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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Righteous God, refresh our lawmakers as a river in the desert and as the cool shadows of large trees in a hot and weary land. May our Senators find in You a hope that illuminates the paths they travel as You guide them with Your great love.

Lord, fill them with such wisdom that they will solve our Nation's most challenging problems, making the rough places smooth and the crooked places straight. Deal favorably with them because of Your great love and mercy. Inspire them to live lives that will permit You to bless our Nation and world.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

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

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

USDA RULEMAKING REVISIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to tell my colleagues about a disappointment I have in some U.S. Department of Agriculture recent revisions of a proposed rule.

Here is the background: I have long fought to strengthen the safety net so

that Iowa family farmers and other farmers are protected from natural disasters or other unforeseen events that they have no control over, like flooding or wind storms.

Family farmers work hard to make sure that Americans have food on the table. These same family farmers operate on very thin margins. These farmers ought to qualify for help during tough times since losing these operations would risk our Nation's food supply.

However, taxpayers and nonfarm State lawmakers may stop supporting a Federal farm safety net if spending programs aren't held accountable or left unchecked. Losing urban support for this farm safety net is why I am deeply concerned about the USDA's recent proposal to roll back rules that put teeth in the definition of a legal term called "actively engaged in farming."

Long-lost relatives, by changing these rules, who have probably never lifted a finger on the farm should not get away with collecting farm payments. Farm payments should only go to operators that—and I have a definition that is a little facetious but somewhat realistic—unless they have dirt under their fingernails.

A few weeks ago, I recently complimented Secretary Perdue on what I thought were very strong rules that were being proposed at that time. Now the USDA's decision to backtrack on their rules means more megafarmers will take advantage of this loophole and people who aren't actively engaged in farming will benefit from farm payments. I am disappointed with this turnaround.

Once again, Congress must do what it can to oppose these loopholes so that we have only family farmers benefiting from the farm program.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, when I opened the Senate on Monday, I repeated something Republicans have stated for months now. We need to put partisanship aside and get more bipartisan, targeted coronavirus relief out to the American people.

Dating back to the summer, and all fall, Senate Republicans tried repeatedly to advance hundreds of billions of dollars to prevent layoffs, protect small businesses, fund vaccine distribution, and continue assisting workers who have already lost their jobs due to the crisis. Every time, the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader blocked our efforts. It had to be the entirety of their leftwing wish list or nothing at all.

Finally, this week, we are seeing cracks starting to form in the Democratic leaders' stone wall, and thank goodness for the country that that is finally happening. In the last several days, the Democratic leaders have signaled a new willingness to engage in good faith and, yesterday, a number of Senate Democrats proposed a different compromise.

But at the risk of repeating something we all know, making law will not just require the Senate's approval but also the signature of the President of the United States.

So, after several conversations with the Secretary of the Treasury and the White House Chief of Staff, I put forward yesterday another proposal reflecting what the President is ready to sign into law. What we have proposed would give universities and nonprofits the legal certainty they need. It would create a second draw on the job-saving Paycheck Protection Program to prevent more layoffs, and it would extend

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



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two important emergency unemployment benefit programs that were created by the CARES Act and which will expire in December without action. These programs have been championed by our Democratic colleagues, particularly the senior Senator from Virginia, and we made sure they were included in the framework.

I hope our Democratic colleagues will finally let Congress pass a bipartisan bill that the President will likely sign into law and do so soon.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on a completely different matter, the Senate revolves around people.

The body consists of 100 individuals. One of our key duties concerns the personnel whom we examine and confirm, and there are all these dedicated staff professionals who make this place go.

Today, it is both my great honor and regrettable task to honor someone who secured all three parts of that senatorial triple crown: the senior Senator from Tennessee, the chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, LAMAR ALEXANDER.

LAMAR first set foot here as a talented young staffer. Decades later, he appeared before us as a supersuccessful former Governor and university president with a nomination to the Cabinet. And for the past 18 years, the other 99 of us have gotten to serve alongside one of the most impactful Senators in modern American history.

I have known LAMAR for more than 50 years. We first met in 1969, when I was working for a freshman Senator named Marlow Cook and he worked down in the executive branch. We met at the suggestion of his previous boss and mentor, Senator Howard Baker. Either he suspected our paths might cross again later or he just saw two serious young guys in need of some livelier social lives. Now, this may shock the Presiding Officer, but I am afraid young LAMAR ALEXANDER and young MITCH MCCONNELL did not exactly go crazy and paint the town red. But I will take a five-decade friendship any day.

Both of us headed back home to continue our careers. It was already clear that a bright future in elected office likely lay in store for him.

LAMAR's reverence for public service started early. I believe he was about 10 years old when his father, himself a longtime local official, took him to meet his hometown Congressman, Howard Baker, Sr. The father of his future boss shook the boy's hand and handed him a dime. I think LAMAR was hooked, then and there.

Decades later, when LAMAR announced his 1996 Presidential run, he was in his hometown of Maryville. His speech began with a story about his mother. She had read where he had lovingly described his upbringing as lower middle class, and she had taken umbrage to that. After all, LAMAR had a

library card and music lessons. In her words, "everything you needed that was important."

And I would certainly add loving parents to that list.

This son of two educators grew up steeped in the importance of schooling. He would later reference his mother's work in early childhood education by saying he is probably the only Secretary of Education in history—in history—who spent 5 years in kindergarten.

That passion would remain throughout LAMAR's career. His cutting-edge focus on improving opportunities and reforming education benefited Tennessee hugely in the 1980s, and our whole Nation during his time in President Bush 41's Cabinet.

But that isn't the only way LAMAR has honored his roots. You couldn't walk across the entire State of Tennessee in a plaid shirt, get elected Governor before the age of 40, and serve more combined years as Governor and Senator than anyone else in the history of the Volunteer State without becoming entirely intertwined with the place. Every corner of the State is better for his service. His groundbreaking work to bring home good-paying auto jobs has paid dividends, so has his major focus on infrastructure and better roads.

But alas, even building a statewide and then national reputation does not always, always, translate into honest-to-goodness celebrity status.

I understand that following LAMAR's Governorship, a stretch of highway in Maryville was fittingly named the Lamar Alexander Parkway to honor him. I further understand that sometime later, LAMAR was driving on that very road and stopped for breakfast. When it was time to pay for his food, he handed over his credit card. The woman on the other side of the counter glanced at the name on the card, and then back at LAMAR. "Hey," she said, "were you named after this road?"

Now, as a man of faith, I am certain LAMAR knows Luke, chapter 4: "No prophet is accepted in his hometown." Apparently, neither are statesmen to be recognized on their own highway.

Here in the Senate, too, LAMAR's impact has been massive, and the convictions that fueled it have been straightforward. He starts with a very firm framework: the right-of-center principles that Ronald Reagan used to rebuild a confident, prosperous America and beat communism. The Federal Government isn't meant to take over our States, neighborhoods, or our lives. But LAMAR's career has also confirmed that conservative governance is not a contradiction in terms. There are genuine public goods it is the government's job to secure: public roads, public lands, public education, certain aspects of public health. He has dedicated himself to making those things better and stronger, especially for those who need opportunity the most.

This vision aligns with the greatest traditions of the Republican Party and

indeed of American history—government that is limited but effective and smart; a system where power stays close to the people and working families can thrive and prosper. These principles made our colleague a nationally known leader long before he was sworn in as a Senator. But I would say they have reached full flourishing with Chairman ALEXANDER's astonishingly effective leadership right here in this body.

Students, families, and teachers benefit every day from the Every Student Succeeds Act, Chairman ALEXANDER's historic, bipartisan makeover following No Child Left Behind. One report called it "the largest devolution of federal control to the states in a quarter century."

Millions of medically vulnerable Americans also have their champion in our friend from Tennessee. The overwhelmingly bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act was the single most important law of the entire 114th Congress. It is paving the way for more innovation and faster innovation to benefit patients who have no time to waste—another LAMAR ALEXANDER production.

His leadership was instrumental in the landmark legislation we passed 2 years ago to combat the opioid epidemic.

Just this year, he was the driving force behind the Great American Outdoors Act, the Senate's historic project to secure our parks and public lands for generations to come.

The list doesn't end there. There have been other education wins, like permanent funding for historically Black colleges and universities and simplifying the student loan process. There have been laws like the Music Modernization Act, which LAMAR hammered out with our former colleague, Senator Hatch—a legislative duet from two musical virtuosos in their own rights.

Senator ALEXANDER knows about 50 different issues as well as most Senators know 3 or 4. He is hands down one of the most brilliant, most thoughtful, and most effective legislators any of us have ever seen.

He likes to say this about the Senate: "It's hard to get here; it's hard to stay here; so while you're here, you might as well try to accomplish something." Well, mission accomplished—and then some.

If you reviewed Senator ALEXANDER's resume and results without knowing the man, you might suspect he arrived as an established hotshot and threw his weight around. But even as LAMAR has mastered the levers of power here, his character has never been captured by Washington. LAMAR has remained clear that he has just been on loan from Tennessee the whole time.

So we have had more than just a master legislator to call upon; we have been blessed with a sober, honest, and deliberate statesman—someone who cares as much about preserving this institution as the near-term results he can wring out of it.

From daily conversations to committee business, to the most dramatic moments on the floor, whether in the minority or the majority, LAMAR has taken pains to treat his colleagues exactly as he would hope to be treated in their shoes. He has worked to build consensus in a consensus-based body. He has cherished and defended the Senate the Framers designed.

It is no exaggeration to say LAMAR ALEXANDER is one of the most brilliant people I have met in my life. His mind is a steel trap. I understand he likes to keep his staff experts locked around a conference table for long sessions, turning a complex issue over and over until they have arrived at the best path forward for the country and the most precise, concise way to communicate it. He has a mastery of policy, mastery of the English language, and I can't forget to mention my friend's good cheer.

LAMAR really does live by the motto he inherited from his good friend and fellow Tennessean, the late author Alex Haley: "Find the good and praise it."

I myself have leaned on LAMAR's wisdom for many years, but I think I have learned just as much from his optimism, his can-do spirit, and his ability to look on the bright side and then discern how some more hard work can make it brighter still. So I am going to miss our regular dinners, even with our weeknight scheduling and official one-drink limit. Like I said, we weren't exactly party animals in our twenties either.

But here is something else that never changes: How reassuring it is to be weighing a thorny question and see LAMAR ALEXANDER seated across the table. You know, the Senate can be all-consuming. It is not only our colleagues but their spouses and loved ones who all get folded into the extended family around here. So I am extremely grateful that it turned out that MITCH MCCONNELL was not the most important young person LAMAR ALEXANDER met during his stint in Washington—not by a mile.

Honey Alexander is a remarkable woman. She is a force of nature and incredible partner for LAMAR. She raised a young family in the Governor's mansion for 8 years. She charmed and impressed more voters during LAMAR's various campaigns than LAMAR himself, and she has devoted her own career to public health and philanthropy. Their shared love and mutual respect inspire everyone. Honey is just about the finest "in-law" the U.S. Senate could have ever had, so Elaine and I are grateful to call her our friend as well.

So as much as I am dreading life in the Senate without my brilliant friend, even I can't begrudge him the silver lining. The most distinguished public servant has more than earned the right to spend more days fly-fishing or walking trails in the Smokies, more mornings waking up on Blackberry Farm, and a much larger share of his time with Honey and their family.

About 6 years ago, it fell to LAMAR to eulogize his friend and mentor, Howard Baker. Here on the floor, he quoted another Senator who had said that when it came to the Senate, there was Howard Baker, and then there was the rest of us.

Well, my friend, for 18 years, there has been LAMAR ALEXANDER, and there has been the rest of us. So I am sorry that in a few more weeks, it will be just the rest of us left. But you are leaving this body and those of us in it and the Nation it exists to serve stronger and better because you were here.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the House message accompanying H.R. 6395.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 6395) entitled "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment.

COMPOUND MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask consent that the Senate insist on its amendment, agree to the request of the House for conference, and appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate, the list of whom is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

The following conferees were appointed:

James M. Inhofe, of Oklahoma, Chairman; Roger F. Wicker, of Mississippi; Deb Fischer, of Nebraska; Tom Cotton, of Arkansas; Mike Rounds, of South Dakota; Joni Ernst, of Iowa; Thom Tillis, of North Carolina; Dan Sullivan, of Alaska; David Perdue, of Georgia; Kevin Cramer, of North Dakota; John Thune, of South Dakota; Rick Scott, of Florida; Marsha Blackburn, of Tennessee; Josh Hawley, of Missouri; Jack Reed, of Rhode Island; Jeanne Shaheen, of New Hampshire; Kirsten E. Gillibrand, of New York; Richard Blumenthal, of Connecticut; Mazie Hirono, of Hawaii; Tim Kaine, of Virginia; Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine; Martin Heinrich, of New Mexico; Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts; Gary C. Peters, of Michigan; Joe Manchin III, of West Virginia; Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois; Doug Jones, of Alabama.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me add my words of fond farewell to

my friend LAMAR ALEXANDER and the touching moment between the leader and the senior Senator from Tennessee, which is moving to all of us.

