	Sanders
Capito	Moran	Scott (FL)
Harris	Perdue	Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Arkansas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a pe-

riod of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

(The remarks of Mr. COTTON pertaining to the introduction of S. 4609 are printed in today's Record under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. COTTON. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

ABRAHAM ACCORDS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, a few days ago, Flight 971 took off from Tel Aviv Airport. You may say: Of course the flight took off from Tel Aviv; that happens every day—but not like this flight. You see, Flight 971 took off from Tel Aviv Airport, flew south, directly over Saudi Arabia, which hasn't happened, and landed in Abu Dhabi because the United Arab Emirates has formed a peace agreement with Israel—recognizing its right to exist, opening up Embassies in Israel and in the United Arab Emirates, beginning trade in commerce. Just days ago, the first cargo aircraft took off and flew, taking supplies, technology, medicine—engagement between the Nation of Israel and the Arab nation of the United Arab Emirates, forming a new alliance in the Middle East.

Flight 971 is significant because 971 is the country code if you are going to call the United Arab Emirates. The return flight, by the way, leaving from Abu Dhabi and flying back to Israel is Flight 972—the country code for Israel.

That first flight that took off, on the outside of the plane were emblazoned three words—one in English, one in Hebrew, and one in Arabic—all translated, the word "peace."

It is a new day. And this week, when President Trump and the Foreign Ministers from the United Arab Emirates and from Bahrain and the Prime Minister of Israel all stood at the White House and spoke of each other in a new partnership and then all sat at a table and signed documents together, beginning a new relationship not just with UAE but also with Bahrain, it was a remarkable day in world history.

In 70 years of Israel's history, only two nations that are Arab nations have recognized Israel's right to exist, even—Jordan and Egypt. In 1 day, two more nations joined—the UAE and Bahrain. It was significant to be able to see the journey on that and to be able to hear the Foreign Ministers of Bahrain and UAE compliment President Trump, Mike Pompeo, and Jared Kushner for their leadership and, as the Foreign Minister from Bahrain said, President Trump's statesmanship in this process.

It was a negotiation that was turned on its head. For decades, American negotiators have tried to work to solve the issues with the Palestinians first and then to work to solve every other

relationship second. That has been the American focus. The Trump negotiations reversed it. They believed that many in the Arab world were tired of the Palestinians holding their foreign policy hostage, and they flipped it and said: Why don't we start negotiating with the Arab world first and see if they want to open up trade negotiations with Israel and be able to stabilize those negotiations?

It has worked. Not only has it worked in two countries—in a single day signing an agreement—but there are multiple other nations that are currently looking at this same deal with Israel to say: Yes, we still need to resolve the issues in the Palestinian territory. Yes, that is still very important. But these nations can work toward peace and unity together as they resolve their differences.

They signed a document dealing with relationships diplomatically, but they also signed something they called the Abraham Accords Declaration. Let me read this accord to you because it is significant. It begins with this simple statement:

We, the undersigned, recognize the importance of maintaining and strengthening peace in the Middle East and around the world based on mutual understanding and coexistence, as well as respect for human dignity and freedom, including religious freedom.

That is a significant statement. Nations have spoken of religious freedom, but it has not thrived there.

The document goes on to say:

We seek tolerance and respect for every person in order to make this world a place where all can enjoy a life of dignity and hope, no matter their race, faith, or ethnicity.

We support science, art, medicine, and commerce to inspire humankind, maximize human potential and bring nations closer together.

We seek to end radicalization and conflict to provide all children a better future.

We pursue a vision of peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East and around the world.

It was a document many people said would never be signed, but it is a stake in the ground to say it is a new day in the Middle East in peace negotiations and a pivot, as Prime Minister Netanyahu said.

Nations like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Amman, Morocco, Sudan, and Lebanon should take notice and should see the benefit to economic trade and engagement, to confronting Iranian influence in the area that tries to destabilize so much of the Middle East, pushing back on terrorism, and developing partnerships in science and health and technology and prosperity for everyone in the region. That happened this week.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. LANKFORD. There is something happening on Monday that much of the world has missed as well in the Middle East. For a year, there has been a process ongoing to be able to confront Iran.

Iran has actively stated they are going to continue to pursue their nuclear ambitions. They have actively stated they are going to pursue weapons deals. They have actively stated they want to continue to break the arms embargo.

Some of our allies have stood silent, but Iran has discussed purchasing weapons of all types from all places. We used to be united—regardless whether it was nuclear or not—that Iran should not continue to accelerate that. As the largest exporter of terrorism in the world, we should confront what Iran is trying to do—continue to provide heavy arms.

As of Monday, the United States will move into a different mode with Iran. As of midnight Sunday night, snap back sanctions begin on Iran on Monday. And that is a different moment for us as a nation, to say we have stated as a country, now through multiple Presidencies, that we will not allow Iran to be a nuclear power or to continue to arm itself in such a way to do its neighbors harm.

When snap back sanctions occur on Monday, all of our allies should be aware that the United States is steadfast in that commitment. We would ask you to join us in that as well.

Over the past few months, thousands of troops have come back home from the Middle East—from Syria, from Iraq, from Afghanistan. By the end of this year, we will have 4,500 troops still in Afghanistan; that is from a high just a few years ago of 100,000 boots on the ground.

Ongoing negotiations for peace continue between Afghan leadership and the Taliban. Those are problems that have existed for decades and in some areas, generations.

While I don't believe Afghanistan will suddenly break out and be a bastion of peace for the world, we do have a responsibility to help them where we can but also an obligation to protect our sons and daughters. Our blood and our treasures spilled in Afghanistan for decades. We shouldn't lose the investment of that blood and treasure. But it is good to see so many people coming home.

In Europe, a free-trade agreement is actively being negotiated with the UK. We are pleased to be able to partner with such a special-relationship country like the United Kingdom. We have had a long-lasting friendship with them since we settled a little conflict in 1776 and another dustup in 1812. That special relationship with the UK should continue on with a very good trade agreement.

I am pleased that the administration continues to push forward in the area of trade—an area that it is amazing to me how many people didn't even notice was the powder keg of Europe that just recently was resolved.

For generations, the area around Serbia, Kosovo have been a hotbed area for conflict.

In the past few weeks, the Trump administration has negotiated a peace

deal between Serbia and Kosovo that leaves Serbia to actually officially recognize Kosovo. Again, that may not seem like a big deal to many other people, but to Oklahomans—many of whom have served in our 45th and who have served there in Kosovo, helping to protect and stabilize that country and provide security there in that region—it is very significant to us to be able to see peace breaking out between Serbia and Kosovo.

I am pleased that, while many people in the world don't even pay attention to what is happening in Serbia and Kosovo, the Trump administration has, and their diplomatic team has been very engaged in negotiating that and bringing to them some stability.

Interestingly enough, in the negotiations both Serbia and Kosovo also agreed to designate Hezbollah as a foreign terrorist organization and to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to be able to move their embassies to Jerusalem, which is another affirmation of what is happening in the Middle East in the string of what is ongoing.

One last comment that many people may have missed, we all grieve for what is happening in Lebanon. That experiment in multiracial, multifait, and cooperative government has been a struggle, but they have been a stronghold for religious tolerance in Lebanon. Watching the hundreds of people who were killed and thousands who were injured in the explosion at their docks in Beirut was painful for the entire world. The United States has stepped up as being the top donor to humanitarian aid to Lebanon during this time period, and we are engaging in multiple ways.

At the end of the day, if we are going to help Lebanon be stable, we have to help that experiment in democracy there in the Middle East to be able to thrive with transparency.

I partnered with Senator MURPHY and several other colleagues to help set our Nation's priority to help Lebanon rebuild, including to utilize the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, called the DFC, to help them in their infrastructure projects; to push out China, which is trying to work their way into the Middle East and dominate there; to allow the people of Lebanon to decide their own future; to leverage leadership in the International Monetary Fund to prevent multilateral bailouts that don't allow for real reforms in their banking system; and to push out corruption and push out Hezbollah.

There are things we can do that are not of a partisan nature on which Senator MURPHY and I cooperate together to be able to help push for Lebanon. It is important that they continue to be a stable force in the region. This is a real time of testing for them as a country. I am proud the administration has pushed our diplomats in Lebanon to be able to find ways where we can practically help now and long term for real reforms for them. There is a lot going on around the world.

While we are focused on COVID, rightfully so for our own health, while we focus on our economy, rightfully so, and while we focus on the issues of racial inequality, rightfully so, we cannot lose track of the issues we also need to be engaged in around the world. It is important that America continue to be a leader in diplomacy and a leader in bringing religious liberty and freedom and opportunity for all people.

Whether you are in Hong Kong, as we discussed before, or whether you are in Abu Dhabi, all people deserve the recognition of their humanity and respect and an opportunity to be able to live their lives with freedom. Let's continue to stand for the values that define us and define us together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I am sure you and I and all the Members of this body remember that night in late March. It was late at night. I remember standing in the back of the Chamber to see one of the truly historic votes. It was a unanimous vote of the U.S. Senate to pass the CARES Act. It was an amazing achievement to see the Senate and the Congress come together in that way with the White House, with the President, to help meet the needs of the American people.

When we passed that bill back in March, September seemed a long way away. We thought we had provided enough aid for small businesses. It turns out we didn't. We thought we had provided enough aid for people, unfortunately, who have fallen into unemployment through no fault of their own but the fault of this dreaded COVID, but we didn't provide enough.

We hoped that we had provided enough for first responders, for schools, for healthcare professionals, for testing, and for all the things that were necessary to get us out of this terrible pandemic. It turns out that wasn't the case. Here we are in September facing a renewed version of this virus that is now spreading in parts of the country that weren't affected back in March.

I want to address, No. 1, that we must do something. We have to respond to the needs of the American people just as we did in March. I don't understand why this time it seems to be a partisan issue; why this time we can't have the same spirit that we had then of negotiation, of give and take, of compromise to reach a bill that all realize now was a really significant accomplishment.

For some reason, now it just seems to be much harder. I understand the concern about the debt and the deficit. I used to be a Governor. I know about balancing budgets. States have to balance their budgets, but now is not the time. If we don't take further action to shore up the economy and protect the

people who are being impacted by this, the fiscal cost in the long run will be worse. The revival of the economy will take longer. The cost to the Treasury will be greater than what we are proposing to spend now.

I believe and I hope that we are moving slowly toward some kind of agreement that will allow us to provide the support to the American people and the American economy that will make such a difference in how we are able to cope with this terrible disease over the next several months—at least through the end of the year. That is really the mission that is before us.

The Democrats made a proposal back in May. They passed the Heroes Act of over \$3 trillion. They have moved. The Speaker and the minority leader here have moved \$1 trillion. They made a counteroffer a few weeks ago of about \$2 trillion. The White House apparently, over the last couple of days, has said we are now talking about something at \$1.5 trillion to \$2 trillion as a solution. The parties are moving, and I hope today that they will continue to discuss and that the table will have people sitting at it trying to find a solution. I think there is hope that we can do that.

I deeply hope that we can come to an agreement. Schools across the country are seeing, unbelievably, additional expenditures in all areas to try to get back to normal, to try to get back into the classroom. If they are going to do that, they need more buses. They are going to need more teachers. They are going to need more people. They are going to need more cleaning materials. They are going to need all kinds of additional expenditures they weren't anticipating.

Small businesses are continuing to teeter. I hear awful stories about small businesses that between now and the end of the year are in danger of closing their doors forever. That would be a tragedy for our country.

We are continuing to see people lose their jobs. We are continuing to see people on unemployment. We are continuing to see people who can't put food on the table because the aid that we provided in the CARES Act in March ran out at the end of July.