Now, Senator ALEXANDER and I have not always agreed, but what an amazing and capable legislator and true statesman he has been. He has been in the middle of things for much of his 18 years in the Senate. That is because he is not some ideologue who stood alone in his corner. It is because he is someone who has been always willing and insistent on reaching across the aisle, on hearing another Senator's perspective, and on searching for common ground, however narrow it may be. He searches to do the right thing.

I remember when we did the immigration bill. There was a lot of pressure on Senator ALEXANDER to vote against it, and I watched him wrestle with it and churn and churn, and I sort of knew in my heart he would do the right thing, in my judgment, and vote for that bill, as he did, at some real political consequence to himself. And that is who he was and is—a man of principle.

We often would talk in the Senate gym almost every morning for a prolonged period of time—I don't go to the Senate gym post-COVID—and more often than not, we found each other on opposite sides of the Senate gym. We helped open up the amendment process on childcare legislation. Together, we led the Rules Committee for a number of years, and we come from very different backgrounds. But I will never forget the weekend that Iris and I spent with Honey and LAMAR at Blackberry Farms, and it was a beautiful weekend for us that we will always, always cherish and remember.

Given the opportunity to put a stamp on the Presidential inauguration, LAMAR and I said whoever is in the majority—we didn't know—we would give each other time to speak, and it served us both well. This is the kind of person he has been: someone who is willing to reach out; someone who is willing to see the other side; and someone, above all, in tumultuous and very difficult times for all of us, who is a man of principle and conscience.

Senator ALEXANDER will leave this Chamber with a legacy that every Senator would be proud of. I wish him and his family the very best.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KELLY

Mr. SCHUMER. Now a few other remarks. We have a going and we have a coming, and our coming is of a new Senator who will be installed today, and that is CAPT Mark Kelly, who will be sworn in as the next Senator from Arizona.

It may not be the role he expected for himself earlier in his life as a U.S. Navy captain and then an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. As Mark likes to say, his wife Gabby was already the member of the family in Congress. But tragedy upended both their lives and changed so

many of their plans. Everyone continues to be inspired by Gabby's recovery, by Mark's devotion, and by the courage it took for their family to re-enter public life and public service. But that is who Mark Kelly is—a devoted and honorable man—and we are delighted to welcome him to the Senate Democratic caucus and the wider Senate family.

So a fond adieu to my friend LAMAR, and a fond welcome to my new friend Mark Kelly.

I have some more remarks on the topics, but I think I will defer those, with unanimous consent that I could talk about those later, so we can get right to Senator ALEXANDER's remarks at the 10:30 scheduled time.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). 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 Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank my friend Mitch, and I thank my friend Chuck for their remarks. I will have more to say to them later.

On March 9, 1967, Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., the newly elected Senator from Tennessee, made his maiden address, his first speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate. He spoke for too long.

The Republican leader of the Senate, who was also Baker's father-in-law, Senator Everett M. Dirksen, walked over to congratulate him and then said, "Howard, occasionally, you might enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought," which is good advice for a farewell address as well.

As Senator Baker's legislative assistant, I was also his speech writer for that maiden address, or at least I thought I was. He had developed a bad habit of not saying what I wrote for his speech. So I asked to see him, and I said: Do we have a problem with our relationship?

He said: No, we have a perfect relationship. You write what you want to

write, and I will say what I want to say.

I learned a couple of other things about "saying what I want to say." One came from Alex Haley, the author of "Roots," who heard me speak once and called me aside afterward and said: May I make a suggestion? He said: If, when you begin a speech, you would start by saying, "Instead of making a speech, let me tell you a story," someone might actually listen to what you have to say.

And then, from David Broder, who gave this advice to Ruth Marcus when she got her column for the Washington Post: one idea per column.

So here is a story about my one idea for this speech.

In August of 1968, Senator Baker was in the Republican leader's office, where Senator McCONNELL is today. He overheard this conversation. Senator Dirksen was saying:

[No.] Mr. President, I cannot come down and have a drink with you tonight. I did that last night and Louella is very unhappy with me.

About 30 minutes later, there was a commotion out in the hall, and in the door of the Republican leader's office came two beagles, three Secret Service men, and the President of the United States. And Lyndon Johnson said to Everett Dirksen: "Everett, if you won't come down and have a drink with me, I'm here to have one with you." And they disappeared into the back room.

Later that same year, around a long table, in that same office, the Democratic President and the Republican leader worked out the Civil Rights Act of 1968. It took 67 votes to break a filibuster, but when the bill passed and Johnson signed it, the Senators who voted no went home and said: It is the law. We have to accept it.

And it still is today, along with many other civil rights laws.

So that is the one idea I have for this speech. Our country needs a U.S. Senate to work across party lines to force broad agreements on hard issues, creating laws that most of us have voted for and that a diverse country will accept.

In the 1930s, we needed a Senate to create Social Security; after World War II, the United Nations; in the 1960s, Medicare; in 1978, to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty; in 2013, more recently, to tie interest rates for student loans to the market rates, saving student borrowers hundreds of billions of dollars in the last several years; in 2015, to fix No Child Left Behind.

That bill had 100 alligators in the swamp. The Wall Street Journal said, when we finished, that it was the largest evolution of power from Washington to the States in 25 years. When President Obama signed it, he said it was "a Christmas miracle" because, in the end, 85 Senators voted for it. In 2016, as Senator McCONNELL mentioned, there was the 21st Century Cures Act, moving medical miracles faster to patients and into doctors' of-

fices. That bill ran off the track every 2 or 3 days. On one of those days, I called the Vice President, Joe Biden. I said: Joe, I am stuck in the White House. I have the President's personalized medicine in this. I have your Cancer MoonShot. Senator McCONNELL's regenerative medical proposal is in it. Speaker Ryan has worked out a way to pay for it. But I can't get the White House to move. I feel like the butler standing outside the Oval Office with a silver platter, and nobody will open the door and take the order.

And Joe Biden said: If you want to feel like the butler, try being Vice President.

Well, in the next few weeks, the Senate rules literally forced us to come to an agreement, and, in the end, we almost all voted for it. Senator McCONNELL said then, as he said today, it was "the most important legislation" of that Congress. And, today, it is helping to create vaccines and treatments in record time. Then, in 2018, there was a once-in-a-generation change in the copyright laws to help songwriters be fairly paid; this year, the Great American Outdoors Act. Everyone agrees that it is the most important outdoor and environmental bill in 50 years.

All of that took a long time, a lot of palaver, many amendments, many years. Too many years, civil rights advocates, students, patients, songwriters, and conservationists would say. But the point was that those bills didn't just pass. They passed by big margins. The country accepted them, and they are going to be there for a long time, and most of them were enacted during divided government, when the Presidency and at least one body of Congress was of different political parties.

That offers an opportunity to share the responsibility or the blame for doing hard things, like controlling the Federal debt. That is why our country needs a U.S. Senate, to thoughtfully and carefully and intentionally put country before partisanship and personal politics, to force broad agreements on controversial issues that become laws that most of us will vote for and that a diverse country will accept.

Nearly 60 years ago, I had traveled from my home in the mountains of Tennessee to New York University's Law School in Manhattan, on Washington Square. It was my first trip ever to New York City, and I had asked for a roommate whose background was as different from mine as possible. One of those roommates turned out to be a tall skinny guy from New Jersey. When I would go to his home in New Jersey and spend the night—his mother was a seamstress and his dad was a contractor; they were Italian immigrants—his mother would become so concerned about my frayed collar on my one white dress shirt that she would turn it while I slept.

Years later, that roommate, Paul Tagliabue, invited me to go to the Italian American Dinner here in Washington. They were bursting with pride

for the Italian-American heritage at that dinner: cheers for Scalia, the Justice, and for Pelosi, the Congressman, and for Stallone, the actor, and for Tagliabue, the National Football League Commissioner. But what struck me was, as proud as they all were of their Italian heritage, they were most proud to say: We are all Americans.

Ken Burns, whose films tell the story of who we are, reminds us that the late Arthur Schlesinger once wrote that our country needs less “*pluribus*” and more “*unum*,” and the fact that we have attracted people from everywhere in the world has made our country richer and stronger, but it is more important and a greater achievement that we have combined all of that diversity into one country. That is why the motto above the Presiding Officer’s desk is not one word—“*pluribus*.” It is “*e pluribus unum*”—out of many, one.

More than ever, our country needs a United States to turn “*pluribus*” into “*unum*,” to lead the American struggle to forge unity from diversity.

Now, some advocate operating the Senate in a different way: End the filibuster—the Senate’s best-known tradition. In the movie “*Mr. SMITH Goes to Washington*,” he calls it “the right to talk your head off.” They say: Don’t worry about party lines. Pass everything with a majority vote.

Presidents would like that. They have said so. They would get their way more easily if we allow the passions to roar through the Senate like they roar through the House of Representatives. So if the Democrats are in charge, we could abolish every right-to-work law, repeal all limits on abortion, and pass restrictions on guns. That is very appealing for the moment, but what about if the train roars in the other direction and Republicans say: Let’s impose a right-to-work law on every State and pro-life laws and gun rights laws.

Is such back and forth and back and forth what we really want as a country? The Framers didn’t think so. They created this cooling saucer for those passions that Washington talked about, and the filibuster—“the right to talk your head off”—is the preeminent tool we use to force broad agreements on tough issues that most of us will vote for and that the country could live with.

Alexis de Tocqueville, the remarkable young Frenchman who wandered through our country in 1831 and 1832 and who wrote the best book yet on democracy in America, saw two great dangers for our future: One, Russia; and, two, the tyranny of the majority.

Ending the filibuster will destroy the impetus for forcing the broad agreements I have been talking about, and it would unleash the tyranny of the majority to steamroll the rights of the minority.

Well, you may say that the Senate isn’t solving some big problems, and you would be right. We are not even voting on some big problems. Some-

times it is because the majority doesn’t bring it up, and sometimes the minority obstructs. If a carbon tax is a good idea, why aren’t we voting on it? Or if we want to help the DACA kids, why aren’t we voting on it? Or if the Federal debt is out of control, why aren’t we voting on it?

It doesn’t take a genius. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out how to gum up the works in a body of 100 that operates mostly by unanimous consent. But here is my different view of why we are here. It is hard to get here. It is hard to stay here. And while we are here, we might as well try to accomplish something good for the country. But it is hard to accomplish something if you don’t vote on amendments.

Lately, the Senate has been like joining the Grand Ole Opry and not being allowed to sing. It is a real waste of talent. Think about this body. Over the years, we have had astronauts, former Governors, Supreme Court law clerks, military heroes, turnaround CEOs. We even had one of us who ran the Olympics. A group of that much talent ought to accomplish a lot more, and you don’t have to eliminate the filibuster to accomplish a lot more—meaning, restore the Senate to a time when it was working across party lines more often to solve big problems.

Not so long ago, the Senate worked Monday through Friday, considered hundreds of amendments. Most votes were by majority, and conferences worked out broad agreements. That was under the existing rules. Let me say that again. That was under the existing rules. So the Senate doesn’t need a change of rules. It needs a change of behavior, and the behavior to change first is to stop blocking each other’s amendments. If you are against it, vote no. Why stop the entire body from even considering it? Why join the Grand Ole Opry if you don’t want to sing? I guarantee you that if 15 to 20 Democrats and 15 to 20 Republicans decided they wanted to change that practice, they could do it.

Some Governors don’t like being a U.S. Senator, but not me. The jobs are different. Both jobs cause you to want to see an urgent need, develop a strategy to deal with it, and then try to persuade at least half of the people that you are right. But the Governor’s job is more like Moses. You say: Let’s go this way. The Senator’s job, if you want to get something done, is more like a parade organizer. You pick the route, you recruit the marchers, you select the music, you even pick the drum majors sometimes, and then you march in the middle of the parade and hope it doesn’t run off the road more than a half dozen times on the way to where it is going.

I love the traditions of the Senate, the hard marble floors, the elaborate courtesies, Barry Black’s prayers, and scratching my name beside Howard Baker’s and Fred Thompson’s names in this desk drawer.

I have made a lot of friendships in the Senate. My best friendship began

at a softball game between Senator John G. Tower’s staff of Texas and Senator Baker’s staff, in the summer of 1967, when a 21-year-old Smith College graduate named Honey slid into first base wearing red shorts.

I was not only surprised but captivated, and 18 months later we were married. And for 52 years she has been an unselfish and caring wife, mother, campaigner, and advocate for families and children, especially her own.

In 1969, as the leader mentioned, Senator Baker said to me: You ought to get to know that smart, young legislative assistant for the new Kentucky Senator, Marlow Cook. That smart, young legislative assistant was MITCH MCCONNELL, and it began a half century of friendship.

Mario D’Angelo, in the barbershop here, first cut my hair in 1977 when I came up for 3 months to work with Senator Baker when he was suddenly elected Republican leader.

Some of my experiences in the Senate haven’t been so friendly, such as my confirmation hearing in 1991, when Senator Metzenbaum of Ohio said: Governor Alexander, I have heard some very disturbing things about you, but I don’t think I’ll bring them up here. And he then put a hold on my nomination for 2 months, until I was mysteriously confirmed late one night—and I still don’t know how.

Back then I found a new way to make friends among Senators when I went to the Republican retreat, and they said: If you will stop talking and play the piano, we will support Bush’s education program. So I did, and they did.

I have strengthened friendships in the so-called “inner sanctum” that CHUCK SCHUMER and I resurrected downstairs. It provides a private space for Senators to have a snack and a conversation.

One-third of this body, of the Senators and their spouses, have come to the Smoky Mountains to be guests of Honey and me in our home for the weekend. We don’t talk about politics much there. We talked about lost hikers and told bear stories.

And I have even learned here how to count—how to count my friends. In 2006 I wrote 27 thank-you notes for 24 votes when I lost the race by 1 vote to be the Republican whip. Having learned to count, I got to be the Republican conference chairman. I enjoyed that, but 9 years ago I left to focus on issues that I cared the most about. Since then I have done my best to leave footprints that I hope are good for the country: fixing No Child Left Behind and 21st Century Cures and simplifying FAFSA, working with PATTY MURRAY—MICHAEL BENNET was there at the start for the FAFSA; working with DIANNE FEINSTEIN in building up our National Laboratories and supercomputing; joining the bipartisan parade of Portland and WARNER and GARDNER and KING and MANCHIN and DAINES and HEINRICH and BURR and CANTWELL that created the Great American Outdoors Act; the law

to help songwriters; working with MURRAY and JONES and TIM SCOTT on permanently funding Black colleges; with BLUNT and SHELBY on the shark tank of the National Institutes of Health, creating new diagnostic tests, new ways; with BURR and DURBIN and MANCHIN and KING on the student loan law I mentioned; with CASEY and ENZI on the Perkins Act; with Harry Reid and Bill Frist, when they were leaders, on the America COMPETES Act.

None of this could have been done without an exceptional staff. But instead of thanking them in a rushed way now, I am going to make a separate “salute to the staff” speech tomorrow. Maybe I will start a tradition.

My favorite time in the U.S. Senate has been with the American history teachers whom I invite to come to the Senate floor before it opens while they are attending the academies that were created by the legislation I introduced in my maiden address 18 years ago.

After that address, Ted Kennedy, without my knowing it, went around and got 20 Democratic cosponsors. In the House, ROGER WICKER and MARSHA BLACKBURN helped pass the bill there, where they were then.

The teachers who come to the floor before we open invariably go to our desks. They try to find Daniel Webster’s desk. They look for the Kennedy brothers’ desk. They ask, “Where is Jefferson Davis’s desk?”—Jefferson Davis, who resigned the Senate to become President of the Confederacy—because they have heard the story that there is a chop mark on the desk that was imposed by a Union soldier when they captured Washington. The soldier was chopping the desk until his commander said: Stop that. We are here to save the Union, not to destroy it.

Invariably a teacher will ask: Senator, what would you like for us to take back to our students about being a U.S. Senator?

My reply is always the same: Please suggest to your students that they look at Washington, DC, as if it were a split-screen television. On one side are the confirmation hearings and the tweets, and on the other side you have Democratic and Republican Senators working together to strengthen national defense, National Laboratories, national parks, and the National Institutes of Health.

Please remind them of what a remarkable country this is: the strongest military, the best universities, producing 20 percent of all the money in the world for just 4 percent of the people. Tell them we are not perfect, but, as our Constitution says, we are always working to form a more perfect union and that, as Samuel Huntington wrote, most of our arguments are about conflicts among principles with which most of us agree, and most of our politics is about disappointments in not being able to reach the noble goals we set for ourselves, such as all men are created equal.

The late NAACP President Ben Hooks used to teach his University of

Memphis students, “America is a work in progress. We’ve come a long way, and we have a long way to go.”

Please remind your students that the rest of the world wishes they had our system of government and that the U.S. Senate has been and I hope continues to be the single most important institution that helps to unify our country by creating broad agreements that most of us can vote for and that the citizens of the United States will accept.

Finally, please tell them that I wake up every day thinking I might be able to do something good to help our country and that I go to bed most nights thinking that I have. Please tell them that it is a great privilege to be a U.S. Senator.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, it is such an honor to be here and to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator ALEXANDER today. As you can see, there are many who want to speak and have a few words to say.

Now, I think all of us wish that we could do this to a background of music with LAMAR playing the piano. That would definitely be the proper setting. But I am so pleased to stand and to honor the three terms of service that he has had here in this body and the way he has touched the lives not only of individuals in this body but millions of Tennesseans.

We know that he has—and he has talked about it in his remarks—worked with educators; he has worked with innovators; he has worked with the healthcare community; and he has worked, yes, with entertainers, many of whom hold him so dear and who call Tennessee home. In fact, when I was serving in the House and representing Tennessee’s 7th Congressional District, so many times I would look over here and I would think “What is LAMAR not working on today?” because he always had such a broad portfolio of issues that were demanding his attention. And what we know is he accepted that work to address that broad portfolio of issues.

His commitment for caring for the needs of all Tennesseans has really manifested itself in what Tennesseans like to see as a lifelong legacy that has really changed lives. As Governor, he worked to streamline our State’s government, was very successful in those efforts, and he brought that desire to streamline government with him when he came to the Senate. Indeed, this is work that has benefited all Tennesseans and all Americans.

As Governor of Tennessee, he was very successful in working to persuade Nissan automotive to come into our State. This started a new impact on our State with the auto industry. Then, as the auto industry needed suppliers, he turned his attention to infrastructure to make certain that the

roads, the highways, the access that were necessary were there to encourage this business.

As the former Secretary of Education under President George H. W. Bush, he couldn’t not put his personal touch on education policy, working tirelessly, as he said, to fix No Child Left Behind. This earned him the first-ever James Madison Award.

He has a reputation for, indeed, being a go-to lawmaker, and as chairman of HELP here in the Senate, he put a spotlight on the issues that affect the most sensitive aspects of Tennesseans’ lives, again benefiting all Americans.

I like the fact that he talked about bipartisanship and productivity. Between 2015 and 2019, during his term of service at HELP, he has reported 45 bills out of his committee that have become law—45 bills. As he mentioned, one of those was 21st Century Cures. As a Member in the House and working on originating this bill, we had said: We are going to make this bipartisan. And, indeed, we did, and we moved it from the House to the Senate. And yes, indeed, there were some days we thought: This is never going to happen. But, indeed, Senator ALEXANDER insisted, and, yes, it did happen.

He mentioned the Music Modernization Act, and I will tell you, this is vitally important to Tennesseans. As we worked this through the House and then it hit some bumps in the road, Senator ALEXANDER and Senator Hatch did such a great job of pushing this forward here in the Senate.

Then, last September, the Nashville Songwriters Association International awarded him the White Hat Award, which is what they give to legislators who have made a significant impact on the entertainment and music community.

Well, the highlight reel would be too long to cover in one speech. There are many who are waiting to express their thanks.

So, with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, a friend and a colleague who has served in this body for some 18 years now. I have had the pleasure of serving with this Senator on both the Rules Committee and the Appropriations Committee, and we sat next to each other as chairman or ranking member on two Appropriations subcommittees—first Interior and then Energy and Water. We have done that since 2009. It has been through these experiences that I truly have come to appreciate Senator ALEXANDER’s fairness, his interest in solving problems, and his bipartisanship.

Most of all, I so appreciate your friendship and the time we have had to talk together.

I do believe that the Senate is going to be diminished by the absence of this Senator.

Working closely as chair and ranking member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, we have always been able to find agreement on the annual appropriations bill. That is because we shared a willingness to find common ground. And that is no small thing. We have consistently held comprehensive subcommittee hearings on a wide range of issues, from nuclear power and nuclear waste to dam safety, to devastating droughts in the West and the future of renewable energy.

We were also often among the first, if not the first subcommittee to negotiate our bill, draft it, and get it marked up by the full committee, and that includes 4 years of record-level funding for clean energy, the National Laboratories, supercomputing, and water projects. The focus has always been on a fair, open process that seeks compromise. And that track record speaks to the value we place on the process.

But more than anything, Senator ALEXANDER will be remembered as someone who dedicated his life to serving the people of Tennessee. Between his 8 years as Governor and 16 years as a Senator, he served longer than any Tennessean who has held both jobs. That doesn't include the 2 years he served as President George H.W. Bush's Secretary of Education.

His priorities have always been of great importance to Tennessee, whether Army Corps of Engineers funding for inland waters, particularly his favorite, Chickamauga—this is the first time I ever heard the word pronounced—Chickamauga Lock, which he often talks about in our hearings, or updating the way musicians are paid for their work.

He also led efforts to pass the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015, which President Obama called a “Christmas miracle.”

As we hear promising news about coronavirus vaccines, we are reminded of the 21st Century Cures Act. That is Senator ALEXANDER's landmark 2016 bill that streamlined the drug and device approval process to bring treatments to market faster. He has a long record of work he can be proud of.

LAMAR, you have been a great colleague and a dear friend all these years in the Senate. I am proud of what we have achieved together. I will miss our dinners together and sitting next to you on the dais. I hope you enjoy a well-earned retirement with Honey and your beautiful family. Thank you so much for your service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I first met LAMAR ALEXANDER when he was a candidate for President 25 years ago. He was campaigning in the State of Maine, and after giving an articulate speech outlining his priorities and his policies, he proceeded to charm everyone by playing the piano. Little did I know then that we would one day serve as colleagues and friends in the U.S. Senate.

LAMAR, as you heard already today, is an extraordinary legislator. He has the ability to bring people together even on very contentious issues and hammer out a compromise. He is extremely effective because he is always well informed, focuses on the issue at hand, never gives up, and is willing to work across the aisle. He gets things done that matter not only to his constituents and his beloved Tennessee but also to citizens across this great country.

He has been an extraordinary leader on important issues that many of us care deeply about, such as biomedical research, education, and combating the opioid crisis. He is that rare individual who is far less interested in who gets the credit than in getting the job done. But, in fact, each of us who has had the privilege of working with LAMAR knows that he is the one who deserves the credit.

I have served for years with LAMAR on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which he chairs. On one challenging issue after another, when others would throw up their hands and say “This is impossible; it simply cannot be done,” LAMAR never gives up the search for a solution and for common ground.

LAMAR has been so prolific as a legislator that it is difficult to single out one accomplishment among so many, but if forced to do so, I would say that the 21st Century Cures Act is his signature achievement. As the name implies, this law is a lasting legacy for him, and it is already providing lasting benefits for our country. Whether it is the BRAIN Initiative that will finally help us to make progress on diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other neurological illnesses, or the Cancer Moonshot that was done in honor of Beau Biden, or the funding that was included to look at the impact of lifestyles on our health, all of the provisions of this landmark law will improve the health of the American people far into the future, and it will be LAMAR ALEXANDER who deserves the credit.

As a close second, I would cite the educational reforms he drafted to replace and improve No Child Left Behind to give more autonomy back to the States and local school districts. That law—Every Student Succeeds Act—was a momentous bipartisan achievement, and LAMAR has already explained what it took to get the job done. It is not surprising that in 2016, the Nation's Governors named LAMAR the first recipient of the James Madison Award to recognize Members of Congress who support Federalism. As we have heard today, the Wall Street Journal called ESSA the “largest devolution of federal control to the states in a quarter-century.”

In addition to being a skillful legislator, LAMAR is also a wonderfully talented musician, as both a pianist and a singer. His hilarious performance at the annual Alfalfa Club dinner back in

2011 is legendary, and thanks to YouTube, it is also immortal.

LAMAR was a great friend, as he mentioned today, of the writer Alex Haley, the author of “Roots.” Mr. Haley's personal motto was “Find the good and praise it.” LAMAR quotes that often, and he lives by it. Optimism and gratitude, effectiveness and skill are his defining characteristics. To LAMAR, “the good” isn't simply what is pleasant; it is what is worthwhile, what makes us better people, better citizens, a better nation. If we follow the advice he gave us today, we will be a better Senate.

Not long ago, I was interviewed by a journalist for a retrospective on LAMAR's service in the Senate. She said that she happened to be in the Senate Dining Room on December 17, 2018—the day that LAMAR announced his intention to retire—and that a room usually alive with chatter was unusually quiet and tinged with sadness. That somber atmosphere was genuine and bipartisan.

LAMAR, I can't tell you how much personally I will miss serving with you. You are not only a great Senator and extraordinary legislator but a wonderful friend. Thank you so much for your many years of public service. I feel very honored to have served with you, to have learned from you, and I wish you and Honey all the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, his name was the answer to a frequently asked question. It is a question that used to come up in almost every Democratic meeting when we talked about legislative ideas and we talked about making progress on the floor of the Senate. And the question was this: Who can we call on the other side of the aisle? And the answer was almost always LAMAR ALEXANDER. We knew that if we presented an idea to him, he would not only be receptive and respectful, we knew that if he came on board, it would lend credibility to our effort, maybe even get a bill passed around here. But it would always have to wear a red tartan badge with it because there was an idea that he wanted to bring to the party, but it was worth it. It was worth it not only for the progress that you can make in terms of legislation, but it was worth it because it was part of developing a friendship.