I am urging, No. 1, discussions. That is pretty obvious. I hope that the representatives of the two parties and representatives of the White House can come together and reach an agreement. Part of this agreement has to contain within it support for States, towns, and cities. They are suffering, too, and they are providing the very services that the people need in this pandemic.

States can't borrow money the way we can. They have to balance their budget on a year-to-year basis. If they are being clobbered by the effects of this disease, not only in expenditures but in loss of revenues, they only have two choices. I have been there. They only have two choices. One is drastic cuts, and the other is raising taxes, neither of which is an acceptable alter-

native in the midst of a recession, and neither of which makes any sense for the American people. They have either to cut or raise taxes. Those aren't good options.

By the way, I can only speak for the Maine budget. I don't know how other State budgets work. But in Maine about one-third of our budget—between 25 percent and 35 percent of our State budget—goes back to our communities. It goes to the capital city of Augusta, makes a U-turn, and goes back into the towns and cities across Maine, mostly in the form of general-purpose aid to education, also in the form of revenue sharing, and in other kinds of grants and contracts.

When we talk about the State, it sounds like we are talking about these big, impersonal entities, but we are really talking about towns—small towns—and school districts. That is where a lot of this impact is going to fall.

It is a double-edged sword that cuts both ways. It is hurting people—the people who are being laid off, the people who are going to have to be laid off, whether they are in a town or city, a county or the State. That hurts the economy. Those are people who are buying things in the stores, going to restaurants, and going to grocery stores. They are going to places to buy clothes, and if they can't do that, then, the entire economy is pulled down.

If we don't help the States and the cities and towns in this situation, the estimates are that it is going to hit GDP by 2 to 3 percent. That is huge. That is a huge economic loss that is going to translate into a fiscal loss for us and a tragic loss for the American people.

The estimate in Maine is a \$1.4 billion shortfall of our State budget over the next 3 years—a half-billion dollars in this fiscal year that we are in right now.

Towns and cities across Maine are already starting to furlough first responders. Who is it that works for the towns? Police and fire are the biggest components. They are not hiring people. I think we need to face the fact that those who are opposing aid to our cities and towns are the people who are defunding the police. That is who is defunding the police because their budgets are going to be cut if they don't get some assistance from this body and this government.

Let's be real. Let's talk about facts. Let's talk about the real impact of our lack of attention to this issue. This is a personal tragedy for these families, and it is one more blow to the economy.

By the way, this is not a blue State issue. Here are some States whose budgets have been hit by more than 10 percent by the loss of revenues caused by the COVID: Alaska, which is not much of a blue State; Indiana; Kansas; Kentucky; Montana; Oklahoma; and Iowa. Those States are hurting, too.

This blue State-red State stuff bothers me.

I don't know how many emergency appropriations for natural disasters, wildfires, floods, and hurricanes I have voted for. It never occurred to me to ask what color the State was. It never occurred to me. We are a community. This is one country. I don't ask how Florida voted if there is a hurricane that strikes that State or Georgia or Alabama, which is being hit right now. If they need help, we should provide it.

But what we are seeing now is a slow-motion fiscal hurricane that is hitting many, if not all, of the States of the United States. We should come together and help them. As for this business about that, well, we don't want to bail out somebody's pension program, look, this is an easy calculation. The Treasury Department is capable of making the calculation. What were your revenues last year? What were your projections before COVID? What is the difference? That is what we are talking about.

Make no mistake, we are talking about real, concrete, on-the-ground losses of jobs and losses of the services that those jobs provide. Whether they are public health workers, first responders, firefighters, or police—yes, police—they are who are being impacted here, and it is we as citizens who are the customers of those services who need the protection and who need the services they provide. They are who are being hurt.

I hope that we can come to an agreement and that we can get over this nonsense that this is somehow a blue State-red State thing and that we are bailing out States that were not prudent. I am tired of hearing that. We are talking about people's lives here. We are talking about the protection of public services. We are talking about teaching our kids. We are talking about people who are providing the basic protections that we all take for granted in our daily lives.

Really, I have two simple messages: One, let's make a deal. Two, that deal should include support for those people and institutions in our States, in our cities, and in our smallest towns so that they will have the wherewithal to be able to help us all get through this thing together. That is what this is all about, and those are the people on the ground who are helping us get through this together.

We can do this. We proved in March that we could do it. I think we must and can and will do it again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

(The remarks of Mr. LEE pertaining to the introduction of S. 4608 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. LEE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
DEMOCRACY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to commemorate the International Day of Democracy. Since 2007, September 15 has offered an opportunity each year to reflect on the democratic values that we cherish and to recommit ourselves to promoting them around the world.

The democratic project is especially important at this moment. Although some communities are experiencing greater rights and freedoms than ever before, there is also an alarming trend of democratic backsliding in many corners of the globe.

Countries that were becoming increasingly open and egalitarian are moving back toward authoritarianism under unlawful, oppressive leaders.

Meanwhile, countries that were already unfree are suffering even more disturbing civil and human rights abuses.

If we turn a blind eye to these developments, it will embolden bad actors to continue undermining freedom, peace, and equality. The United States must lead all democracy-loving people in calling out subversions of democratic rights wherever they exist and holding those responsible to account.

One country that requires our urgent attention is China. The Government of China has not adhered to democratic norms for a long time, but we should never allow that failure to normalize ongoing human rights abuses such as the vicious opposition to the Uighurs.

International nongovernmental organizations have documented China's mass surveillance, arbitrary detention, torture, and political indoctrination of these communities for no reason other than their religious and cultural differences.

We must do everything possible to fight for the freedom and equality of the Uighurs to help end this atrocity.

We also need to stand up for the rights of the people of Hong Kong. Beijing's attempt to circumvent Hong Kong's independent legal system with a far-reaching, oppressive national security law is dangerous and in complete disregard of the one-country, two-system principle. I am likewise disturbed that the Hong Kong government inexplicably postponed the September regional elections for another year. The people of Hong Kong deserve to see their democratic aspirations realized and protected. I am pleased that there is bipartisan, strong support in the U.S. Senate and in the House for the people of Hong Kong, and I joined with Senator RUBIO in introducing legislation to make that clear.

China is certainly not the only place where democratic rights are threatened. We need to look closer to home, as well, to countries like Venezuela. In Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro's illegal regime has produced one of the worst humanitarian crises by plundering the country's resources for personal gain and using the distribution of food as a

tool for social control. Maduro has completely ignored the Venezuelan people's call to return to democracy and is using the current global pandemic as an opportunity to consolidate his own power.

In addition to addressing quasi-dictatorships in the Western Hemisphere, we must maintain pressure on the so-called "last dictator" of Europe, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko. While Lukashenko's near three-decade rule has been full of corrupt power grabs and crackdowns and dissent, his behavior surrounding the recent Presidential election demonstrates a new level of lawlessness. Lukashenko refused to certify opposing candidates and then imprisoned them. He claimed victory through clearly fraudulent election results. He restricted the free flow of information by shutting down the internet and targeting journalists. And he oversaw the brutal repression of protesters, including many instances of Belarusian security forces repeatedly torturing detained civilians. Lukashenko knows that the Belarusian people are ready for a new democratic chapter that does not include him. Instead of stepping aside to serve the interests of his country, he has abandoned the rule of law in order to protect his own power.

It is no surprise that Lukashenko has appealed to Vladimir Putin to endorse this tyrannical approach. President Putin is, after all, a veteran when it comes to destabilizing democracies. He has done so not only in his own country of Russia, where he overcomes dissent by changing the constitution to secure his rule and poisoning political opponents, but also in other parts of the world. That includes his continuous attempts to undermine our democracy here in the United States.

President Trump has completely failed to hold Vladimir Putin accountable for abusing his own people's human rights and attacking the United States. Even worse, President Trump appears to have taken a page out of Putin's book, suggesting that if he were not reelected this November, he may not accept the results of that election. It is a sad commentary on the state of our domestic affairs that we have to take such a ludicrous statement seriously. We know that global democracy is in trouble when the leader of the United States is copying undemocratic heads of state instead of condemning them.

These are but a few snapshots of what is happening in many countries around the world. If there is anything that I have learned in my many years of public service, it is that we can never take democracy—and all the freedoms, rights, and opportunities it entails—for granted. My work in the House and the Senate on the Helsinki Commission really embodies that commitment to stand up for human rights. The Helsinki Final Act made it clear that all States in Europe, the former Soviet Union, United States, and Can-

ada embraced not only democratic principles and human rights of good governance but also the principle that we have a right to challenge the compliance with those commitments in any other member state. It is not interfering in their internal matters; it is holding them to the commitments they made in the Helsinki Final Act.

Democracy is fragile. It must be constantly tended to and protected to survive and flourish. Therefore, while we have a responsibility to monitor the status of democracy in other parts of the world, we have a parallel duty to safeguard and tend to our democracy here at home. I cannot remember a more dangerous time for American democracy since the Civil War.

To protect our democracy, we must protect the ability of every individual to exercise her or his right to vote. In the middle of a pandemic, that means expanding the ability to vote by mail so that we do not force people to choose between participating in our democracy or protecting their health.

We need to make sure that State and local election boards get the resources they need to cover the costs of mail-in voting, and we need to defend the strength, integrity, and impartiality of the U.S. Postal Service.

Our President also openly invites foreign powers to interfere in our election, and his encouragement has been effective. The same external factors that we know influenced the elections in 2016 are once again actively planning to interfere in the upcoming election. Regardless of party affiliation, we should all be able to unite in pursuit of a healthy, functioning democracy. That requires us to take action against the foreign actors seeking to spread misinformation and divide Americans for their own benefit.

When we fail to protect democracy in the United States, it has consequences all over the world. After he was confronted about his recent brutal crackdown on protesters, journalists, and opposition members, Belarus President Lukashenko said that the United States "should sort out their own affairs" before attempting to interfere in Belarus. His statements made clear that President Trump and his administration and supporters' undemocratic behavior is eroding our credibility on the global stage as a voice for human rights. Let today, International Day for Democracy, be a reminder for us to stand up in defense of democracy, whether we are talking about China, Venezuela, Belarus, or here in our own backyard. The world is counting on us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to use, during my remarks, two

exhibits of the Federal aid application form.

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

#### FAFSA

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am here this morning to talk about a hearing that we had in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee this morning that affects 20 million families who have to fill this out every year. This is called the FAFSA. Usually, there is an adjective ahead of it. It is called the “dreaded” FAFSA.

There are 400,000 Tennessee families who fill it out every year. If you want to go to college and you need a Pell grant or a student loan, you have to fill this out—108 questions. And then after you fill it out, the way it has been working and still works today, you have to send in the information on 22 of the questions to two different agencies: one to the IRS and one to the Education Department. And then they go through an elaborate process to check to see whether you have made any mistake.

So let’s say you are a homeless student or a student in foster care or you are not able to identify your parents or you are living with your grandparents or any of those people have an aversion to filling out 108-question Federal forms or giving their information to the government twice, then you don’t go to college. That is what happens.

In Tennessee, we have had a Governor named Bill Haslam in the legislature that said everybody in Tennessee without a degree, that you can have 2 more years of college free, but first you have to fill out this Federal form. They say this is the single biggest impediment to having the opportunity to have those 2 free years of higher education in our State.

So you would think somebody would do something about that, right? Well, somebody has or at least has been trying to. Here is what it could be. This is 33 questions. Almost everybody agrees that this is better than this—the State counselors, the Governors, the teachers, the students, the families. You could fill it out more easily. It keeps many fewer students from walking away from the opportunity to go to college.

So you would ask: Why don’t you pass it? Well, Mr. President, that is exactly what Senator MICHAEL BENNET, the Democratic Senator from Colorado, and I said 7 years ago in a hearing before the Senate Education Committee when we had four witnesses and we talked about this. And I said at the end: There seems to be a lot of agreement about this. Why don’t the four of you experts—and these are people who work in financial aid who try to help students and who try to help minority students. I mean, this is the kind of stuff we are talking about all over America today. What do we do about

racial justice? What do we do to help low-income students? How do we help people who are especially hurt by a pandemic?