Harry Truman used to recommend famously, “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.” I thought of that. I told you about it a few months ago when you were on one of those Sunday morning talk shows. You were broadcasting, I think, from your living room or family room at your home in Tennessee, and I couldn't get over that stuffed animal that was on the coffee table behind you. It just seemed like it was such an odd little piece of maybe personal pride to have that stuffed animal with you. It turned out it wasn't stuffed at all. It was Rufus, your dog, who slept through your entire performance, wasn't a bit moved by the fact

that you were on some Sunday morning talk show.

I want to thank you for many things, and I will mention a few of them in terms of legislation, but I especially want to thank you for—I brought a group of friends of mine down to Nashville, TN, and you made a recommendation list of places to stop, including the Bluebird, and then came by and joined us for lunch. You couldn't have been more gracious, and I thank you for that.

That is a trademark of LAMAR ALEXANDER's life and service to this country.

I could talk about many things, but I want to reflect on one that I think is timely and significant and is a reason a lot of us are wearing these masks. We are facing a pandemic with the COVID-19 virus. It has claimed 273,000 American lives, and I am afraid many more will follow. Millions—almost 13 million or more—have been infected by it. We want it to end, and we want it to end as quickly as possible.

The really shining ray of hope here is the possibility that a vaccine will be available soon. I pray it will be. I like to think that some of the things that we did together, with others, created an opportunity for that vaccine to be discovered.

It was 5 or 6 years ago that I approached you and I approached Senator PATTY MURRAY and ROY BLUNT with the idea that we ought to make a concerted, consistent effort to increase the NIH's budget by at least 5 percent per year.

Senator BLUNT, whom I see on the floor here today, I want to thank you. You took that cause to heart, along with Senator ALEXANDER.

We had the right appropriator and the right authorizer, and PATTY MURRAY served in both capacities so effectively.

We dramatically increased the NIH budget over the last 7, 8 years. I am hopeful, and I would like to think that some of those researchers and the work that they did was laying the groundwork for the discovery of these vaccines quickly in the United States and around the world. That is a legacy you won't soon forget.

Do you remember when we first got wind of this COVID-19 and I walked across the Chamber here and I said to you: I am worried about this protective equipment issue and how much we are reliant on going overseas for sourcing; would you join me at least in an effort to find out whether we are dependent on foreign sources at a time when we might desperately need this protective equipment for our own?

You said, sure, and we did it together and the investigation is underway. It may not serve us in this particular crisis, but it will serve in many generations to come to make sure we have reliable domestic sources in the United States.

I am not going to catalog all of the items that were mentioned earlier by

our colleagues Senator BLACKBURN and Senator COLLINS and Senator FEINSTEIN—the list goes on and on—but that increase by 38 percent of the National Institutes of Health was something our little quartet did together, and I am particularly proud to be part of it.

It wasn't, by far, the only thing that you have done. You championed an increase in the Department of Energy's Office of Science as chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Committee, which Senator FEINSTEIN noted. Under your leadership with her, that office budget has increased by 38 percent since 2015.

You worked with the National Labs, like Oak Ridge, Argonne, Fermilab. Those are near and dear to me as well. And your support for research infrastructure provided essential help to this Lab and Labs across America.

I want to just close by saying this. Most of us were moved by your speech. I am sure it was a perfect illustration of your view of this Chamber and the good memories you have and a challenge to all of us to do better. I think the honest answer is it is not the rules of the Senate that make the difference; it is the Senators who make a difference. If we come to the chore of legislating with the inspiration of LAMAR ALEXANDER, we are going to get a lot done for America.

Thank you for your great service to our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Senate is going to miss LAMAR ALEXANDER.

Listening to his farewell address right now made the fact that he is leaving all too real. I don't like to think of a U.S. Senate without LAMAR. He is a Senate institution and a Senate leader, and his leaving is a loss for this body and for the American people.

Any tribute to LAMAR has to mention his incredible career, which a lot has been alluded to already: his walk across the State of Tennessee, his 8 years as Tennessee Governor, his time as Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush, his stint as president of the University of Tennessee system, and his time as a professor at Harvard.

Then, of course, are his 18 years in the U.S. Senate, marked by significant legislative accomplishments on everything from education to opioids.

All that, and he makes a plaid shirt look good, although these days he has switched to a plaid face mask.

I first met LAMAR, like our colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, mentioned, when he attended a Lincoln Day Dinner in South Dakota in 1995, when he was running for President. I really started to get to know him a little bit when I came to the Senate in 2005.

LAMAR had already been here for a couple of years by that time. Of course, he already had an extraordinary career behind him. I know I was not the only

young Senator who regarded him as something of a mentor and a role model.

I share a couple of things with LAMAR; one is the fact that we were both Senate staffers long before we came to the Senate as elected officials. We weren't here at the same time. He was a little ahead of me. I came to the Senate the year Howard Baker left, but, like LAMAR, I have great appreciation for the contributions staffers make to the work that we do around here. I know many of LAMAR's staffers are in the Gallery today. As he leaves, also we lose a tremendous amount of brain power and talent that has contributed so significantly to the successes and accomplishments that he has had as a U.S. Senator.

The other is that he and I both have served as chairman of the Senate Republican conference, which is the messaging and communications office for Republicans in the Senate. I succeeded LAMAR as chairman of the Senate Republican conference in 2012. I will tell you, he is a very tough act to follow but an inspiring one because he did such a tremendous job in leading our messaging in the conference.

LAMAR has an ability to break down complex subjects and communicate them clearly. He can sum up an issue in one succinct phrase. He mentioned earlier, in his remarks, the idea that there ought to be one column, one idea; one speech, one idea. He really did master that.

I can recall his summary when we were talking a lot about the energy issue: We need to "find more and use less." That is about as clear a summary of our energy priorities as you can get.

Many of us used a phrase he popularized around here, too, in describing policies of the other side that we thought would be harmful to the economy as casting a big wet blanket over the economy. I don't know how many times you heard that coming out of our mouths, but it all originated with LAMAR ALEXANDER.

I think that ability to really break down complex issues and clearly explain them is one of the reasons he was such a good conference chairman and one of the reasons he has been so successful legislatively.

And he has been successful legislatively. You already heard a number of my colleagues talk about his many successes. Yet he has managed to get things passed around here that I don't think anyone thought could get passed, particularly in the polarized political environment that we have been in.

But LAMAR has an ability to bring people together from across the aisle. You heard our colleagues on both sides speak to that. He is very practical about the business of legislating. He focuses on what is actually possible to do and he finds the common ground and he gets things done.

You have heard of the America COMPETES Act, the Every Student Succeeds Act, the 21st Centuries Cures

Act, the Opioids Crisis Response Act, the Copyright Act, the Great American Outdoors Act. I could go on and on. Those, ladies and gentlemen, are major, major pieces of legislation, tremendous accomplishments of the Congress by the U.S. Senate, signed into law by the President, all of which couldn't have happened without the leadership of LAMAR ALEXANDER.

He has held multiple leadership positions in the Senate: chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and, as I said, Senate Republican conference chairman, but he has always been a leader, whether or not in an official leadership position or simply by virtue of who he is.

As I said before, LAMAR has been a mentor and role model to me and I know to many others here in the Senate.

But I also have to mention his personal warmth and hospitality to me and my wife when our daughter was studying at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. He and his wife Honey opened their home to us in Nashville. They hosted us. I am fortunate to be among those he mentioned were at their place in the Smokies, which was a fabulous experience. They took us to a Tennessee Titans game. They went above and beyond. And to this day, we are grateful for their warmth and generosity and for a chance to see LAMAR in his element in his beloved Tennessee.

LAMAR has dedicated much of his life to his State, his country, and nobody could be more deserving of retirement.

I will be surprised if he ever fully retires. I am pretty sure, even while sitting on his porch, he is still going to be dreaming up ways to make our country better.

LAMAR, thank you for your leadership and for your mentorship. Thank you for being a role model to so many of us. May God bless you in your retirement. I will miss you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was not planning on speaking today, but I was so inspired by what Senator ALEXANDER had to say about his career and about the Senate that I wanted to share a word or two of reflection on what he said.

Anybody who has spent any time around Washington, DC, or even around this Capitol knows there are statues built all over this town of people nobody remembers. When I go by one of those statues in Washington—whether it is in a circle somewhere in a traffic stop or in the hallway in the Capitol—I think about the importance of dying at the right time. You want to die at a moment when statues are in vogue if you are going to have a statue.

But there is no—none of these people are ever going to be remembered in the long view of history. The stoic philosophers on whom we base so much, or at least attempt to base so much of what

we do here, had a solution to that. Their solution was—whether it was the Greek or Roman philosophers—their solution was: Do your best. Show up and make a contribution. Do your best. Don't worry about how people are going to remember you. Don't worry about your own mortality.

So few of us follow that advice. I think LAMAR ALEXANDER embodies that. As President of the University of Tennessee, as Governor, as the Secretary of Education, as a Senator, in every one of those jobs, it has always been about doing his best.

In a Chamber filled with people who think they have a monopoly on wisdom, LAMAR has never stopped learning. He has always been curious. Up to this day—I will bet today, he probably got up and asked somebody on his staff or one of his colleagues to tell him about something he wants to learn more about so he can be more effective and make a greater difference so he can do his best.

The Senate is going to be diminished by LAMAR's absence. It is hard to believe we can be any more diminished than we are, but we are going to be diminished by LAMAR leaving.

Susan and I were lucky enough to be invited to his home, spend a weekend there. I am going to say something now I never said to LAMAR ALEXANDER. He gave us the great privilege of standing in the family cemetery in Eastern Tennessee, in his beloved Smoky Mountains, where he will forever keep the windmills out. As I stood there a little awkwardly in the cemetery—because that is not usually part of a tour—all I could think about was how lucky LAMAR and Honey were to know that would be the place where they would be and that long after they were remembered by anybody, they would know that they had done their best; that they had always done their best.

What I would say to my colleagues today is, we have an opportunity to follow LAMAR's example and take him up on what he said. We are not memorializing LAMAR today. He is going to have a lot more years left to contribute to his State, his community, and to the country, but he won't be in the Senate, and we are in the Senate.

We could work in the Senate that works 5 days a week or even 6 days a week. Sign me up for that Senate. We could work in a Senate that has 25 amendments in a bill instead of 25 amendments in a year, as we did last year, because there is no other body in America or in this democracy, as LAMAR said, that is set up to decide the hardest questions that our country is facing and to make those decisions stick. That is what LAMAR ALEXANDER said to us today.

He has left us with a challenge, and I hope we will take him up on it because there is no excuse for the way this place has worked, and the American people are tired of hearing that it has been the other side's fault. There are 100 people who can fix this place, and I

hope we will. I can't think of a greater legacy for LAMAR to leave than that of a Senate that actually works. That is what the country deserves, and that is the inspiration that LAMAR ALEXANDER has set for me.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we all know that LAMAR ALEXANDER is a person of tremendous character and judgment, and it is not just because he asked that young woman in the red shorts that he met at that softball game so many years ago to marry him, who happens to be from Victoria, TX, which demonstrates his enormous good judgment. Certainly, we wish him and Honey the best in this next chapter of their lives.

When I think about LAMAR ALEXANDER, I think about all of the Lamarisms, and we have heard some of them here today: "Find the good and praise it"—quotes his friend Alex Haley, which I think kind of speaks to the optimistic, positive view of life that we could use more of. Then I remember other words. He said: If you want to get a standing ovation before any group of individuals, you need to say, "It is time to put the teaching of American history and civics back into its rightful place in our schools so our children can grow up learning what it means to be an American." He has talked about Alex Haley, his friend, who told him how to give a speech by telling a story.

Aristotle also had an idea about how to give a great speech. He basically broke it down to three components. One is the logical argument, another is the emotional argument, but then another is about establishing your authority. It is about the character of the speaker. When I think about LAMAR, as he has demonstrated again here today, the thing I appreciate about him the most is not just what he has accomplished here but his incredible character and positive impact on our Senate and on our country. It has been because people know that his heart is in the right place. It is his doing it for all the right reasons that we admire him so much.

I would just point out, as I told LAMAR previously, that I admired LAMAR ALEXANDER long before I met him—when I voted for him in the 1996 Republican primary for President. Unfortunately, he dropped out of that race shortly thereafter, so I told him I wasted my vote, but I have been an admirer for a long time.

(Laughter.)

LAMAR and I also share something else in common. It is about his predecessor as well as mine. He is a person by the name of Sam Houston. I occupy the Senate seat first held by Sam Houston when Texas became a State. Of course, he originally came from Tennessee. He had happened to be a Governor of Tennessee before he had left and gone to Texas. Later, he became the Governor of Texas and basically stepped down because he was a

Union man, recruited by Andrew Jackson. He loved the Union. He did not agree with secession, but, of course, he went to Texas and became a victorious general of the decisive Battle of San Jacinto. He became the President of the Republic of Texas for the same reason. The reason the Texas flag and the American flag fly at the same height is that we were an independent nation before we became part of the United States. I have heard it said that you could never write a novel based on the life of Sam Houston because nobody would believe it. I have read plenty about him, and I still find that to be true.

Yet, as I indicated, as proud as Texans are of Sam Houston's contribution to our history and our State, we know we can't claim him entirely because he grew up in Maryville, TN—the same town that LAMAR ALEXANDER did—and went on to become Governor, as I mentioned a moment ago.

Sam Houston's portrait hangs above my desk in the Hart Office Building because it helps to remind me of my responsibilities and of the incredible history and contribution that he made and that, hopefully, each of us can make.

While you find Sam Houston's picture above my desk, you will find his walking stick in LAMAR ALEXANDER's office, which is just down the hall. The many Tennesseans who have visited LAMAR during his time in the Chamber have seen the words "Sam Houston," "Texas," and "Lone Star" engraved on its gold cap, and according to LAMAR, several Texans have tried to run off with it. Fortunately, they haven't been successful.

The truth is, you can't get through a Texas history class—or at least you shouldn't—without hearing about the pivotal role of the Volunteer State within the history of my State. I always kid LAMAR. I say: The Tennesseans who went to Texas who fought at the Alamo and in the Battle of San Jacinto were just one step ahead of a creditor or of an aggrieved spouse. This was a rough-and-tumble group that came from Tennessee to found Texas.

There are other Tennesseans, people like Davy Crockett and others, who went to Texas and created our State. The State of Texas has many reasons to be grateful to the contributions of the sons and daughters of Tennessee, and one of those great sons is LAMAR. He has dedicated his life to public service. As we know, it has led him through an incredible number of important offices.

Yet I think, to me, the thing that has even more led to his legislative accomplishments and that has made LAMAR so effective is that we know we can trust him. We know his character. We know that when he says something, it is true, and we have seen it time and again, when LAMAR has used that character and that trust to pass historic legislation in this Chamber. As we have all come to know, when you are work-

ing side by side with LAMAR on legislation, you are bound to get things done because he has cracked the code. He knows how to do it.

I have been proud to work with LAMAR on legislation to address the opioid epidemic, to support our service-members and veterans, to protect health coverage, and to ensure that folks across the country have the opportunity to take advantage of the American dream. His presence has been constant throughout our time. We came to the Senate at the same time, and, of course, his retirement makes that all bittersweet.

So I thank our colleague from Tennessee for his friendship over many years and, as we have heard from Senator THUNE and others, for the example he has shown to the rest of us as to how to be an effective Member of the U.S. Senate. I also thank him for his decades of service to the country. I don't expect LAMAR to follow in the footsteps of Sam Houston and run for Governor of Texas, but I know he has many more contributions to make to our great country, and I wish him and Honey all the best during this next chapter of their lives. I am sure he is looking forward to spending a little more time in their beloved Smoky Mountains.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have learned in my time in the Senate that if you want to get something done across the aisle, you really need the following: You need someone on the other side who is just as committed to working together as you are, and that Member needs to have the trust of Members on your side of the aisle and on his own, and you both need to be willing to set aside egos and listen and get a realistic understanding of whether the person on the other side of the negotiating table can reach an agreement with you that upholds your principles without compromising his own.

Now, what I have laid out might not sound that unusual or rare, but it is actually pretty tough to find these days. I have been very lucky that the Senator whom we honor today on the floor—my colleague and friend, Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER, of Tennessee—is someone who has managed it time and again.

I don't think anyone, least of all Senator ALEXANDER himself, would be surprised to hear me say that we are as likely to disagree as to agree on many matters. I bring my Washington State values to the table, and he brings his Tennessee values, so you can imagine how that has gone from time to time. Yet, despite our different perspectives and our different approaches we take to policymaking, we have also been able to see where our values and the interests of our States and our country converge.

We both understood that the broken No Child Left Behind law needed to be fixed. LAMAR listened to me, which I so

appreciated, when I told him we should write a bill together rather than to amend the Republican bill that he had begun working on. With our HELP Committee members, we were able to write and pass a new K-12 public education bill that fixed the most broken parts of No Child Left Behind. It included Federal guardrails so we could understand how all of our students perform. It dedicated resources to improving the schools that needed it the most. It also allowed for historic steps forward on early education.

We laid the groundwork together for new investments in lifesaving biomedical innovation and research through the 21st Century Cures Act, including the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot.

We worked together to pass landmark legislation to boost our response to the opioid epidemic, to strengthen our public health preparedness programs, and to permanently fund historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions. We not only passed each of these bills, but we did so time and again with huge majorities from this Senate. Now, even still, Chairman ALEXANDER and I, along with our colleagues in the House, are working to get legislation across the finish line to finally ban surprise medical bills.

What I have just laid out is by no means a full list at all of Senator ALEXANDER's accomplishments as chairman. It doesn't even include quite a few things he is still trying to get done as we speak. Senator ALEXANDER's focus on working together has helped countless families in his home State of Tennessee, in my home State of Washington, and nationwide.

My Democratic colleagues and I thank Chairman ALEXANDER for the tone and manner with which he has led the HELP Committee over the past 6 years—some of them, admittedly, rockier than others but, throughout, guided by his steady leadership and commitment to working together.

For myself, as someone who shares the drive to not only fight for what you believe in but also to look for common ground, I thank my colleague from Tennessee for the many opportunities to dig in and get to work that he has provided, for being willing to hear me and my colleagues out again and again when necessary, and for looking so often for common ground, for another problem we could solve, and for being willing not just to keep talking but to keep listening as well.

Finally, I know none of this would have been possible without the support and strength Senator ALEXANDER has received from Honey, his wife, and I acknowledge and thank her for her contribution as well.

Lamar, you will be thrilled to be back full time in the State you love so much—I know that—but I and members of the HELP Committee want you to know we are going to miss you terribly here in the Senate. Thank you so much for all you have done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators CANTWELL, BLUNT, ROMNEY, SCHUMER, and I be able to complete our remarks before the next vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I don't want to prolong this discussion except to make one additional point about the unselfishness and humility of this hero of the Senate, whose remarks we will long remember today.

There is a framed piece of legislation that hangs on the wall in my conference room in the Dirksen Building. It is, in fact, a piece of legislation that Senator ALEXANDER chose to mention as one of his signature accomplishments, and that is the American History and Civics Education Act, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush. There is a story about how I came to have that piece of legislation, which Senator ALEXANDER worked so hard on, on the wall in my conference room.

I live in North Mississippi, and, as such, I listen to Memphis television a lot. During LAMAR ALEXANDER's first race for Senator, on came a commercial, and, basically, it said just what our friend from Texas just quoted—that this candidate for Senator, former Governor LAMAR ALEXANDER, wanted to pass an American civics education bill to teach our children what it means to be an American. I stopped at that moment, and I pointed to that television screen, and I said: If that man gets elected, I want to be part of that bill because that is exactly what we need.

So Senator ALEXANDER introduced the bill here in the Senate. I introduced it in the House of Representatives. We made public appearances together, one in Memphis, TN, that I will always remember. Eventually, the bill gained a lot of support over here, and Senator KENNEDY, as has been mentioned, was someone at the forefront of that effort.

We were able to pass it in the House. It went to conference to iron out the details, and a decision had to be made as to which one would actually be enacted by both Houses and go to the President for his signature.

LAMAR ALEXANDER allowed the piece of legislation introduced by a relatively junior Member of the House named ROGER WICKER to be that piece of legislation that went on to the White House, to the Oval Office, to be signed by the President of the United States.

So that is how that piece of legislation hangs on my wall as a bill authored by Representative ROGER WICKER but passed very much with the efforts of Senator ALEXANDER also.

I just wanted to mention that, not to prolong this discussion but to mention that act of selflessness and humility as

another attribute of this great Senator to whom we say farewell today.

I think the remarks we heard from Senator ALEXANDER will be taught at civics classes and college-level government classes for decades and decades to come. It was so profound, and it is a real honor that a piece of legislation that he and I worked on together will always be a part of what I consider to be those immortal remarks.

So I thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor, too, to thank the Senator from Tennessee for his service to our Nation and for his work here in the U.S. Senate.

Some of my colleagues have already mentioned the brevity of words with which Senator ALEXANDER can deliver a message. I, too, remember his comments as a Rules Committee member, on the inaugural address, and really capturing the moment of why a transition of power is so important to our Nation. And it struck me that we really had a poet or a writer among us, someone who could sense and feel the moment of what we were going through and express it in words. So I have no doubt that some writing is in LAMAR's future here, and I look forward to seeing that.

But I wanted to rise today to thank him for his service and what it has meant to my State and to our Nation. My colleague from Washington talked about their work together on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. I, too, want to thank you for the CARES Act, and I remember your recognition on FOX News about stem cell research and the great work that has led to.

So we are appreciative of those research dollars, but I want to focus on a role that maybe has not gotten as much attention—the historic role you have played on our energy budget and our National Laboratory budget.

I so appreciate the background of your State and the background of focus on energy funding, from the National Laboratory perspective, which has had to have a constant flow and constantly it has been challenged. Yet it has put every step forward because of the level of investment in helping us make our Nation more secure, create more innovation, and create more jobs. So thank you for holding steadfast on the National Laboratory budget.

I also want to thank you for your work on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which we worked together on, which, both, commemorated the history of our Nation and our Manhattan Project at, both, Oak Ridge and at Richland, WA, and Hanford, and to just thank you for the constant focus on the cleanup budget that we have had to have in the Energy Department, as it related to Hanford.

There was a time when we had many cleanup projects around the Nation,

and it was very easy to come together and say that we had to get Savannah River, we had to get Oak Ridge, we had to get Colorado, we had to get Idaho, and we had to get Hanford. But as those projects made progress, a lot of people forgot about what it took to clean up Hanford. So I appreciate your constant focus on helping us to get the dollars necessary for cleanup at Hanford.

I also appreciate, recently, your help on making sure that people didn't overstep on the National Nuclear Security Administration and turn that over to a Defense oversight of people but kept it within the Department of Energy. I so appreciate that.

But I will be forever grateful for your focus on public lands. We have a saying in my State: Environmentalists make great ancestors. So I don't know if you want that environmentalist term associated with your name, but I am pretty sure you do want the stewardship.

And the man from the Great Smoky Mountains helped us deliver a monumental piece of legislation by convincing the President of the United States to support the budgetary impact of combining both the national parks enhancement program, which is basically taking care of the national parks backlog, which was in the billions of dollars, and also fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a battle that had been going on for more than a decade.

So I want to thank you for that, LAMAR. I want to thank you on behalf of the Washingtonians who will go to so many special places, who will get to visit and commune with their families, who will be able to have outdoor experiences, who will be able to really understand the grandeur of Mother Earth. So thank you for pulling off what seemed to be like an impossible effort to convince people to make that level of investment.

We are going to miss the harmony of your voice and the harmony of your legislative skills, but we are not going to say permanently good-bye to you because we hope that you will be sending us messages just like the one you sent today and reminding us that we can do better.

So thank you, LAMAR, for your contribution, in a lot of your life, to these very important issues that affect so many of us. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I first met LAMAR ALEXANDER in 1995, when he spoke at Boston's Lincoln Day Dinner. Like today, he was folksy, good humored, thoughtful, and impressive.

I remarked to Ann that he was surely going to go places. Of course, he had already gone places by then, but he ran for President the next year. One thing LAMAR and I agree on is that the best candidate for President does not always win. I think he may well have been just that.

You all know that he served as president of a university, Governor, Senator, and Secretary of Education. I have watched firsthand as he has led the Senate's Committee on Health and Education. I don't know any person who has worked longer, harder, and more effectively for the well-being of America's children than LAMAR ALEXANDER.

His service extends, of course, beyond the children. As we have endured the COVID-19 pandemic, he has led the Senate as we have helped to guide and fund our national response. His healthcare expertise and his determination to keep each of us informed and involved has been invaluable.

While America's response to the pandemic may not have been exemplary, LAMAR ALEXANDER's leadership of the Senate's role has been superb. The speed at which we will have a vaccine is, in no small measure, a testament to his determination and vision.

But LAMAR is much more than a Senator. I have seen the devotion he has for his wife and family. I have watched him entertain rooms full of celebrating Republicans with his piano and singing. And I have experienced very personally the kindness and graciousness that have long characterized this man. He was the first Senator to come to meet me when I joined this body.

His impact on the Senate, on the State of Tennessee, and on the Nation extends well beyond his legislative accomplishments and leadership. His greatest impact has been that of his personal character. He is a man without guile. He is true to his conscience. He speaks and acts with truth and honesty. He cares about people and endeavors to help others. He is a genuine friend, as is evidenced by the many members of his team wearing plaid masks around this room.

He has used his talent and energy not to aggrandize himself but to serve. It could be said of LAMAR ALEXANDER that he is a great American of exemplary character. We are a better people because of LAMAR ALEXANDER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I think Mark Twain said, among many other things, that there is nothing more troubling than a great example. And, as we have had all of these speeches today, I felt less and less adequate as the speakers talked about the great things that LAMAR has done, the great things he stands for, the incredible character that defines his life and his work. It has been wonderful to be here and to see the appreciation that Senators have for somebody who is proud to be a Senator.