Well, 7 years ago, I said: Would you be willing to write us a letter, each of you, and tell us exactly what to do to eliminate the complexity of this FAFSA? What they said was that most of these questions are unnecessary and that the Federal Government doesn’t need to know the answer to these questions to decide whether you are eligible for a Pell grant or eligible for a student loan. That is what they all said. So the four witnesses who had testified looked at each other and said: We don’t need to write you separate letters. We will write you one letter because we all agree on what to do. So they did.

Senator BENNET and I introduced legislation called the FAST Act that would reduce this to the size of a postcard. It only had two questions on it. Well, that was too simplified. What we found out, for example, was that the State of Indiana and the State of Tennessee have their student aid, and they rely on some of this information to decide what aid to give in addition to the Federal aid. So we took the questions off this, and then they would have to ask the questions, so we really hadn’t solved any problems.

So we kept working. Senator MURRAY, the Democratic leader of our committee, and I worked together on this during these 7 years, and we began to make some progress. The progress we made first was with the Obama administration, and they agreed to what sounded like a simple change. They just administratively allowed you to use your previous year’s tax returns rather than your current year’s tax returns to fill out the 22 tax questions on this form. You can imagine how hard it would be to use this year’s tax returns, so that was a big help.

Then the Trump administration put this 108-questionnaire on an app so you can use your iPhone to fill it out. Now, that would be pretty hard for me, but I have seen a lot of the youngsters in Tennessee in the Sevier County High School, for example, who went right to work. They did a pretty quick job of doing this. That helped a lot.

Then, Senator MURRAY and I, Senator JONES from Alabama and Senator SCOTT from South Carolina—last year we introduced a bill called the FUTURE Act, and the FUTURE Act did two things. It said that for 22 of the questions here, the ones that you have to give to the government twice—you give it to the Education Department and you give it to the IRS, and then they check to see if you made a mistake, and if they do, they slow down your aid. We said: Let’s simplify that. Let’s just say all you have to do is check a box, and the IRS will answer those 22 questions for you. That is a law now, and it will take a couple of years to implement because, again, we are talking about 20 million families a year. So we saved them that trouble.

Now, guess what else we saved. We saved enough money to permanently fund historically Black colleges. How about that? Filling out all this form didn’t save the government money; it cost the government money. So we were able, in one act, to save 20 million families—many of them minority families and most of them low income—the trouble of filling out those 22 questions and permanently fund Black colleges. So now we have legislation, Senator JONES and I and others—and there are many Senators who have been involved in this, in addition to Senator MURRAY. Senator BOOKER has had an interest, and Senator COLLINS, Senator KING, Senator BURR. Again, I mentioned Senator BENNET earlier. You can see Republicans and Democrats all see the wisdom of this, as well as every witness we have ever had who comes before us. So we have a new bill that says: Let’s get rid of 53 questions and turn this into this. That is what the hearing was about today.

Now, why wouldn’t we do that? Almost everyone says we should. Should we deliberately require 20 million families to answer 53 unnecessary questions that discourage many low-income students from going to college? Should we insist on that? I don’t think so.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this would probably mean that about 400,000 more students would apply for Pell grants. That is what the Pell grant is for. It is to encourage low-income students who want a ticket to the head of the line, a ticket called higher education, a ticket that the college board said increases your earnings by \$1 million over your lifetime if you get a 4-year degree, and this is our effort to help low-income students get that ticket to a better life and a better education and more money.

So why wouldn’t we do it and why wouldn’t we do it during this pandemic? This has to be the strangest year of college in a century—at least a century. Students are stressed out, families are stressed out, and then we are going to add to the stress by saying: And in addition, your friendly Federal Government, in order for you to get a Pell grant, is going to insist that you answer 53 questions that everybody says are unnecessary for the government to determine whether you are eligible for the loan or for the grant.

And then there is one final reason we should do it. The act that Senator MURRAY and Senator JONES and Senator SCOTT and I introduced and became law last year with President Trump’s signature, the one that saved enough money to permanently fund historically Black colleges, that is going to take a couple of years to implement. So if we go ahead and pass the law that turns this into this before the end of this year, we can do both of them at the same time.

I think the American people would feel pretty good about the U.S. Congress that, in the midst of a pandemic, finished its work on such an important piece of legislation.

Our hearing today was well attended. We had four of the same witnesses who came 7 years ago and said: There is no need to ask all these questions. Nobody needs them. Nobody needs the answers. All it does is turn away from college students whom we want to encourage to go.

Now, think about that. That is a deliberate act by the Federal Government not to change that. It doesn't save any money. It doesn't eliminate any fraud. All it does is turn away from college the people whom we want to encourage to have a chance to go.

I am hopeful that the hearing today and our repeated efforts will help us create approval of this before the end of the year. Since nobody tells me they are against it, you would think we would do it. Sometimes people say: Well, we need to agree on everything before we pass anything. Sometimes that is true. But when something is this important, when it affects this many families, and when it comes at a time when families are under stress anyway, let's turn a 108-question FAFSA into a 33-question FAFSA. Let's allow that to be implemented by the Federal Government at the same time last year's law is implemented, and let's make it simpler and easier for deserving Americans to go to college.

There are lots of other things we need to do about higher education. We need more accountability. We need to deal with student loans. There are many things we need to do. We have had a lot of discussions about those. We are not going to get agreement on that this year, but just as we were able to do for the historically Black colleges last year and the first step of the FAFSA, I think it would be wise to finish the job.

I was very pleased with our hearing. I am grateful to Senator MURRAY for her kind comments this morning that she made and for her friendship and her willingness to work with me on this, and I would hope that, for the benefit of those 20 million families, we would have some success.

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING IGIUGIG, ALASKA

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday, and as you know, it is one of my favorite times of the week.

The Presiding Officer has the good fortune of listening to a number of the "Alaskan of the Week" speeches when I get to come down to the floor—typically every Thursday—to talk about a person or group of people who are doing great things for my State. As I said, so many of my colleagues here—even

some of the reporters—know this is the person we call our Alaskan of the Week, but sometimes we call them our Alaskans of the Week.

This week, we are going plural in a big way. This week, we are recognizing an entire community for how this community—the whole community—banded together to literally help save a young child who was sick and needed medical attention.

Before I get into the story, let me say that, in Alaska, community is everything. Living in one of the most magnificent places in the world is not without its challenges. We depend on each other. Communities often come together to help each other. Typically, in our rural communities, traditional knowledge is critical and so is hard-won ingenuity and determination to overcome many of the challenges in living in the great State of Alaska.

I would like to transport you to one of those communities. It is the village of Igiugig in Southwest Alaska. Rich in Native traditions, Igiugig is home to around 70 year-round residents, growing to over 200 in the summer months.

The name "Igiugig" originated from a Yupik word meaning "like a throat that swallows water," referring to the village's location where the Kvichak River meets Iliamna.

Going all the way back to the purchase of Alaska from Russia over 150 years ago, Igiugig has maintained a commercial fishing and subsistence-based economy. They have been incredibly innovative with alternative energy there—wind and hydro—and most importantly, this community has maintained a strong sense of connection with each other, which is so important for communities like this. This is evidenced by what happened just a few weeks ago when a young girl needed to be airlifted out of the community to Anchorage—some 250 miles away—for medical help, and nearly every member of the community pitched in to help.

What happened? Here is what happened. On the night of August 28—so about 3 or 4 weeks ago—around 11:30 a.m., the Tribal administrator and village council vice president Karl Hill was sitting at home when he saw the LifeMed Alaska flight, which he knew was coming in to help this young girl, circling above the small runway.

Over 200 of our communities aren't connected by roads. They aren't connected by roads, so a lot of them have very small airports and landing strips.

Karl got this phone call when the pilot was above circling. There was a problem with the runway lights; they weren't working. He ran out to the airport to try to turn the lights on manually. That didn't work, so he got into his plane—he was one of only two pilots in the village with a plane. He got on the plane just to talk to the pilot, who was circling above, over the headset. That pilot who was on the medevac flight told him he was getting low on fuel. He wouldn't be able to circle much longer, and he couldn't land. But

this young girl needed help as soon as possible.

In so many of our Native communities and rural communities, there is no hospital. There is barely even a medical clinic sometimes. So she needed to be medevacked.

While Karl communicated with the pilot over his headset, other community members began calling people in the community asking for help. Ida Nelson made calls and jumped on her four-wheeler and headed to the airport. Community leader Christina Salmon, whose sister is Alexanna Salmon—who was our Alaskan of the Week in 2017, by the way—made around 32 phone calls. Health aide Amanda Bybee, Jeff Bringhurst, and so many others started calling and rallying this community, and they all came out. They all came out in any kind of vehicle with lights that they had—trucks, cars, ATVs, kids on four-wheelers, many still in their pajamas. This was in the middle of the night. They arrived to provide enough light on the runway for the pilot to see the landing strip. They staggered the vehicles facing east and running the whole length of the runway, lighting the medevac pilot's way.

They waited intensely. Ida Nelson told a reporter:

I was anxious and nervous. . . . I was like, "so what if that was my baby (waiting for that) plane?" What if it was my young girl who needed lifesaving help?

They waited for the plane to touch down, for the girl to be transferred, and for the plane to take off again. All of this happened with the lights provided by the community in a makeshift lighting of the runway.

By this time, it was around a little past 1:30, closer to 2 o'clock, but when the plane took off, the community, of course, was in a celebratory mood.

"We were pumped up," Karl Hill said. "It was really an amazing feat that we were able to pull together so quickly" in the middle of the night. He added, "It was really a nice evening."

That young girl who needed to be medevacked and airlifted in Anchorage is now back in the community, and she has recovered, thank God.

LifeMed Alaska, which provided the medevac, posted a photo on social media with the following caption: "What appears to be a blurry, dark photo is actually a view of what an amazing community can do with a lot of determination," lighting a runway, saving a life. Indeed.

We are so proud to be a State full of such tight-knit communities that work together every day to make Alaska so special. We are particularly proud as we recount the events of August 28 in Igiugig and so grateful to everyone in the community who came out in the middle of the night, some in their pajamas, to make sure that young girl could get the medical help she needed.

Thank you to Igiugig for being such an amazing community with great determination, great heart, and great innovation. Congratulations to all of you for being our Alaskans of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 603.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, Michael B. Enzi, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Joni Ernst, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, Steve Daines.

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 706.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrea R. Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2025.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Andrea R. Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2025.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, John Hoeven, John Boozman, David Perdue, Steve Daines, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, John Barrasso, Richard C. Shelby, Tim Scott.

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 708.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2021.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2021.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, John Hoeven, John Boozman, David Perdue, Steve Daines, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, John Barrasso, Richard C. Shelby, Tim Scott.

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 709.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith E. Sonderling, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Keith E. Sonderling, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, John Hoeven, John Boozman, David Perdue, Steve Daines, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, John Barrasso, Richard C. Shelby, Tim Scott.

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 588.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Charles Hinderaker, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Charles Hinderaker, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Mitch McConnell, Martha McSally, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, Marco Rubio, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Rob Portman, Kevin Cramer, John Thune, Steve Daines, John Boozman, James Lankford.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 815.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Roderick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Roderick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Braun, Mike Rounds, Marsha Blackburn, Todd Young, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lindsey Graham, Marco Rubio, Tim Scott, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the package of four Illinois district court nominees who are scheduled to receive votes on the floor this week.

In my State, Democrats and Republicans have long worked together in a respectful, bipartisan way to select Federal judges.

For example, when two Illinois vacancies opened up on the 7th Circuit in 2017, back before Senate Republicans decided to abandon the circuit court blue slip, we were able to negotiate a package of two well-qualified nominees, Amy St. Eve and Michael Scudder, who both were confirmed by the Senate unanimously.

For district court vacancies, Illinois has a longstanding “three to one” system.

Under this system, the President’s party gets to select the candidates for three out of four district court vacancies, and the other party gets to select the candidate for the fourth. Then the parties negotiate until they reach agreement on packages of nominees that can move forward to confirmation.

Under this system, Democrats and Republicans have to work together and compromise. Neither side gets everything they want, but for several decades, this bipartisan process has kept both parties at the table and has served Illinois well.

During President Trump’s tenure, there have been two packages of Illinois district court nominees that we have negotiated with the senior Member of the Republican congressional delegation—Representative JOHN SHIMKUS—and the White House.

The first was a package of four Chicago nominees—now judges—that included Democratic pick Mary Rowland, a former Federal public defender and the first openly LGBT judge on the Chicago bench.

The second package of Illinois nominees, which we negotiated throughout 2019 and agreed upon last December, includes Federal Magistrate Judge Iain Johnston of Rockford; Illinois 3rd Judicial Circuit Judge David Dugan of Madison County; Illinois 20th Judicial Circuit Judge Stephen McGlynn of St. Clair County; and the Democratic pick, Judge Franklin Valderrama of the Cook County Circuit Court.

All of the nominees in the current Illinois package have significant judicial

experience and were rated well-qualified by the American Bar Association.

Each nominee also was reviewed by judicial screening committees that we established, including a Southern District judicial screening committee, chaired by former Federal judge Patrick Murphy, and a Northern District committee, chaired by former Federal judge David Coar. Each nominee received screening committee approval based on their qualifications and their record as judges.

I want to say that I recognize and respect the opposition that has been expressed to two of the Republican picks in this package, Judges Dugan and McGlynn.

These nominees have made statements and expressed views with which I disagree, particularly on matters involving reproductive rights.

These nominees would not have been Democratic picks in our Illinois system, but under the system, Democrats and Republicans have to work together on bipartisan packages, and neither side gets everything their way.

While I disagree with statements that Judges Dugan and McGlynn have made, I agreed to this package of nominees as part of our bipartisan State process, and I will support all four nominees in the package.

I also want to briefly discuss the Democratic pick in this package, Judge Franklin Valderrama.

For the past 14 years, he has served as an associate judge on the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has extensive experience both as a judge and as a practitioner and is highly respected.

When a Chicago-based Federal judgeship became vacant last year, we put out a public call for applications. An extraordinary group of 50 candidates applied. Our screening committee vetted them all, and Judge Valderrama was at the top of the list.

I believe he will be an outstanding addition to the Federal bench in Chicago.

HONORING RYAN PHILLIP HENDRIX

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sheriff Deputy Ryan Phillip Hendrix, 34, of Hendersonville who passed away on Thursday, September 10, 2020, while in the line of duty. He was born December 9, 1985, in Asheville, North Carolina to his parents Donald L. and Heidi J. Hendrix. Ryan was a devoted Christian and attended Grace Blue Ridge Church with Pastor Chas Morris.

Shortly after graduating from Hendersonville Christian School in 2004, Ryan enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps and graduated as a lance corporal marine in 2005. He was in the Marine Reserves for 5 years and volunteered to serve a tour of duty in Iraq in 2006. Ryan began his career with the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office as a detention officer in June 2012. In May 2015, he completed basic law enforcement training and became a patrol deputy and later a field training officer.

He was an active member of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office SWAT team and was assigned as a patrol detective to Charlie Squad.

Ryan excelled in sports, especially baseball and soccer, and enjoyed fishing, hunting, biking, kayaking, and camping. Ryan's children, Elloree and Merritt, were the love of his life and always his greatest priority. He spent all of his free time with them and continually involved them in outdoor activities. He enjoyed teaching them how to raise animals and spending time with their extended family of grandparents, aunts and uncles, and many cousins.

Ryan had a keen instinct and could see things most couldn't. He was swift to action and was very intuitive while possessing a magnanimous heart. He would choose not to fight with a fool, but rather help them to find a better way. Ryan loved to bring humor to every situation, and even during the roughest times, you would always see a smile on his face.

Ryan tragically lost his life during the early morning hours of September 10, 2020, while in the line of duty. As the world slept, Ryan responded to assist a family in need of help when they became innocent victims of a violent encounter.

We all know the tragic outcome, but Ryan refused to let the story end there. While his death will leave a giant void in the hearts of those who love him, he continues to exemplify a servant's heart even in passing. Ryan was also an organ donor and will continue helping strangers for a lifetime, even after making the ultimate sacrifice. He was doing the job he was born to do and died doing the job he loved.

As the U.S. Senator from North Carolina, I am forever grateful for Ryan's service to our State and Nation. He gave his life protecting his fellow citizens, and we will never forget the sacrifice he made.

#### REMEMBERING MELISSIA DAVIS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Mrs. Melissa Davis of Kennedy, AL, who passed away on September 7, 2020. She will be remembered as a dedicated public servant who was committed to bettering her community and State.

Melissia worked diligently for 26 years as the State representative in my U.S. Senate Office in Tuscaloosa, AL. She covered the West Alabama region, specifically serving the counties of Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marion, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa. I first met Melissia when she was working for the Internal Revenue Service, and I was eager to hire her. I knew she would be an exemplary employee. Over the years, Melissia gained a deep understanding of constituent services and remained dedicated to working with Federal, State, and local agencies on behalf of my constituents.

Melissia served with distinction on the board of trustees of her alma

mater, Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL. She was the chairwoman of the Stillman House Restoration Committee for 13 years. Under her leadership, the historic Stillman House was placed on the Alabama Historic Register and National Register of Historic Places. She was also successful in placing Stillman College on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, designating the campus as an Alabama Historic District.

Outside of her professional career, Mrs. Davis was heavily involved with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the West Alabama United Way Campaign, Habitat for Humanity, and several other local endeavors. Additionally, Melissia was a dedicated member of Elizabeth Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday school and served as a matron. Not only did Melissia live a life of service, she embodied it.

Melissia's many accomplishments and contributions to the State of Alabama will long be remembered. Melissia was passionate about her hometown of Kennedy, AL, and she served as one of its strongest advocates. She will be remembered for her great sense of humor and style. Melissia touched the lives of many over the years, and she will be greatly missed.

I offer my deepest condolences to Melissia's husband, Burkles Davis, II, and her two children, Alecia Nicole Davis and Burkles "Trey" Davis, III, and to all of their loved ones as they celebrate her life and mourn her passing.

#### 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE NFL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 100th birthday of the National Football League. On September 17, 1920, 15 people who shared a love of football met in an automobile showroom in Canton, OH, to form what would become the National Football League. From these humble beginnings, the NFL has grown into a preeminent American sports league and become a fixture in American life. Today's NFL is an American institution that brings together millions of individuals of all ages, races, and backgrounds through a shared love for the game of football. In fact, last season, the NFL concluded the celebration of its 100th season with a stunning Super Bowl championship that was viewed by over 100 million Americans.

At the same time, the NFL has never forgotten its roots in Ohio. Every year, millions of football fans travel to Canton, which now hosts the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the accompanying Hall of Fame game that rings in every new NFL season. Today, in an effort to commemorate the League's 100th birthday, Canton and the Cleveland Browns will host my hometown Cincinnati Bengals in a classic rivalry game, known as the Battle of Ohio. The game will highlight the formation of the league and its origins in Canton, honor

the more than 25,000 players who have played in the league, and showcase the work the NFL is doing to ensure its second century is just as successful as the first.

I wish the league all the best as it embarks into its second century as the foremost steward of "America's Game."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARKANSAS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in light of a significant anniversary for a crucial organization in the state of Arkansas. Fifty years ago, Special Olympics Arkansas was founded under the idea of an equal and opportune Arkansas. On this special day of celebration, I would like to recognize and thank Special Olympics Arkansas for its dedication to a virtuous mission that has transformed my State in more ways than one.

Special Olympics Arkansas was designed to fulfill and uphold a specific vision to transform communities through sports and education. To make this ambition a reality, the organization provides individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in year-round sports and athletic training. Just as Special Olympics Arkansas has a positive impact on the field, it is also a powerful and effective catalyst for social change off the field. By offering a range of programming efforts that encompass health, education, community building and leadership, Special Olympics Arkansas is doing exactly what it set out to accomplish.

Since its inception, the organization has seen increasing and overwhelming demand. Special Olympics Arkansas has 15,000 participating athletes and 5,000 volunteers. Additionally, it offers training in 15 different sports with 240 statewide competitions and has cultivated participation in all 75 of the State's counties. While the transformative power of sports is at the organization's core, competition is merely a gateway to creating avenues for individuals, both with and without intellectual disabilities, to experience personal growth, find joy and gain confidence. The addition of several new programs such as the Inclusive Health Program, Unified School Program, and the Unified Leadership Program has proven tremendously valuable in breaking down barriers and creating accepting and inclusive communities. Thanks to Special Olympics Arkansas, our State has experienced great social progress and meaningful change over the past 50 years.

I cannot thank Special Olympics Arkansas enough for its continued dedication to creating an environment where enhanced opportunity and acceptance take center stage. Arkansas citizens of all backgrounds, their families, and our

communities are forever grateful for five decades of hard work and dedication to a better tomorrow.●

#### REMEMBERING THOMAS KANE GILHOOL

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas Kane Gilhool, who championed the rights of inclusion for children and adults with disabilities and changed public policy in our country for all people with disabilities. His work was pivotal in affirming the constitutional right of children with disabilities to a public education, increasing community-based services for people with developmental disabilities, and creating a pathway for people with autism and other developmental disabilities to leave institutions and live with neighbors, friends, and family.

Tom Gilhool was an originating member of Philadelphia's Community Legal Services. At the start of his career, he helped to organize, train, and then represented the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization and the Residents Advisory Board, as well as other organizations representing residents in low-income neighborhoods. The recognition agreements he secured empowered those organizations to effectively represent welfare recipients and public housing tenants and served as models that were replicated throughout the country.

Tom Gilhool's seminal accomplishment was his groundbreaking representation of plaintiffs in the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC) v. the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Nation's first civil rights case brought on behalf of children with disabilities. Kate Fialkowski, sister of two boys represented in the case, remembers Tom as "an intellectual giant, lawyer, and legal historian," someone "who used his gifts not for self-aggrandizement, but instead to raise up the lives of others, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities." Prior to this case, children with disabilities were all but excluded from attending public schools. The decree of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1972 paved the way for the 1975 passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—IDEA—which affirmed every child's right to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Tom Gilhool's work on PARC v. Pennsylvania led to another landmark case on behalf of people with disabilities. In *Pennhurst State School and Hospital v. Halderman*, 1981, Tom Gilhool was lead counsel for residents of Pennhurst State School and Hospital, the residential home to almost 3,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By 1968, Pennhurst was exposed as an overcrowded, violent, and abusive setting.

Through Tom's work, the right to habilitation in non-segregated settings was established. The ruling in *Pennhurst v. Halderman* was the forerunner of the 1999 *Olmstead v. LC* Supreme Court decision, establishing the right to treatment and services in community-based settings. Since that case, nearly 200,000 people have moved from abusive, segregated settings where they had been deprived of dignity, respect, and their basic needs. Tom Gilhool's work made it possible for millions of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to avoid such places.

The cases Tom Gilhool argued laid much of the foundation for the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Judith Gran, a long-time colleague of Tom Gilhool at the Public Interest Law Center said, "Tom was the most effective civil rights lawyer of his generation. Without his vision and strategic gifts, [people with disabilities] might not have the right to education and the right to live in the community."