Not that often do you get to start a last speech in the Senate referring to somebody else's maiden speech over almost 50 years ago. But that kind of sense of the Senate, that sense of community, that split screen that LAMAR talked about with educators, where you do have the one screen where it ap-

pears that nobody can get along and get anything done—and, particularly in the Senate, you have this relatively small community of people, all of whom got here by figuring out, normally, how to get along with other people, as one of their attributes of getting to the Senate. And then you have rules in the Senate that require you to get along to get anything done. So you have that other screen that doesn't get nearly the attention. But when you do look at the accomplishments, even at a time of great frustration, those accomplishments have been significant, and so many of them have included LAMAR.

I knew LAMAR before I came to the Senate, but, particularly, the last 10 years of working with LAMAR in the Senate have been great for me, and the time that Abby and I have been able to spend with him and Honey have been great.

He says things in passing that really define the opportunity to be here in such a significant way. We have heard many of them today. There are others I think of often—one LAMAR told me not too long ago, when I was talking about how well our staffs work together. He said: Well, it always seemed to me that when the Senators obviously got along, the staff figures that out and they understand they are supposed to get along too.

LAMAR is blessed with a great staff. It will be interesting to see the new standard of having that other speech that so significantly talks about the staff and what the staff means. I have a great staff—many of us do—but when those staffs work together, as opposed to looking for reasons they shouldn't work together, things happen.

I remember LAMAR told me one day: They always remember the last thing you do.

And if that turns out to be the case, at least the last Senate year of Senator ALEXANDER has been extraordinary, as others have been.

But this year I had a chance, as the appropriating chairman of the committee that LAMAR is the authorizing chairman for—and, by the way, he also sits right beside me on the Appropriations Committee in most of our hearings when Senator SHELBY isn't able to be there, the chairman of our full committee. But in this last year, particularly from March on, we have done so many things together.

In March, April, May, June, there was almost never a day when we didn't have at least one call with somebody who is running a laboratory or someone at the FDA or someone who understood this investment arm we had, BARDA, that had been designed about 10 years earlier but never used as we have used it to bring the private sector and public sector together in partnership in a way that advances both tests and vaccines.

We would spend sometimes hours a day in a series of 30-minute phone calls, trying to put the pieces of this puzzle together. I remember one day we

were talking to someone at the White House, and the comment from his part of the conversation was knowing how many other conversations we had had that day.

If people had any idea how much the Senate and the two of you—he was saying at that moment—are committed to get things done, they would be surprised because that is a story that never gets told.

So much of the story of LAMAR—his work here and the good spirit he brings to that work—isn't told, but it is so very obvious, certainly for me.

One of the great gifts of my working life has been for LAMAR ALEXANDER to be such an important part of it for the last 10 years. I am grateful for it; I am grateful for him. I look forward to his continued friendship and advice.

I think Senator ALEXANDER, like many of us, is more of a next-chapter guy than a last-chapter guy. He is neither shy nor retiring. I expect him to continue to have great impact in his State and in our country. And, in my case, I hope he continues to have great impact in my life.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, I spoke earlier about Senator ALEXANDER, but I would like to compliment my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This is a fine and rare moment of bipartisanship and support of somebody we all admire and respect.

NOMINATION OF ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS

Madam President, now back to regular Senate business—I would like to conclude my remarks from earlier this morning on Senate business, but first I want to mention that I just met with another of President-Elect Biden's exceptionally qualified slate of Cabinet nominees over video conference, and that was Alejandro Mayorkas for the Department of Homeland Security.

No one exemplifies the hope and promise of America better than Ali, an immigrant from Cuba who has risen to the highest echelons of public service in his adopted country. We had an excellent conversation about how to restore integrity and trust at DHS and how to make this into a department that is not just anti-immigrant but relishes the fact that immigrants are so important to the future of America.

Now I will note that in previous administrations, the Secretary of Homeland Security has been confirmed by the Senate on Inauguration Day for President Obama and for President Trump. The Senate should continue the tradition and quickly confirm Ali Mayorkas for the third time so that he can get to work on day one of the Biden administration.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, now, on Senate business, before the end of the year, the Senate has three major priorities: Fund the government; pass the annual Defense bill; and deliver another round of significant COVID relief.

The appropriators from both sides of the aisle continue to have good discussions, and I hope on the funding of the government that the final agreement can be announced soon.

Now, the other two priorities, unfortunately, are a bit murkier. Yesterday, President Trump issued over Twitter a renewed threat on the annual Defense bill. Previously, the President threatened to veto this important legislation over a provision to rename military installations named after Confederate traitors.

Now President Trump has issued a veto threat by tweet over a policy concerning social media companies, section 230, which is in neither version of the NDAA already passed by both Houses of Congress.

President Trump must have realized that vetoing a pay raise for our troops in order to defend the honor of Confederate traitors wasn't the best message to send, so he has found a new complaint. After 4 years of ignoring the President's most vitriolic, conspiracy-fueled, and absurd comments on social media, I wonder if our Republican colleagues would say that they didn't see this particular tweet.

The truth is, section 230 may actually need some reform, but that is a serious undertaking that should be done in a regular order and can be left for another day, and it is certainly not an acceptable reason to veto the annual Defense bill, which includes policies to keep our military prepared, well-resourced, and equipped to do a difficult and vital job.

Nevertheless, it is silly season at the White House. The President seems intent on filling each of his remaining days in office with petulance, grievance, and self-interest.

The President is reportedly asking his staff about whether he can issue preemptive pardons for himself, his family members, and Rudy Giuliani. There is a simple answer: No. No, Mr. President, that would be a gross abuse of the Presidential pardon authority. But I have a more important question: Just how long are our Republican colleagues going to indulge the President in this nonsense?

Many of our Republican colleagues gave the President space to contest the validity of our elections, poisoning Americans' faith in our democracy. Now he is threatening to veto a pay raise for our troops and considering preemptively pardoning the entire Trump family. When are our Republican colleagues in the Senate going to say "Enough already"?

At the very least, with respect to the Defense bill, Senate Republicans ought to find the courage to ignore the President's eleventh hour ramblings and pass the NDAA.

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF

Madam President, now, regarding another COVID bill, we seem to be caught in a familiar pattern. We all know that successfully passing legislation through Congress means that a bill

must get through the Democratic House and get Democratic votes in the Senate.

Passing the law takes a measure of bipartisanship and compromise. That is why Speaker PELOSI and I sent the Republican leader a new offer on the COVID bill. It was an effort to jumpstart serious negotiations, but, yesterday, Leader MCCONNELL announced that rather than respond to our offer or the bipartisan offer of the so-called Gang of 8, he will pursue another partisan proposal before the end of the year. He said he was going to talk to the Republican leader in the House, the Republican President, and that is it—not a word with Democrats.

From early reports in the press, the latest Republican offer will be even more insufficient than the previous two attempts—so insufficient, that according to one press report, a Republican Senator said it was "offensive"—his word—to struggling Americans for the Republican majority to focus on another messaging bill.

Apparently, the latest Republican proposal will not include another dime of unemployment assistance because, according to the Republican whip, it was likely something the President wouldn't sign.

Let's be clear. The latest Republican offer on COVID will include immunity for corporations that put their workers at risk of COVID-19 but not a dime for workers who lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

The Republican leader should not waste the Senate's time on another inadequate, partisan proposal and, instead, sit down with Democrats to begin a true bipartisan effort to quickly meet the needs of the country.

I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 245 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—39

Baldwin	Feinstein	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Harris	McSally	Schatz
Loeffler	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kathryn C. Davis, 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.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 246 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Harris	McSally	Schatz
Loeffler	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant minority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, at 2 p.m., the Chair lay before the Senate a certificate of election from the State of Arizona.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory call be waived.

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

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Christopher Waller, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2016.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Marsha Blackburn, Joni Ernst, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Deb Fischer, Tim Scott, Lamar Alexander, Kevin Cramer, Mike Braun, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Michael B. Enzi, John Boozman, Thom Tillis.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Christopher Waller, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2016, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Carper	Gillibrand
Bennet	Casey	Hassan
Blumenthal	Coons	Heinrich
Booker	Cortez Masto	Hirono
Brown	Duckworth	Jones
Cantwell	Durbin	Kaine
Cardin	Feinstein	King

Klobuchar	Paul	Stabenow
Leahy	Peters	Tester
Manchin	Reed	Udall
Markey	Rosen	Van Hollen
Menendez	Schumer	Warner
Merkley	Shaheen	Warren
Murphy	Sinema	Whitehouse
Murray	Smith	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Harris	McSally	Schatz
Loeffler	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from West Virginia.

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of election to fill the unexpired term created by the death of the late Senator John McCain of Arizona. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate. If there is no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificate was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF ARIZONA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR UNEXPIRED TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 3rd day of November 2020, Mark Kelly was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arizona a Senator for the unexpired term ending at noon on the 3rd day of January, 2023, to fill the vacancy in the representation from said State in the Senate of the United States caused by the death of John McCain.

Witness: His excellency our Governor of Arizona, and our seal hereto affixed at the Capitol in Phoenix, this 30th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2020.

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY,
Governor.
KATIE HOBBS,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed.]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-elect will now present himself to the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator-elect, Mark Kelly, escorted by Ms. SINEMA, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senator.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Davis nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 248 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—4

Harris	Sanders
Loeffler	Schatz

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 Waller nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher

Waller, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, under the order obtained yesterday, I ask that the Senate proceed to S. 578.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Finance Committee is discharged from further consideration.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 578) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

AMENDMENT NO. 2689

Mr. MCCONNELL. I call up the Grassley amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. GRASSLEY, proposes an amendment numbered 2689.

The amendment (No. 2689) is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase the overpayment collection threshold for old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefits)

Insert the following after section 2:
SEC. 3. INCREASING THE OVERPAYMENT COLLECTION THRESHOLD FOR OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “With respect to” and inserting “(i) Subject to clause (ii), with respect to”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) For purposes of clause (i), if the Commissioner of Social Security determines that decreasing a payment under this title to an individual by 100 percent would defeat the purpose of this title, the Commissioner may decrease such payment by a smaller amount, provided that such smaller amount is not less than 10 percent of the amount of such payment.”.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, at 4 p.m. today the Senate will vote on the Grassley amendment to S. 578 and passage of the bill.

Until that time, the Senate will resume consideration of the Waller nomination.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Waller nomination is pending.

The Senator from Wyoming.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this morning we got to hear the farewell speech of my friend LAMAR ALEXANDER. He is a fantastic speaker and legislator. It has been an honor to serve with him and to learn from him. Now you get to hear from the accountant.

I rise today to give my farewell speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve the great people of Wyoming in this position for the last 24 years. I have really enjoyed being a Senator—not for the title, not for the recognition, and certainly not for the publicity.

I love solving problems for folks in Wyoming and America. I like working on legislation. It might shock those who know me, but I never intended to get into politics. While I always had great respect for those who served in public office, it wasn't my calling when I left college.

But over 50 years ago, when I joined the young men's leadership training group known as the Jaycees, at a State convention in Cody I spoke about the value of leadership in communities.

The keynote speaker was Al Simpson, who would go on to serve three terms in the U.S. Senate. After I gave my pitch on the importance of leadership training, Senator Simpson did his usual fascinating and humorous speech and then took me aside and said: I don't even know what party you are in, but it is time you put your money where your mouth is on this leadership stuff and get into politics. That town you live in, Gillette, needs a mayor.

My wife Diana and I had only moved to Gillette a few years earlier. The town was facing a crisis as the discovery of oil, gas, and coal turned it into a boomtown. The population started to skyrocket, and city services were not keeping up.

On the way home from that Cody meeting, while my wife was driving, I told her what Senator Simpson had said and that I was thinking maybe I should run for mayor. It must have come as quite a shock because she ended up swerving into the borrow pit and then coming back up onto the road.

We ended up talking about it seriously for the 4 hours that it took to drive back to Gillette and thought of a lot of things that needed to be done to make a difference in our town.

I was new to the community and just 29 years old, but I thought that Gillette was in need of a budget, agendas, and planning—not the most exciting topics to get people's attention. I ran anyway, and I did win.

Nearly five decades later, having served as mayor, having served in the State house, having served as a State senator and then as a U.S. Senator, I still find myself motivated by the urge to help my community and my country.

I also find myself still pushing those same three ideas that I did when I first

ran for mayor: budgets, agendas, and planning. I keep finding myself wanting to help solve problems. Once you embrace that responsibility, it is hard to ever ignore it again. I have found that many of my colleagues in Congress tend to feel the same way.

The Senate is a very different place than when I arrived in 1997, and it is a very different place than it was in 1789 when the very first Senate met. But over all those years, it has been a place for folks rising to the challenge of being a leader. We are looking to make our communities and country a better place. We might not always agree on what the solutions are, but we can respect each other for working to find one.

Over the years, I have learned a great deal from those around me. Just like I listened to Senator Al Simpson all those years back, I have tried to keep an open mind to learning from others.

Now that my time in the Senate is coming to a close, I would like to pass along some of the lessons I was taught—and some I learned the hard way—in the hopes that it may be useful for my colleagues working to get things accomplished in the Senate and for anybody who wants to be a leader in their community.

In my office we have a mission statement. It reads:

We have been given a sacred trust to work for our families, grandparents, and grandchildren. We will respect the wisdom of those before and the future of those to follow. We will discharge this trust through our legislative policy, our constituent services, and the way we treat each other, guided by these three principles:

Doing What Is Right
Doing Our Best
Treating others as They Wish to be Treated

These last three principles are advice my mom gave me often, and they remain my core values. Every member of my staff is given that mission statement when they start, and we rely on it to remind us why we are here and how we should act.

It isn't just a saying. It is a way to work, a way to build trust, and a way to govern. These values are not always easy to live by. We are all human, and we all struggle to live up to these ideals we set for ourselves, but that is why we call them ideals.

I believe these are values we can all agree on, and by remembering the values we share, we can work together to tackle tough problems and find shared solutions.

"Do what is right" is a great slogan, but you might ask what it means at a practical level. People see a mess in Washington, so how do we actually make progress? I believe it involves focusing on common ground over compromise, especially when it comes to legislating.

People sometimes think that compromise is the answer. I think it means that I give in to something I don't like, and you give in to something you don't like, and we both wind up with some-

thing neither of us likes. That is not legislating.

When it comes to legislating, often the best way to get something done that everyone can agree on is to leave out the things you don't agree on and focus on what you can get done. That is why I suggest my 80 percent tool.

Generally speaking, people can talk civilly on 80 percent of the issues. It is only on about 20 percent of the issues that we find real contention. Now, even picking a single issue out of the 80 percent, you might still find disagreement, but once again, you can probably focus on 80 percent of the issue that you can agree on.

It is all about focusing on what you can get done and not focusing on the points of disagreement, the weeds of debate that have choked issues, or, to say it another way, it is all about what you leave out.

Former Senator Ted Kennedy, from Massachusetts, and I used this tool when we led the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee together, and it worked great. It worked even though we were on complete opposite sides of the political spectrum.

I once showed Senator Kennedy an article that mentioned how unusual it was for the most conservative Senator and the third most liberal Senator to work together, to which he said: So who is ahead of me?

We were able to get legislation passed that others had been trying to do for years. Here is how we started working together. When I first got to the Senate, I wanted to change some things with OSHA—the Occupational Safety and Health. Senator Kennedy, at the urging of my predecessor, Senator Simpson, did let me sit down and take him through the bill a section at a time. That is something we always did in the Wyoming Legislature. When we marked up the bill in committee, Senator Kennedy said: In all my years in the Senate, I have never had anybody take me through a bill a section at a time, but I am still going to have to vote against it. It still got out of committee. But later he called me about a safety bill he had been working on for over a decade—a bill to save nurses and medical janitors from accidental needlesticks—and asked if I would take a look at it. I did. The biggest suggestion that I gave was to leave out a couple of small parts that had been jamming up the bill. The bill passed the Senate and the House unamended and was signed. And now you see needle disposals in restrooms and all sorts of places. And the issue has never had to be readdressed.

Later, I became the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions chair, and Senator Kennedy was the ranking member. We used the 80-percent tool. We were able to get 35 bills through the HELP Committee in the 109th Congress. Twenty-seven of them made their way to the President's desk and were signed into public law. In between, we were able to report out 352

nominations for consideration by the full Senate.

Here is how the 80-percent tool worked. At the beginning of each year, each of us made a list of the issues the committee should do. We compared lists. We made an effort to argue some to be on both lists. Then we worked on the ones on both lists. We usually had a duplication of about 80 percent of the issues. Then we could pick out any issue and work on it, usually agreeing on 80 percent of that issue. If we couldn't find a new way to do the part that had been argued for years, we simply left it out, believing that 80 percent finished is better than 20 percent that only makes the press.

The 80-percent tool is where all of our energy, attention, and talents could be focused. If we just worked on the 20 percent that we don't agree on, and never will agree on, we will only generate headlines about how hard we are working, with nothing actually getting done, just gridlock.

When the news comes on, if we are here in the Chamber arguing and bickering and getting nothing done, we are focusing too much on the 20 percent. If people do not see much of us, that means we are taking on the 80 percent and making progress without headlines and often with unanimous consent.

What we are really talking about is working together. That is what the heart of the 80-percent tool is. Oftentimes, people say what we need is more bipartisanship, and there is a very practical reason for that. In the Senate, you can't get anything done without working with the other side unless one party has 60 votes or more, which is rare. And even with 60 votes from one party, the bills that party passes when they have a supermajority often are flawed. It turns out that when we work together, we can create a better bill than when we just try do it alone or force others to accept our ideas. That is why success is not really about compromise. It is really about what you leave out—or finding a way to accomplish it doing a mutually agreeable new way.

We used to take the people who had similar amendments and send them off to see if they could come up with one amendment. Quite often, they could. It was fascinating, when they came back, they said: It was my idea. And when all of them report to you that it was their idea, you know that you have enough votes to pass it.

That is why success is not really about compromise; it is about what you leave out or finding a third way to come up with a mutually agreeable goal. Here are a few key steps that I used to find that common ground to pass legislation. First, find someone from the other side of the aisle who likes to legislate.

Second, discover and agree on common goals.

Third, consult with stakeholders that will or could affect the changes being discussed.

Fourth, hold roundtables instead of hearings. With hearings, each side beats up on the other's witness with clever, stump-the-professor-type questions. At a roundtable, people who have actually done something on a policy share their real-life experiences.

Finally, you set aside the part of the issues you can't agree on for another day. Now you will have a bill that has a good chance of being passed and signed into law. That is the heart of the 80-percent tool.

This way of working also ensures that we can disagree without being disagreeable. There is a lot of vitriol in our politics and our world right now, but you can stay true to what you believe in without treating others badly. Nothing gets done when we are just telling each other how wrong we are. Just ask yourself, has anyone ever really changed your opinion by getting in your face and yelling at you or saying how wrong you are? Usually, that doesn't change hearts or minds. That might make the attacker feel better in the moment, but it doesn't do much for getting anything accomplished. Following the 80-percent tool will not get you notoriety. It won't get you fame. It won't get you headlines. Most media coverage requires "blood in the water." However, the ability to work among your peers using this method can, and will, move us forward and get things done.

This tool is only successful if we are actually working on passing legislation together, and that means letting the Senate work as it was intended. One of the best ways to do that is to allow the members of each committee to actually take time to craft bills. The committees are where the experts are and where I think some of the best work gets done. I have already made it clear that I don't think hearings are overly useful and are often wasted on collecting soundbites for the evening news. Instead, we should be encouraging committees to give their members more say in crafting legislation and working together on best solutions. If you look at bills that pass with strong bipartisan support, they are usually because flaws were ironed out in committee. Legislation is oftentimes at its best when it has taken time in committees being hashed out until it is ready for prime time. You might not always be able to get everyone on board, but if you have done it right, you should see strong bipartisan support.

Sometimes this also means letting others take credit for your ideas. An old salesman's trick is to convince others that your good idea was really their good idea. Don't let your vanity stand in the way of getting the job done.

Too often, in the modern Senate, legislation is rushed out of committee to the Senate floor. And then once it hits the Senate floor, both sides try to prevent amendments, but the process of allowing amendments and debates is a core component of how the Senate was

designed to operate. Without it, the Senate can get gummed up. The gears can get jammed. Without the fresh air that new ideas and legitimate debate brings, tensions can rise as Senators feel unable to make progress.

The difficulty is that each party is so worried about the next election, looking to hold on to the majority, that everybody is either trying to force the other side to take politically perilous votes or trying to avoid taking those votes themselves. No matter which party is in charge, we end up blocking amendments and shying away from allowing legislation to be altered on the floor of the Senate. And usually those tough votes don't really make any difference.

It might help if Members made it clear to leadership they would be willing to take some tough votes in return for more chances to amend major legislation on the floor. People might be less likely to demand votes on a poison pill or messaging designed to put the other party in a tough spot if they knew they could face the same treatment. In the end, the onus is on the Members of the Senate, on us, to take on a responsibility to work together in return for a chance to pass legislation. I suggest that amendments should have to have 60 votes. If it was so bad that it needed a filibuster, the 60 votes would be required to end that. But that takes about 3 days. So many have been willing to allow their amendment to have a 60-vote threshold, and if it was strong enough, it passed anyway.

I also ask you to avoid comprehensive. Comprehensive bills make it so large that everyone can find a reason to vote against it. Senator ALEXANDER is a big promoter of step-by-step. That is taking a piece of legislation and solving it, and then taking the next step and solving it, and so on. This practical solution would avoid passing comprehensive legislation. Comprehensive legislation is usually a byproduct of compromise, not common ground, and often ends up being incomprehensible. Giant bills that try to do everything usually end up with too many unintended consequences and include a litany of unrelated pieces of legislation that are merely hitching a ride because otherwise they would never be able to stand on their own merits.

These "Christmas tree" bills are often designed so that if you vote against it, you would be voting against some key legislation for your constituents. Once again, the ugly nature of compromise over common ground is clear.

A simple solution I have proposed would be to pass more bills as individual pieces of legislation, that step-by-step. In Wyoming, bills have to be focused on a single subject, and all amendments need to be relevant. In the past, I have introduced a bill that would require that here, but it never was really treated seriously.

To talk on a little different article, my favorite article of the Constitution

is article V. The reason it is, is it assures that all States will have equal representation in the Senate. And that can't even be changed by a constitutional Congress. Since I come from one of those low-population States, it is very important to us. Sometimes we are criticized for being overrepresented in the Senate. We have two Senators, the same as California, New York, and Texas. But in this argument of unfair representation for States, we find the same inherent issues we do with the filibuster; our government was not set up to be majority rule by population alone. Our Founders, through their own debate, were able to understand the risk of pure democracy and the benefits of a federalist system, where ideas were represented not just by population but by regions and shared cultures. Wyomingites deserve to have their cultural say in our system protected against the majority. We are all in the United States of America.

The Senate represents more than just the people. To protect the individuality of the States, of the culture of those who live in the regions of the country less populated, and it also represents States that founded our federalist system. Of course, at that time, several of them had little population.

I have covered a lot of ground, but for my last piece of advice, I would call on my colleagues to recognize that it is time to formally allow electronics on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It is an issue near and dear to my heart and one I think will help how we work in the Senate. It is clear that anyone who watches C-SPAN that all of us are already breaking the spirit of the law, checking our phones on occasion as we walk off or onto the floor. Those devices are often inseparable from our ability to do our work. We rely on them to do almost everything. It is time to make this commonsense change, allowing iPads to be used for speeches, as long as they are laid on the lectern like a paper speech. And if Senators could do some work from their desks, like early Senators had to do, we would listen to more of the speeches and get something done.

I do remember when I brought that one up before, that it was covered by—in 1997, I thought it was important that we have that use. TIME magazine did a special article on it. I remember Senator MCCONNELL going to New York City and coming back to report to me that he got in a cab and the cabdriver said: You are a United States Senator, aren't you? Of course, he proudly was. The guy said: So when are you going to let the guy from Wyoming have his computer on the floor? Senator MCCONNELL told me if I had lobbied it down to cabbies, that it was time to do it. But we still haven't done it.

As we move forward, of course, our country has no shortage of problems we need to address. Some are out of our control, but many of our own making. If my experience over the years has taught me anything, it is that we will

never be able to tackle these challenges unless we find common areas of agreements and work to solve these problems together.

I hope that everyone listening—especially my colleagues in the Senate—members the core values I spoke of today: Do what is right. Do what is best. Treat others as they wish to be treated.

I truly believe if we adhered to these ideals, the world would be a better place for our children and grandchildren.

I want, again, to thank the people of Wyoming for giving me the opportunity to serve them. I also want to thank my colleagues and friends who supported me over the years. I want to thank all the amazing staff I have had over the years in my personal office, in the DC office, in my State offices in Wyoming; and my staff on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and on the Budget Committee. Over the years, I have gotten to work with incredible staff that made it possible to do more than a Senator by himself or herself could ever do. Thank you for working so hard over the years.

I also want to give the most thanks to my family for all of their support over the years, especially to my wife Diana. It has been a long journey since I told Diana that I was thinking of running for mayor.

You have supported me more than anyone can truly comprehend, and, in no uncertain terms, I couldn't have done it without you. It has been more than 50 amazing years together, and I look forward to our next adventure.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to this great Wyoming leader. For nearly a quarter of a century, MIKE ENZI has represented the people of Wyoming in Washington, and he has done it with intelligence, with intensity, and with integrity.

The Cowboy State and the Capitol are going to sorely miss MIKE ENZI. He has truly supplemented his legacy as the trusted trail boss of the Wyoming congressional delegation, and it has been an incredible honor and a great privilege for my wife Bobbi and me to serve the people of Wyoming alongside MIKE and his wife, Diana, who is with us today.

MIKE is truly a devoted family man, as well as a man of great and deep faith. In fact, MIKE taught Sunday school over the decades. Many in the Wyoming faith community know that MIKE's first Sunday schoolteacher in Thermopolis, WY, was my wife Bobbi's mother Jerry Brown.