In 2012, *Pennhurst v. Halderman* was cited by Chief Justice John Roberts in upholding the constitutionality of key provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in the *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius*.

When my father was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1986, he asked Tom to serve as Secretary of Education. Tom worked hard for the children of Pennsylvania from 1987 to 1989.

Thomas Gilhool's tremendous contributions to the lives and rights of people with disabilities and their families are immeasurable. His accomplishments will continue to benefit all people with disabilities and inspire all who continue to work to protect the rights and freedoms of people with disabilities.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 881. An act to improve understand and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 2574. An act to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3659. An act to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4979. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4990. An act to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to carry out research and other activities to promote the security and modernization of voting systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7909. An act to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

H.R. 8162. An act to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Education should provide certain waivers to community learning centers, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2683. An act to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety.

At 4:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2694. An act to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2574. An act to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2694. An act to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3659. An act to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4979. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development

research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4990. An act to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to carry out research and other activities to promote the security and modernization of voting systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 7909. An act to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 8162. An act to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Education should provide certain waivers to community learning centers, and for other purposes to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4618. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. James C. Dawkins, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe and ending with Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 14, 2020.

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Toby Crouse, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Aileen Mercedes Cannon, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

J. Philip Calabrese, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

James Ray Knepp II, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Michael Jay Newman, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Anna Maria Ruzinski, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years.

Gregory Scott Tabor, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### 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. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr.

COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BURR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4605. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 4606. A bill to authorize the President to use military force for the purpose of securing and defending Taiwan against armed attack, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 4607. A bill to provide forgiveness for paycheck protection program and economic injury disaster loans related to COVID-19 made to businesses that are located in an area for which the President declared a major disaster related to Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Sally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4608. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4609. A bill to withdraw normal trade relations treatment from, and apply certain provisions of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to, products of the People's Republic of China, and to expand the eligibility requirements for products of the People's Republic of China to receive normal trade relations treatment in the future, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4610. A bill to require facemasks in Federal facilities to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JONES:

S. 4611. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on State and local fairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4612. A bill to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 4613. A bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to prevent certain automated calls and to require notice of the availability of contact lens prescriptions to patients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 4614. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that the United States Postal Service may provide certain basic financial services, and for other pur-

poses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4615. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of successful educator and school leader professional development programs on family engagement that will increase the capacity of educators and school leaders to work with families to develop and support the social-emotional learning of children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 4616. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 4617. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for the cleanup of legacy pollution, including National Priority List sites, certain abandoned coal mining sites, and formerly used defense sites, to replace lead drinking water service lines, to provide grants under certain programs, and to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the issuance of new major source air pollution permits in overburdened communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 4618. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4619. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4620. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 4621. A bill to provide tax relief for persons affected by certain 2020 disasters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 4622. A bill to amend the Act entitled "Act to provide for the establishment of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes" to provide for inclusion of additional related sites in the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4623. A bill to establish a temperature checks pilot program for air transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 4624. A bill to strengthen American economic resiliency and equitably expand economic opportunity by launching a national competition, promoting state and local strategic planning, encouraging innovation by

the public and private sectors, and by substantially investing federal resources in research and development; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 4625. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 4626. A bill to establish data privacy and data security protections for consumers in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 4627. A bill to modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020 relating to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 4628. A bill to provide for a 1-year extension of the Public-Private Partnership Advisory Council to End Human Trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. WARNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 4629. A bill to address issues involving the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 701. A resolution urging the Government of Burma to hold free, fair, inclusive, transparent, participatory, and credible elections on November 8, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 702. A resolution designating September 2020 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 703. A resolution designating the week beginning September 14, 2020, as Na-

tional Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 704. A resolution honoring the accomplishments of General Thomas P. Stafford and recognizing his contribution to the United States Space Program; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KING, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BURR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 705. A resolution proclaiming the week of September 21 through September 25, 2020, to be "National Clean Energy Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 706. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2020 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 707. A resolution recognizing September 1, 2020, as "National Poll Worker Recruitment Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 708. A resolution supporting the designation of September 18, 2020, as "National Concussion Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. REED, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. JONES, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 709. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020,

and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 710. A resolution commemorating the High Holidays celebrated and commemorated by the Jewish people in the United States, in Israel, and around the world, and recognizing the many accomplishments and contributions of the Jewish community in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 511

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 877

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

S. 946

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 946, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to complete a study on barriers to participation in federally funded cancer clinical trials by populations that have been traditionally underrepresented in such trials.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to establish a universal personal savings program, and for other purposes.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 1136

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1136, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize concurrent use of Department of Defense Tuition Assistance and Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1182

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1182, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Cherokee

Street in Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the “Deputy Donald William Durr, Corporal Zach Moak, and Patrolman James White Memorial Post Office Building”.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America’s public safety officers.

S. 2259

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2259, a bill to amend the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to make improvements.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make it easier to apply for Federal student aid, to make that aid predictable, to amend the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2886

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2886, a bill to prohibit the use of animal testing for cosmetics and the sale of cosmetics tested on animals.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2898, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S. 3067

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3067, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3067, *supra*.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3441

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3441, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to provide exceptions to the prohibition on participation by individuals convicted of certain offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 3677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3677, a bill to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to promulgate an emergency temporary standard to protect employees from occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2, and for other purposes.

S. 3693

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3693, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from producers.

S. 3756

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3756, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a renewable fuel feedstock reimbursement program.

S. 3814

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3814, a bill to establish a loan program for businesses affected by COVID-19 and to extend the loan forgiveness period for paycheck protection program loans made to the hardest hit businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 4003

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) 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. 4106

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4106, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 4129

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4129, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds.

S. 4150

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Arizona

(Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 4154

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4154, a bill to amend the Bank Service Company Act to provide improvements with respect to State banking agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 4186

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 4255

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4255, a bill to amend the CARES Act to establish community investment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4258, a bill to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives.

S. 4299

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4299, a bill to provide grants for tourism and events support and promotion in areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes.

S. 4375

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4375, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 4380

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 4380, a bill to provide redress to the employees of Air America.

S. 4397

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4397, a bill to provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes.

S. 4429

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4429, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study regarding toxic exposure by members of the Armed Forces deployed to Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, to include such members in the open burn pit registry, and for other purposes.

S. 4435

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4435, a bill to prohibit the closure of postal facilities during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 4442

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4442, a bill to amend subtitle A of title II of division A of the CARES Act to provide Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to individuals with mixed income sources, and for other purposes.

S. 4515

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4515, a bill to provide funding for internet-connected devices and associated internet connectivity services.

S. 4535

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4535, a bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., for acts of valor during World War II.

S. CON. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 17, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the last Medal of Honor recipient of World War II, in order to honor the Greatest Generation and the more than 16,000,000 men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States from 1941 to 1945.

S. RES. 566

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 566, a resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Katyn Massacre.

S. RES. 663

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 663, a resolution supporting mask-wearing as an important measure to limit the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

S. RES. 672

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 672, a resolution designating September 2020 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

AMENDMENT NO. 2621

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2621 intended to be proposed to S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4608. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, tomorrow marks an important day in our Nation's history—the birth of the U.S. Air Force.

For 73 years, countless brave American women and men have protected our liberty and our homeland from the skies. They have embarked on air combat missions, guarded our bases and missile sites, and undertaken heroic rescues. They have flown, fought, and won in the air on behalf of our great country. This year also marks another important anniversary in my home State—the 80th year of Hill Air Force Base's service to that mission.

In 1939, Congress approved the construction of an air depot in Northern Utah. The following year, on January 12, the surrounding community came together and broke ground to create what is now known as Hill Air Force Base. Ever since then, it has played an invaluable role in building up our Air Force and supporting our air men and women throughout World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the conflicts that we still face today.

Tucked between the beautiful Wasatch Mountains on the east and the Great Salt Lake on the west, Hill Air Force Base is today home to 22,000 U.S. military personnel. It is the largest single-site employer in the State of Utah—providing nearly \$1.5 billion in jobs each year, with an overall economic impact of about \$3.7 billion an-

nually. Hill houses and ensures mission readiness for some of our best and brightest personnel, including the 75th Air Base Wing, the 388th Fighter Wing, and the 419th Reserve Fighter Wing.

It is also home to the Ogden Air Logistics Complex, which repairs and maintains some of our most cutting-edge aircraft, including the F-22 Raptor, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, the A-10 Thunderbolt II, the T-38 Talon, and, of course, the F-35A Lightning II, the most advanced fighter jet in the world.

The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center on Hill has since 1959 been responsible for supporting the Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile program, the ground-based leg of our nuclear triad.

Just a short distance west of the base, the Utah Test and Training Range contains the largest block of special-use airspace in the continental United States. The range provides an ideal location for the testing and evaluation of weapons and training grounds for combat, ensuring that our airmen are prepared to win any conflict we enter into with decisive and conclusive airpower.

There is no question that Hill Air Force Base oversees vital national security assets for the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force and our country are better off as a result of its existence. Yet there is something even more important that makes Hill the exceptional place that it is, and that is its people. The patriotism, work ethic, and community support are unmatched anywhere else in the country—or in the world for that matter.

Every commander who serves a 2-year rotation at Hill always says the same thing—that the community's support is stronger at Hill Air Force Base than at any other base where any one of them happens to have served.

I am proud to say that, in Utah, we go above and beyond to aid our military and to support their families, as well we should. According to the 2019 "Support of Military Families" report, Utah ranks among the top destinations for military families transitioning to a new duty station. Two of the three highest ranking Air Force installations are in Utah—Hill Air Force Base and the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City.

The key reason for this has been Utah's work to improve professional license reciprocity for military spouses. Among the many challenges that military families face, one of the greatest is that spouses working in fields requiring occupational licenses often suffer huge setbacks as a result of the barriers put in place by these occupational licensing regimes in the various States.

Faced with a 50-State patchwork quilt of licensing laws, these spouses are forced to spend thousands of dollars and sometimes thousands of hours on top of those thousands of dollars just to obtain licensure every single time they move to a new State, even if they

have previously acquired years or even decades of experience in licensure in another State. Oftentimes, by the time the new license in the new State and in the new duty station has been processed, it is already time for the family to move, yet again, for the next military assignment.

This isn't fair. It is not right. It is not how we ought to treat the families of our brave military men and women.

The Department of Labor estimates that 13 percent of military spouses are unemployed, and a more recent Department of Defense study put the rate even higher, at 24 percent. This, needlessly and unjustly, burdens military members and their families. In some instances, it prevents servicemembers from reenlisting, and, in others, it prevents spouses from entering their desired fields in the first place.

Thankfully, some States have already taken steps to move forward in the right direction. They have already stepped up to the plate to address this problem in a meaningful way. In fact, thanks to the diligent work of two prominent Utah lawmakers, Senator Todd Weiler and State Representative Brian Greene, my home State has been one of the first to allow licensure reciprocity for military spouses as long as they meet certain established criteria.

I commend Senator Weiler and Representative Greene for their efforts, and I am encouraged to see other States following the example set by Utah.

The Federal Government has a role to play here, too. While occupational licensing is a field that is generally controlled by the State, we have a role to play insofar as the activities of the States. The regulations imposed by the States end up impacting our military families. Military readiness and talent retention, as well as movement of our troops across the Nation and throughout the world, fall under the oversight responsibilities of Congress. We at the national level should be doing everything in our power to ensure that licensing laws are friendly and flexible and certainly not hostile to or prohibitive of the activities of military spouses and their families.

That is why I am introducing the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act. This bill will simply ensure that, when servicemembers are relocated on military orders, their spouses can receive reciprocity for professional licenses across State lines regardless of where within the United States they might be reassigned.

In order to receive reciprocity under this bill, a license would have to be in good standing, according to the requirements of the jurisdiction that issued the license in the first place, and the spouse must still comply with the State's standards of practice, of discipline, and the fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.

As a State function, protected under principles of federalism and explicitly by the Tenth Amendment, the bill does

nothing to preempt the State's rightful authority to set licensing standards within each State.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who give so much to protect our Nation, whether on the land, the seas, or in the skies. This bill is a simple, just, constitutionally sound solution that will lessen some of the burden placed on them. It will not fix all of the problems, and it will not make easy all of the sacrifices that are made by our military spouses and their families, but it will make some of it easier. That is the least we can do.

As we commemorate the birthday of the Air Force and the anniversary of Hill Air Force Base this week, this bill's passage is the least we can do for our military and their families. We need to get this passed. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in securing its immediate passage.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4609. A bill to withdraw normal trade relations treatment from, and apply certain provisions of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to, products of the People's Republic of China, and to expand the eligibility requirements for products of the People's Republic of China to receive normal trade relations treatment in the future, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 20 years ago this week, Joe Biden and other politicians from both parties gave a gift to the Communist Party: permanent most favored nation status.

Permanent most favored nation status is a trade privilege we grant most countries that are members of the World Trade Organization. It places lower tariffs and fewer restrictions on those countries' goods. But historically our trade laws have treated hostile countries differently—Communist countries, countries that cheat on trade, human rights abusers; in other words, countries exactly like Communist China.

A few of those countries, like Cuba and North Korea, are denied most favored nation status outright. What few goods their miserable socialist economies produce face steep tariffs, sanctions, and other restrictions, which is one reason you don't see too many "Made in North Korea" items on your local store shelves.

Other countries historically have faced a yearly review of their trading privileges with the United States in which the President and Congress can assess the human rights and trade abuses ongoing in those countries and then determine whether it is in our interests to grant those trading privileges for another year.

Communist China was one of those countries subject to yearly review—at least it was until 20 years ago. This yearly review led the spirited debates about whether Communist China should be stripped of its trading privileges or whether it deserved a tem-

porary reprieve. It put a spotlight on the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party, and it used our market as leverage to advance our interests. Of course the Chinese Communist Party didn't like that—not one bit; neither, sadly, did many bankers and businessmen here in America, who seemed a little more concerned about making money than pressuring Communist China to reform. This China lobby pushed hard to get rid of the annual vote and give China permanent most favored nation status, and 20 years ago this week, they finally won.

Here is how Senator Joe Biden defended his vote at the time to give a big gift to Communist China. He said:

Trade concessions are all one-way in this deal. They drop tariffs. They drop non-market barriers. They agree to increased protection of our intellectual property laws.

That is what Joe Biden said at the time, but is that what actually happened? Were all the trade concessions "one way," as he predicted? In fact, they were, but not the way Joe Biden intended because all the trade concessions ended up benefiting Beijing, while devastating America.

The main consequence of that decision was to make it harder to put tariffs on China in response to human rights and trade abuses, and it sent a strong signal to businesses and banks that China was open for business for good. The gold rush to China was on.

In the two decades that followed, America invested more than \$200 billion in China. Most of that money went to building factories and training workers over there, while our factories were dismantled and our workers were laid off.

In the 6 years that followed that vote, manufacturing employment plunged by 18 percent as cheap Chinese goods flooded our market and as our factories were dismantled and offshored to China.

The vote to give trade privileges to Communist China is just more evidence of the alternate reality that politicians like Joe Biden have been living in for decades. There is a consistent pattern. They treat our enemies like friends and our friends like enemies, and the American people suffer because of it.

Twenty years of getting ripped off by China is more than long enough. That is why I am introducing a bill that would repeal China's permanent most favored nation status and return us to the older way, where China's trade status would be assessed by the President and Congress every year.

My bill would make businesses think twice before sending more American jobs overseas to China, and it would add new human rights and trade standards that China must work toward to qualify for most favored nation status. This would put a spotlight on the Communist Party's most recent crimes, including its use of slave labor and concentration camps in Turkestan.

Ultimately, repealing China's most favored nation status would force regular votes in Congress, so politicians like Joe Biden would have to go on the record about whom they serve—the American people or the interests of the Chinese Communist Party.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 4616. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. 4616

*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 "Gilt Edge Mine Conveyance Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 266 acres of National Forest System land within the Gilt Edge Mine Superfund Boundary, as generally depicted on the map.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Gilt Edge Mine Conveyance Act" and dated August 20, 2020.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means State of South Dakota.

#### SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the terms and conditions described in this Act, if the State submits to the Secretary an offer to acquire the Federal land for the market value, as determined by the appraisal under subsection (c), the Secretary shall convey the Federal land to the State.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights;

(2) made by quitclaim deed; and

(3) subject to any other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) APPRAISAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before submitting an offer under subsection (a), the State shall complete an appraisal to determine the market value of the Federal land.

(2) STANDARDS.—The appraisal under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(d) MAP.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be kept on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Forest Service.

(2) CORRECTION OF ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any errors in the map.

(e) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the State shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the market value of the Federal land, as determined by the appraisal under subsection (c).

(f) SURVEY.—The State shall prepare a survey that is satisfactory to the Secretary of the exact acreage and legal description of the Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (a).

(g) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition on the conveyance under subsection (a), the State shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(1) the appraisal under subsection (c); and

(2) the survey under subsection (f).

(h) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—Any proceeds received by the Secretary from the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act") (16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(2) available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, for the maintenance and improvement of land or administration facilities in the Black Hills National Forest in the State.

(i) ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding section 120(h)(3)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)(A)), the Secretary shall not be required to provide any covenant or warranty for the Federal land conveyed to the State under this Act.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 701—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA TO HOLD FREE, FAIR, INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT, PARTICIPATORY, AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 701

Whereas the Union Election Commission of Burma announced that the country will hold general elections on November 8, 2020;

Whereas Burma's previous elections were characterized by controversy, conflict, and disenfranchisement instigated by the military of Burma (the "Tatmadaw"), including in May 1990, November 2010, the April 2012 special elections, and November 2015;

Whereas the ongoing Tatmadaw offensives in Rakhine, southern Chin, Kachin, and northern Shan states continue to cause significant displacement of ethnic groups, creating substantial challenges for the Union Election Commission to generate a verified comprehensive voter list and set up polling stations in conflict affected areas;

Whereas provisions in the 2008 Constitution of Burma allocate 25 percent of parliamentary seats to the military, conferring exceptional powers to the Tatmadaw and thereby affording the Tatmadaw considerable power to suppress basic rights, including freedoms of expression, assembly, and association;

Whereas constitutional amendments proposed by the Union Parliament's Charter Amendment Committee that aimed to democratize the Burmese Constitution and ensure equal rights, including voting rights, for all citizens of Burma were defeated by military lawmakers, further enabling the military to exercise outsized power and influence the country's electoral processes;

Whereas the National League of Democracy political party has repeatedly failed to uphold and protect the rights of ethnic and religious minorities since coming to power in 2015;

Whereas, as of March 31, 2020, during the first four years of Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, over 500 lawsuits against more than 1,000 individuals have used Burma's legal system to repress peaceful expressions critical of the Tatmadaw, civilian government, and Aung San Suu Kyi, resulting in the imprisonment of journalists, such as Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, ethnic activists, and student protestors;

Whereas the Political Parties Registration Law of 2010 limits the right to form and join political parties only to full citizens, thereby severely curtailing the political participation of religious and ethnic minorities, including Rohingya, those of Chinese and Indian descent, internally displaced populations across Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan states, and Burmese refugees in Thailand, Bangladesh, and elsewhere in the region, many of whom had citizenship documents canceled and who face multiple hurdles in gaining citizenship documentation;

Whereas the Government of Burma instituted a blackout, that is still ongoing as of September 1, 2020, of mobile internet services and restricted internet service quality in Rakhine and Chin States, beginning in June 2019, thereby inhibiting the ability to hold free and fair elections in these areas and further exacerbating difficulties in aid distribution and access to potentially life-saving information since the onset of COVID-19;

Whereas the Government of Burma continues to curtail freedom of the press and civil society—which are critical foundations for free and fair elections—as evidenced by government directives to block independent and ethnic media sites, and the anticipated restrictions by the Union Election Commission on voter education and election observation activities;

Whereas Burma's 2015 election saw the disenfranchisement of significant segments of the population, particularly of Rohingya ethnicity, but also including those of Chinese and Indian descent, Muslims, and other internally displaced persons;

Whereas ongoing conflict in 2015 was used to justify the cancellation of elections in 7 townships and more than 400 ward and village tracts, mostly in Kachin, Shan, and Kayin states;

Whereas Burma's 1982 citizenship law stripped Rohingya of their Burmese citizenship and subsequent policies rendered them stateless and disenfranchised, despite having the right to vote as recently as 2010 and ability to serve in parliament as recently as 2015;

Whereas in 2017, the Tatmadaw commenced a genocide against Rohingya civilians in Rakhine state, causing over 740,000 Rohingya refugees to flee into Bangladesh, joining over 200,000 who had been previously displaced in prior waves of anti-Rohingya violence, resulting in more than 1,000,000 Rohingya refugees not present in Burma for the election;

Whereas the Government of Burma has not created conditions conducive to repatriation and political and electoral participation of Rohingya refugees and has not made progress on the most crucial of the 88 recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission identified by Rohingya refugees as prerequisites to voluntary repatriation, including freedom of movement, provision of civil documentation, and a transparent pathway to restoration of full citizenship;

Whereas the Tatmadaw's senior generals have been sanctioned by the United States Government for perpetrating gross human rights violations and are subject to ongoing investigations into their conduct by both the

International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice; and

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar stated on July 13, 2020, “The people of Myanmar deserve a free and fair election this November and this includes respect for the right to vote regardless of one’s race, ethnicity or religion, freedom of expression and assembly, and access to information and a free press. It will also require that steps are taken now to assure that those in conflict areas will be able to exercise their rights.”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of free, fair, inclusive, transparent, participatory, and credible elections in Burma and that the 2020 elections mark a critical juncture in Burma’s democratic process;

(2) stands with the people of Burma in their ambition for sustainable peace, a genuine democracy, and the realization of fundamental human rights for all;

(3) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State to—

(A) support Burma’s democratic transition, including by emphasizing the importance to that transition of this election as well as of the Government of Burma undertaking a credible and sustainable process of genuine national and ethnic reconciliation;

(B) support free, fair, inclusive, transparent, participatory, and credible elections in Burma, including by working to ensure that the Tatmadaw and its affiliates do not interfere with vigorous public debate or the mechanism of the electoral process and that other government officials do not use official resources for electioneering;

(C) call for a ceasefire in all Burmese states and localities to ensure that conflict is not used as an excuse to deny people the right to vote;

(D) support the right to vote for internally displaced persons, refugees, and other Burmese communities outside of Burma, with specific attention to the disenfranchised Rohingya people;

(E) condemn any action taken by the government, political parties, military, or Union Election Commission to limit civil society participation in the election, including prohibitions on voter education and election observation, or otherwise restrict civil society or humanitarian space in the lead up to the election or in the post-election period;

(F) ensure that United States-based social media companies, including Facebook, not allow their platforms to be used as vehicles for spreading misinformation or advocating violence or voter intimidation to suppress voter participation; and

(G) ensure that the Department of State’s 2020 Country Report on Human Rights Practices includes an extensive evaluation of the Burmese election, including an assessment of inclusivity, participation, and interference;

(4) calls upon the United States Government, in partnership with the international community, to ensure that the Union Election Commission functions as an independent electoral management body that establishes a regulatory framework that fosters fair, open, and transparent electoral processes, and that the Tatmadaw publicly affirms that it will honor the results of such elections;

(5) calls upon the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to work with like-minded regional and international organizations, such as the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the Asian Network for Free Elections, People’s Alliance for

Credible Elections (PACE), and the Carter Center, to ensure that the general elections in Burma meet international standards of free and fair elections, including by seeking full and unimpeded access to all aspects of the electoral process for international and domestic observers; and

(6) calls on the President to consider sanctioning individuals within the Government of Burma, the Tatmadaw, and among military associated businesses and ultranationalist groups, whom the United States Government determines undermine free, fair, inclusive, transparent, participatory, and credible elections in Burma or the safety of such elections.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 702—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS “NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 702

Whereas more than 3,100,000 men in the United States are living with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 9 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetimes and 1 in 41 men in the United States will die from prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States;

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2020, 191,930 men will be diagnosed with, and more than 33,330 men will die of, prostate cancer;

Whereas 40.9 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in men under the age of 65;

Whereas the odds of developing prostate cancer rise rapidly after age 50;

Whereas African-American men suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is significantly higher than that of White men and have more than double the prostate cancer mortality rate than that of White men;

Whereas having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles the risk of a man developing prostate cancer, with a higher risk for men who have a brother with the disease and the highest risk for men with several affected relatives;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease at the earlier, more treatable stages, which could increase the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 31 percent of men survive more than 5 years if diagnosed with prostate cancer after the cancer has metastasized;

Whereas there are typically no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer in the early stages, making appropriate screening critical;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2020, the Director of the National Institutes of Health will support approximately \$287,000,000 in research projects focused specifically on prostate cancer;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2020, Congress appropriated \$110,000,000 for the Prostate Cancer Research Program of the Department of Defense;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of men and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to encourage research—

(i) to improve screening and treatment for prostate cancer;

(ii) to discover the causes of prostate cancer; and

(iii) to develop a cure for prostate cancer; and

(C) to continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 703—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, AS NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 703

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas 539 Hispanic-Serving Institutions operate in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions represent 17 percent of all nonprofit institutions of higher education, yet serve 26.8 percent of all students and 67 percent of all Hispanic students, enrolling 2,533,333 Hispanics;

Whereas, as of September 2020, the number of “emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions”, defined as institutions that do not yet meet the threshold of 25 percent Hispanic full-time equivalent enrollment but serve a Hispanic student population of between 15 and 24.9 percent, stands at 352 institutions operating in 34 States and Puerto Rico;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 25 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the institutions are located;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are leading efforts to increase Hispanic participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (commonly referred to as “STEM”);

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are engines of economic mobility and a major contributor to the economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas, of the institutions of higher education ranked by Opportunity Insights based on the economic mobility of the graduates of those institutions, 7 of the top 10, including the top-ranked institution, are Hispanic-Serving Institutions;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

(2) designates the week beginning September 14, 2020, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 704—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GENERAL THOMAS P. STAFFORD AND RECOGNIZING HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED STATES SPACE PROGRAM

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 704

Whereas General Thomas Patten Stafford was born in Weatherford, Oklahoma, on September 17, 1930, to Thomas and Mary Ellen Stafford;

Whereas General Stafford graduated with honors from the United States Naval Academy in 1952, after which he joined the newly formed United States Air Force;

Whereas General Stafford entered the United States Air Force Experimental Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in 1958 and graduated in 1959, receiving the A.B. Honts Award as the outstanding graduate, and thereafter becoming an instructor and writing flight performance and aerodynamics textbooks for the school;

Whereas, in 1962, General Stafford was chosen among the second group of astronauts by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to serve in projects Gemini and Apollo;

Whereas General Stafford developed techniques for and piloted Gemini VI in 1965, completing the first rendezvous in space, and commanded Gemini IX in 1966, demonstrating 3 different types of rendezvous, including the rendezvous that would be used in future Apollo lunar missions;

Whereas, in 1969, General Stafford commanded Apollo 10, piloted the first lunar module to descend within 9 miles of the Moon, designated the first lunar landing site, performed reconnaissance of future Apollo

landing sites, and completed each of the essential steps in the final preparation for the upcoming Moon landing, including the first rendezvous around the Moon;

Whereas General Stafford and his crew won the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Special Trustees “Emmy” Award for initiating development of and taking the first colored images from space;

Whereas General Stafford set the record for the fastest speed traveled by a human during the return of the Apollo 10 mission, a record standing today and documented in the Guinness World Book of Records, at 24,791 miles per hour or Mach 36;

Whereas General Stafford’s final space mission took place in 1975 as commander of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, during which General Stafford and Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov shook hands upon docking, completing the first international space flight and helping set into motion the end of the Cold War;

Whereas General Stafford received the Nobel Peace Prize nomination for his role in this mission;

Whereas General Stafford left NASA in 1975 to serve as commander of the Air Force Test Flight Center at Edwards Air Force Base;

Whereas General Stafford, as Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development, and Acquisition, established requirements for and initiated development of the first stealth aircraft, the F-117A, which was the only stealth attack aircraft in the world for 25 years, and initiated the Air Force roadmap for the Advance Superiority Fighter still in use today;

Whereas, just prior to his retirement in 1979, General Stafford wrote the specifications for and initiated the development of the Advance Technology Bomber, now known as the B-2 Stealth Bomber, the only stealth bomber force in the world today, and initiated the development of the AGM-129 Stealth Cruise Missile;

Whereas, from 1991 to 1993, General Stafford led NASA’s efforts to repair and service the Hubble Telescope and was presented with the NASA Public Service Award;

Whereas, in 2011, General Stafford was awarded the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy for pioneering achievements that have led the way to the Moon, to greater international cooperation in space, and to a safer United States;

Whereas General Stafford completed over 507 hours in space flight time and flew more than 127 types of aircraft and helicopters during his career, along with 4 kinds of spacecraft and 3 types of boosters;

Whereas General Stafford has advised several presidents on space policy and is currently the Chairman of the NASA Advisory Task Force on the International Space Station;

Whereas September 17, 2020, marks General Stafford’s 90th birthday; and

Whereas General Stafford has given a lifetime of service to the Nation as a member of the Armed Forces, at NASA, and in other positions within the Executive branch: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes General Stafford’s immense contribution to the Space Race and the United States’ advancement in space policy and exploration;

(2) commends General Stafford for his extraordinary dedication and service to the United States throughout his distinguished career; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to General Stafford.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 705—PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, TO BE “NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KING, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BURR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 705

Whereas, across the United States, clean and readily abundant forms of energy are powering more homes and businesses than ever before;

Whereas clean energy generation is readily available from zero- and low-emissions sources;

Whereas the clean energy sector is a growing part of the economy and has been a key driver of economic growth in the United States in recent years;

Whereas technological innovation can further reduce costs and increase deployment of clean energy sources;

Whereas the “2020 U.S. Energy and Employment Report” found that—

(1) at the end of 2019, the energy sector in the United States employed 6,800,000 individuals; and

(2) in 2019, the energy sector in the United States generated more than 120,000 new jobs;

Whereas the scaling of clean energy is essential to reducing harmful pollution;

Whereas clean energy jobs are inherently local, contribute to the growth of local economies, and cannot be outsourced due to the on-site nature of construction, installation, and maintenance; and

Whereas innovative clean energy solutions and clean energy jobs are part of the energy future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of September 21 through September 25, 2020, to be “National Clean Energy Week”;

(2) encourages individuals and organizations across the United States to support commonsense solutions that address the economic, environmental, and energy needs of the United States in the 21st century;

(3) encourages the Federal Government, States, municipalities, and individuals to invest in clean, low-emitting energy technologies; and

(4) recognizes the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in ensuring the energy leadership of the United States in the global marketplace and supporting low-cost, clean, and reliable energy in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 706—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2020 AS “SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH” IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 706

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn African-American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD is often severely limited;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported, based on the evidence available as of September 2020, that individuals of all ages who are affected by SCD are at increased risk of developing severe illness from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2020 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 707—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, AS “NATIONAL POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 707

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 1, 2020, as “National Poll Worker Recruitment Day”;

(2) recognizes the need for, and appreciation of, the service of poll workers; and

(3) encourages eligible people to help America vote in the 2020 election by serving as poll workers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 708—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2020, AS “NATIONAL CONCUSSION AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 708

Whereas mild traumatic brain injury, otherwise known as a “concussion”, is an important health concern for children, teens, and adults;

Whereas, according to information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—

(1) there are as many as 1,600,000 to 3,800,000 sports-related concussions annually;

(2) as many as 5,300,000 individuals live with a disability because of a traumatic brain injury;

(3) from 2001 to 2012, the rate of emergency department visits for sports- and recreation-related injuries involving a diagnosis of concussion or traumatic brain injury, alone or in combination with other injuries, more than doubled among children 19 years of age or younger, and, in 2012, an estimated 329,290 children were treated in the United States for sports- and recreation-related injuries that included a diagnosis of concussion or traumatic brain injury; and

(4) current data sources may only capture 1 out of every 9 concussions across the United States;

Whereas the seriousness of concussions should not be minimized in athletics, and return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols can help ensure recovery;

Whereas concussions can affect physical, mental, and social health, and a greater awareness and understanding of proper diagnosis and management of concussions is critical to improved outcomes; and

Whereas the Senate can raise awareness about concussions among the medical community and the public: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of September 18, 2020, as “National Concussion Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), otherwise known as a “concussion”, is an important health concern;

(3) commends the organizations and individuals that raise awareness about mild traumatic brain injury;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together—

(A) to raise awareness about the effects of concussions; and

(B) to improve the understanding of proper diagnosis and management of concussions; and

(5) encourages further research and prevention efforts to ensure that fewer individuals experience the most adverse effects of mild traumatic brain injury.

SENATE RESOLUTION 709—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE AUGUST 13, 2020, AND SEPTEMBER 11, 2020, ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA ARE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. REED, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. JONES, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 709

Whereas President Donald J. Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, announced on August 13, 2020, an agreement on the full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and King Hamad al Khalifa of Bahrain, announced on September 11, 2020, an

agreement on the full normalization of relations between Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain;

Whereas the United Arab Emirates is the first Gulf Arab state to announce formal relations with Israel, followed closely by Bahrain;

Whereas, under each agreement, the two countries agree to the establishment of reciprocal embassies and the exchange of Ambassadors;

Whereas opening direct ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates could begin to transform the region by spurring economic growth, enhancing technological innovation, and forging closer people-to-people relations;

Whereas the agreements could promote investment, tourism, direct flights, security, telecommunications, technology, energy, healthcare, culture, and the environment;

Whereas the United States, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates share a commitment to promoting stability through diplomatic engagement, increased economic integration, and closer security coordination;

Whereas Israel and the United Arab Emirates will partner with the United States to launch a Strategic Agenda for the Middle East to expand diplomatic, trade, and security cooperation;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel announced on September 11, 2020, the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain;

Whereas the United States, Bahrain, and Israel said in a joint statement that “opening direct dialogue and ties between these two dynamic societies and advanced economies will continue the positive transformation of the Middle East and increase stability, security, and prosperity in the region”;

Whereas opening direct ties between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain could begin to transform the region by spurring economic growth, enhancing technological innovation, and forging closer people-to-people relations;

Whereas these historic agreements could help advance peace between Israel and other Arab nations and further diplomatic openings throughout the region;

Whereas, in 2019, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan proclaimed the year 2019 “the Year of Tolerance” in the United Arab Emirates and also established the Abrahamic House of Fraternity as a project designed to promote religious diversity and tolerance;

Whereas support for peace between Israel and her neighbors has longstanding bipartisan support in Congress and among the American people;

Whereas these agreements build upon the decades-long leadership of the United States in helping Israel broker peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and promoting peace talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians; and

Whereas the parties pledged to continue their efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, and enduring resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Governments and people of Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Bahrain on reaching these historic agreements;

(2) encourages other Arab nations to establish full relations with Israel with the vision of realizing full peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors; and

(3) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states—a demo-

cratic Jewish State of Israel and a viable, democratic Palestinian state—living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition.

SENATE RESOLUTION 710—COMMEMORATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED AND COMMEMORATED BY THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, IN ISRAEL, AND AROUND THE WORLD, AND RECOGNIZING THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 710

Whereas the Jewish community in the United States has contributed in varied and significant ways to all areas of life in the United States since Jewish immigrants first arrived on the shores of the United States in 1654;

Whereas, in 2020, the High Holidays recognized and celebrated by the Jewish people in the United States and around the world will begin on September 18, 2020, with Rosh Hashanah, and conclude on September 28, 2020, with Yom Kippur;

Whereas Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins at sundown on September 18, 2020, the first day of Tishrei, 5781 on the Hebrew calendar;

Whereas Rosh Hashanah is also known as “Yom Teruah”, the Day of Sounding of the Shofar, the ancient ram’s horn;

Whereas the traditional greeting for Rosh Hashanah in Hebrew is “Shana Tova u’Metukah”, which means “have a happy and sweet new year”;

Whereas Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, begins at sundown on September 27, 2020, the tenth day of Tishrei, 5781 on the Hebrew calendar, and is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people, who spend the day praying united as one people; and

Whereas the traditional greeting for Yom Kippur in Hebrew is “G’mar Hatima Tova”, which means “may you be inscribed in the book of life” and is an offering of a healthy, peaceful, and fulfilling year: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) demonstrates solidarity with, and support for, members of the Jewish community in the United States, in Israel, and throughout the world;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the many accomplishments and contributions of the Jewish community in the United States;

(3) recommits to combating all forms of anti-Semitism, which threaten Jews and non-Jews alike; and

(4) wishes the Jewish people of the United States and around the world a “Chag Sameach” (“happy holidays” in Hebrew) and a sweet new year full of peace and prosperity.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2657. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1646, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Augustine, Florida, as the “Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”.

SA 2658. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. HASSAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 924, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse in primary and secondary education.

SA 2659. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. SMITH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1160, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to increase support for mental health.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2657.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1646, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Augustine, Florida, as the “Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”; as follows:

On page 2, line 2, insert before the period the following: “or the ‘Leo C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic’”.

**SA 2658.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. HASSAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 924, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse in primary and secondary education; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Jenna Quinn Law”.

**SEC. 2. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS FIELD INITIATED GRANTS.**

Section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS FIELD INITIATED GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities, for periods of up to 5 years, in support of field-initiated innovation projects that advance, establish, or implement innovative evidence-based or evidence-informed child sexual abuse awareness and prevention programs by—

“(A) improving student awareness of child sexual abuse, including how to recognize, prevent, and safely report child sexual abuse;

“(B) training teachers, school employees, and other mandatory reporters and adults who work with children in a professional or volunteer capacity, including with respect to recognizing child sexual abuse and safely reporting child sexual abuse; or

“(C) providing information to parents and guardians of students about child sexual abuse awareness and prevention, including how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse and how to discuss child sexual abuse with a child.”.

**SA 2659.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. SMITH) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1160, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to increase support for mental health; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Family Mental Health in CAPTA Act”.

**SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT.**

(a) NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE.—Section 103(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “effective programs,” and inserting “evidence-based and evidence-informed programs;”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4), the following:

“(5) maintain and disseminate, as appropriate, information that describes best practices for making appropriate referrals related to, and addressing, the health, mental health, and developmental needs of victims of child abuse or neglect;”.

(b) RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.—Section 104 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5105) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) effective approaches to interagency collaboration between the child welfare protection system, the juvenile justice system, and other relevant agencies engaged with children and families that improve the delivery of services and treatment (including related to domestic violence, mental health, or substance use disorders) for continuity of treatment plan and services as children transition between systems;”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (N) and (O) as subparagraphs (P) and (Q), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (M) the following:

“(N) methods to address geographic, racial, and cultural disparities in the child welfare system, including a focus on access to services;”

“(O) evidence-based and evidence-informed programs to prevent child abuse and neglect in families that have not had contact with the child welfare system;” and

(iv) in subparagraph (P), as redesignated by clause (ii), by striking “subparagraph (O)” and inserting “subparagraph (Q)”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1)(O)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(Q)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) CONTENT.—The technical assistance under paragraph (1) shall be designed to, as applicable, promote best practices for addressing child abuse and neglect in families with complex needs, such as families who have experienced domestic violence, substance use disorders, and adverse childhood experiences.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) ways to reduce geographic, racial, and cultural disparities in the child protection system, which may include engaging law enforcement, education, health, and other relevant systems in such efforts.”.

(c) GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) training in early childhood, child, and adolescent development and the impact of child abuse and neglect, and the long-term impacts of adverse childhood experiences; and

“(E) training to improve coordination among child protective service agencies, entities providing health care services (including mental health and substance use disorder services), and community resources, for purposes of conducting evaluations related to substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect; and

“(F) training regarding the links between child abuse and neglect and domestic violence, and approaches to working with families with mental health needs or substance use disorder;”.

(d) APPLICATION.—Section 204(7) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d(7)) is amended to read as follows:

“(7) a description of the criteria that the entity will use to—

“(A) select and fund local programs, and how the lead entity will take into consideration the local program’s ability to—

“(i) collaborate with other community-based organizations and service providers and engage in long-term and strategic planning with respect to community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect;

“(ii) meaningfully partner with parents in the development, implementation, oversight, and evaluation of services;

“(iii) reduce barriers to access to community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, including for diverse, underserved, and at-risk populations; or

“(B) develop or provide community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, and provide a description of how such activities are evidence-based or evidence-informed;”.

**SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3, by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) the terms ‘Indian’, ‘Indian Tribe’, and ‘Tribal organization’ have the meanings given the terms ‘Indian’, ‘Indian tribe’, and ‘tribal organization’, respectively, in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b);”;

(2) by striking “tribe” each place such term appears (other than in section 3(5)) and inserting “Tribe”; and

(3) by striking “tribal” each place such term appears (other than in section 3(5)) and inserting “Tribal”.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING**

I, Senator JACKY ROSEN, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of John M. Barger, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board dated September 17, 2020.

Mr. President, I rise today to deliver my formal notice of intent to object to

the nomination of John M. Barger of California to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at a time to be determined, to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and executive session on nominations.

**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. 702 through S. Res. 707.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, 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 (S. Res. 702, S. Res. 703, S. Res. 704, S. Res. 705, and S. Res. 706) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolution (S. Res. 707) was agreed to.

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

**DESIGNATING THE COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AS THE "LEO C. CHASE JR. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC"**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1646 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1646) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Augustine, Florida, as the "Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rubio amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2657) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the designation of the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Augustine, Florida)

On page 2, line 2, insert before the period the following: "or the 'Leo C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic'".

The bill (S. 1646), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1646

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

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF LEO C. CHASE JR. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 207 Stratton Road, St. Augustine, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Leo C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

**DESIGNATING THE CLINIC OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN BEND, OREGON, AS THE "ROBERT D. MAXWELL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC"**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4027 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4072) to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bend, Oregon, as the "Robert D. Maxwell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4072) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4072

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

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ROBERT D. MAXWELL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2650 NE Courtney Drive, Bend, Oregon, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Robert D. Maxwell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "Robert D. Maxwell VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the Robert D. Maxwell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

**JENNA QUINN LAW**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 924 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 924) to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to require training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse in primary and secondary education.

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

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

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

The amendment (No. 2658), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Jenna Quinn Law".

**SEC. 2. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS FIELD INITIATED GRANTS.**

Section 105(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(8) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS FIELD INITIATED GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities, for periods of up to 5 years, in support of field-initiated innovation projects that advance, establish, or implement innovative evidence-based or evidence-informed child sexual abuse awareness and prevention programs by—

"(A) improving student awareness of child sexual abuse, including how to recognize, prevent, and safely report child sexual abuse;

"(B) training teachers, school employees, and other mandatory reporters and adults who work with children in a professional or volunteer capacity, including with respect to recognizing child sexual abuse and safely reporting child sexual abuse; or

"(C) providing information to parents and guardians of students about child sexual abuse awareness and prevention, including how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse and how to discuss child sexual abuse with a child."

The bill (S. 924), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**SUPPORTING FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH IN CAPTA ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 1160 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1160) to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to increase support for mental health.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the Smith substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be 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. 2659), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Family Mental Health in CAPTA Act”.

**SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT.**

(a) NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE.—Section 103(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “effective programs,” and inserting “evidence-based and evidence-informed programs.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4), the following:

“(5) maintain and disseminate, as appropriate, information that describes best practices for making appropriate referrals related to, and addressing, the health, mental health, and developmental needs of victims of child abuse or neglect.”;

(b) RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.—Section 104 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5105) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) effective approaches to interagency collaboration between the child welfare protection system, the juvenile justice system, and other relevant agencies engaged with children and families that improve the delivery of services and treatment (including related to domestic violence, mental health, or substance use disorders) for continuity of treatment plan and services as children transition between systems.”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (N) and (O) as subparagraphs (P) and (Q), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (M) the following:

“(N) methods to address geographic, racial, and cultural disparities in the child welfare system, including a focus on access to services;

“(O) evidence-based and evidence-informed programs to prevent child abuse and neglect in families that have not had contact with the child welfare system.”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (P), as redesignated by clause (ii), by striking “subparagraph (O)” and inserting “subparagraph (Q)”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1)(O)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(Q)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) CONTENT.—The technical assistance under paragraph (1) shall be designed to, as applicable, promote best practices for addressing child abuse and neglect in families with complex needs, such as families who have experienced domestic violence, substance use disorders, and adverse childhood experiences.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) ways to reduce geographic, racial, and cultural disparities in the child protection system, which may include engaging law enforcement, education, health, and other relevant systems in such efforts.”.

(c) GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) training in early childhood, child, and adolescent development and the impact of child abuse and neglect, and the long-term impacts of adverse childhood experiences; and

“(E) training to improve coordination among child protective service agencies, entities providing health care services (including mental health and substance use disorder services), and community resources, for purposes of conducting evaluations related to substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect; and

“(F) training regarding the links between child abuse and neglect and domestic violence, and approaches to working with families with mental health needs or substance use disorder.”.

(d) APPLICATION.—Section 204(7) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d(7)) is amended to read as follows:

“(7) a description of the criteria that the entity will use to—

“(A) select and fund local programs, and how the lead entity will take into consideration the local program’s ability to—

“(i) collaborate with other community-based organizations and service providers and engage in long-term and strategic planning with respect to community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect;

“(ii) meaningfully partner with parents in the development, implementation, oversight, and evaluation of services;

“(iii) reduce barriers to access to community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, including for diverse, underserved, and at-risk populations; or

“(B) develop or provide community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, and provide a description of how such activities are evidence-based or evidence-informed.”.

**SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3, by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) the terms ‘Indian’, ‘Indian Tribe’, and ‘Tribal organization’ have the meanings given the terms ‘Indian’, ‘Indian tribe’, and ‘tribal organization’, respectively, in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b);”;

(2) by striking “tribe” each place such term appears (other than in section 3(5)) and inserting “Tribe”; and

(3) by striking “tribal” each place such term appears (other than in section 3(5)) and inserting “Tribal”.

The bill (S. 1160), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4618

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4618) making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, September 21; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Meyers nomination; and finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 3 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

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 5:02 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 21, 2020, at 3 p.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

SHARON E. GOODIE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE PATRICIA A. BRODERICK, TERM EXPIRED.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 17, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY

IAIN D. JOHNSTON, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

FRANKLIN ULYSES VALDERRAMA, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.