Jerry and her husband Bob, a World War II and Korean war veteran, both passed away this past year, and they had been married 70 years. She taught Sunday school in Thermopolis, WY, and her star pupil was MIKE ENZI, to

the point that she actually gave MIKE ENZI his first Bible, and he still has that today.

Here in the Senate, MIKE has been not just a close friend to me and a mentor to me, but he has been that to many Members of this body.

MIKE was sworn in 1997. Throughout four terms in the U.S. Senate, he has never wavered in his commitment to God, to family, to country, and, of course, to Wyoming. He is known by many as the Senate's moral compass.

He is a remarkable spiritual leader of our bipartisan Prayer Breakfast. I am a member of that group and a number of Senators are as well. We met today, and MIKE led us in prayer.

I have seen firsthand just how much Republican and Democrat Members depend on MIKE for his moral and ethical guidance. He really is a bipartisan not just policymaker but also a peacemaker, and we have all seen it within this body.

His legislation—he talked about the 80–20 rule. It has a long history of garnering overwhelming bipartisan support. Over 100 Enzi bills have become law. I have been proud to sponsor and cosponsor many of them with him in my time in the Senate. The thing he didn't point out is that most of the bills passed with over 80 votes. It is rare for an Enzi bill to get to the floor and pass with any more than 15 to 18 “no” votes. It is a remarkable accomplishment.

It is important to note that these bills have been signed by Republican and Democrat Presidents. When you go into his office, his whole conference room walls are filled with bills and pens—signed into law with the pens being used by Bill Clinton, by George W. Bush, by Barack Obama, and by President Donald Trump.

Behind all of these, as he just talked about, is that very successful 80–20 rule—a rule that he learned while in the Wyoming State Legislature, and it has worked extremely well for him here in Washington as well.

But such is the practical Western wisdom in MIKE ENZI. Born in 1944 in Bremerton, WA, his father was there serving in the naval shipyards during World War II. He moved his family to Wyoming shortly thereafter, and that is when he started elementary school in Thermopolis, WY. They moved to Sheridan, where he graduated from high school.

MIKE didn't talk about this today, but there MIKE earned his Eagle Scout award. He is a proud Eagle Scout, as is his son Brad. His grandson is working on it as well. MIKE has been named a “Distinguished Eagle” by the Scouts.

He has a bachelor's degree in accounting from George Washington University and an MBA in retail marketing from the University of Denver in Colorado.

MIKE and Diana moved to Gillette in 1969, where they started their own small business. It is wonderful to listen to MIKE talk about small businesses. It

is called NZ Shoes, not as he spells his last name, E-N-Z-I, but the letter “N” and the letter “Z” so people could remember NZ Shoes. They later expanded their successful family business to Miles City, MT, and to Sheridan, WY.

But Gillette, WY, is MIKE's true home and where his heart is. He served 2 terms as Gillette's mayor. During his 8 years as mayor, MIKE led Gillette to their first economic boom. He served 10 years in the Wyoming State Legislature as a State rep, as well as a State senator. Wyoming is MIKE's world.

Family means the world to MIKE. They are the proud parents of three: Amy, Emily, and Brad; and even prouder grandparents of four: Megan, Allison, Trey, and Lilly.

Now, anyone who knows MIKE knows that he loves to fish. Even during Prayer Breakfast today, when you watched on the Zoom call, behind MIKE you could see on the wall the fishing rod and all the lures he uses in fishing on display. He is an accomplished and avid fly-fisherman. In August 2015, he achieved every fly-fisherman's dream, completing his Wyoming Cutt-Slam. This Wyoming Game and Fish Department program increases appreciation for our native cutthroat trout.

If you want to talk to MIKE about anything, talk to him about fishing. His passion comes through with his love of nature for spending so much time in nature's cathedral of the great outdoors. He fishes in majestic spots throughout Wyoming and all over the world.

Well, here in Washington, MIKE has been a leading voice on budget, on tax, and on healthcare issues. He serves on the Senate Budget Committee and has been chairman since 2015. As the first accountant to chair the Budget Committee, MIKE is committed to making government more accountable to hard-working American taxpayers. He has been a tremendous Budget chairman. That is because he learned valuable lessons in the Wyoming Legislature where, like all American families, you need to balance your budget every year and live within your means.

Under MIKE's leadership, Congress passed balanced budget resolutions for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and 2018. He worked tirelessly to pass these budgets—even working through the night all week for the marathon floor debates called vote-aramas. His budget blueprints offered a better fiscal path by reducing wasteful spending, by lightening tax burdens, and by boosting economic growth.

MIKE's fiscal year 2018 budget not only provided a path to balance; it paved the way for pro-growth, pro-jobs tax relief legislation, the most comprehensive reform in the Tax Code in over a generation. As a reconciliation bill, this historic 2017 tax reform bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, went through MIKE's Budget Committee.

As Budget chairman, MIKE has also focused on the soaring national debt, budget process reform, and oversight of Federal programs.

MIKE also served as a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee since his arrival in the Senate. And as a former chairman and ranking member, he championed the efforts to ensure a quality education for all. He expanded access to affordable, quality healthcare, and he spearheaded the most significant pension reform in 30 years, securing millions of Americans' retirement.

He is also a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Joint Committee on Taxation.

Other policy successes include improving mine safety, helping end the AIDS epidemic in Africa, and passing mental health parity.

MIKE's highest priority, of course, has always been helping the people of Wyoming. As he said in announcing his retirement, "I am an advocate for Gillette and Campbell County and Wyoming." He went on to say, "I point out that everyone lives at the local level. No one lives at the Federal level—or even the state level." He said, "So Diana and I are your Chamber of Commerce and economic development people for every town and county in Wyoming all the time."

MIKE started several annual events to boost our State—the Inventors Conference, the Procurement Conference, and Wyoming Works Tours.

In 2009, MIKE and I started Wyoming Wednesdays, and it quickly became a big hit. This is a great tradition. When people of Wyoming come to Washington, we greet them every week and get together for coffee and host a time of doughnuts and friendship, and people love to attend.

But MIKE, as well as Diana, are a force in the Senate. Diana did it again just recently. MIKE has called Diana "the most thoughtful person" in the world, and that is no exaggeration. Here in the Senate, every year Diana hosts a Christmas cookie party to thank, as they describe, the "real workers" who keep the Senate running—the janitors, cleaning crews, electricians, police officers, and food service workers. Every year, Diana and her friends work hundreds of hours and bake hundreds of dozens of cookies. All the Senate workers look forward to Diana's 200-dozen cookie thank-you event. That is not 200 cookies. It is 200 dozen cookies. It is not unusual for people to come up to Diana in the hallway and ask when the party is. MIKE is the wonderful cohort.

This year, because of coronavirus, she couldn't do all the baking, but they have the cookie festival with baked cookies. Those who couldn't get to receive them in locations, MIKE and Diana walked the halls of this building and the Senate office buildings to make sure that the guards and the custodians and janitors and others got their Christmas cookies.

MIKE is usually a man of few words, but in a recent Prayer Breakfast, he reminded everyone about the importance

of thinking before we speak. He titled his presentation "Me and My Big Mouth." He reminded us that our mouths cannot be trained—as you said, MIKE—only guarded.

MIKE is a true Wyoming gentleman, someone who will always be a great friend and a mentor to me, to younger people in Wyoming, and to everyone here in the Senate.

In my office, there is a picture on the wall of my first day in the Senate, right here in 2007, being sworn in by then-Vice President Cheney, with Senator ENZI, along with former Senator Malcolm Wallop, standing behind. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve with MIKE from the very first day in the U.S. Senate.

The people of Wyoming owe him an incredible debt of gratitude for his tireless and faithful service. MIKE's character, his courage, and his credibility have cemented his legacy as a highly respected leader of the Senate.

So today many Senators are here gathering to listen to, to honor, and to thank MIKE ENZI for his decades of distinguished service to the Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is hard to follow those heartfelt words from Senator BARRASSO about his colleague and friend and our friend MIKE ENZI, but I am going to make a try.

Just as our tribute to LAMAR ALEXANDER was a tribute to the better angels of nature as they are shown in the lives of Senators, so, too, was MIKE ENZI. I join my colleagues in thanking MIKE for his service to Wyoming and to America.

One of the most frequent questions many of us are asked is, Why can't you folks get along in Washington? Why can't you just do things together? I say to them that there are times when we do, and the many times are very important. When we do come together, it is because of people like MIKE, who worked under his so-called 80-20 rule. We know that well, don't we? He would tell you he believes both sides could agree on 80 percent of the substance, and if negotiators are willing to give up the other 20 percent, we could actually get some things done around here. Wouldn't that be refreshing?

One of those items was the Marketplace Fairness Act. MIKE helped to lead the fight for local brick-and-mortar retailers in order to give them a chance to compete on an equal and level playing field with online sellers, email companies, and internet companies and to allow the States and localities to collect much needed sales tax revenue. It is hard to imagine how many years MIKE put into that effort, but the Marketplace Fairness Act would have given the States the option to require from out-of-State businesses, such as those selling online, the collection of taxes owed under State law in the same way local businesses are required.

MIKE knew a lot about local business. As was mentioned on the floor by Sen-

ator BARRASSO, his colleague, he was a small business owner in Gillette, WY, running NZ Shoes. Even as he went on to become mayor of Gillette at age 30, a staff sergeant in the Wyoming Air National Guard, a State representative, and then a State senator, he was always still the small business man from Gillette.

In 1996, when he was recovering from open-heart surgery, then-Senator Alan Simpson decided not to run for reelection. Local leaders kept trying to talk MIKE into running. He really just wanted to have more time to hunt and fish. In the end, he made an important decision. He ran, and he won. His career has had many legislative successes in having used his 80-20 rule.

I will never forget the days when Ted Kennedy would come to the floor and talk about the compromise and the bargain he had struck with you. I had thought what a political odd couple, but the two of you did some remarkable things.

Poles apart in terms of political philosophy, they treated each other with respect, and they had amazing successes to show for it. Even when he has differing views on the best ways to resolve issues, MIKE ENZI shows a willingness to come to the table and discuss the areas in which we can agree.

In 2012, Democratic Senator Byron Dorgan retired. I called MIKE after Byron left and asked if I could take up Byron's position in his fight for the Marketplace Fairness Act. He said: Let's do it. We brought in Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER—that was a pretty smart move—and then Senator Heidi Heitkamp, who both made great contributions to our work. It was our luck that Heidi Heitkamp was the petitioner of the 1992 Supreme Court case *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*, which made the Marketplace Fairness Act necessary.

We were an unexpected group of Senators—two Republicans and two Democrats who were literally from all over the United States. We disagreed on some things, sure, but we agreed that Main Street business needed a break and deserved fair treatment. We kept working on it with MIKE ENZI's leadership, and, in 2013, the Marketplace Fairness Act passed the Senate, overwhelmingly, with 69 votes. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives, once again, broke our heart and didn't act on it. We kept introducing the bill.

Main Street businesses were still struggling against the unfair advantage that internet-only retailers had. Visitors to my office might have noticed a little something that was in my office that I have brought to the floor today and wondered what this was all about. This was a gift from MIKE ENZI after we were successful in the U.S. Senate. It is a small, wooden, three-note train whistle. It would be a violation of the Senate rules to blow the whistle, but I want to tell you that it was a gift from MIKE for our work we did together in helping to get the bill down the tracks of the legislative process.

We were never able to get the House to take up the measure, but, in 2018, the Supreme Court finally did the right thing. In a 5-to-4 ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*, the Court closed the loophole we had been struggling to fight and address for years. I am proud to be a part of that bipartisan coalition. In Illinois, it has meant a lot. We estimate that our State has received \$460 million in annual revenue by virtue of MIKE ENZI's determination and leadership on the marketplace fairness front.

In this pandemic crisis, this revenue is more important than ever. MIKE has always been a force for fairness, a friend, and a leader for whom I have great respect. As we fight this pandemic, we should strive to abide by MIKE's 80-20 rule and remember that Main Street businesses are really hurting and need our help.

I know MIKE will have more time now for fishing and hunting. I wish him and Diana, his wonderful wife—and she is a wonderful person—and their grandchildren happiness. I look forward to reading about the next chapter in MIKE ENZI's life of giving and caring.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, MIKE ENZI and I were both sworn in to do our first terms in the U.S. Senate on January 7, 1997. I immediately saw in the gentleman from Wyoming a quiet, effective, and ethical leader who was focused not on partisan advantage but, rather, on results—results that would benefit the people who had sent him to Washington and results that would benefit the American people as a whole.

The nearly 24 years since then have only confirmed my initial impression. For the first 14 of those years, MIKE was the sole accountant in the Senate. That discipline, combined with his experience as a small business owner, have served him so well in his role as chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget. He knows how important it is to set a budget, to follow it, and to control spending. His priority has always been the American taxpayer. As chairman of the Committee on the Budget and as a member of the Senate Committee on Finance, he has been a leader on tax issues as well. He helped to shape the 2017 tax reform act, which has helped to boost economic growth and the creation of more jobs.

MIKE's leadership style is characterized by his willingness to always search for common ground. He described in great depth today what he calls his 80-20 rule, and anyone who has ever worked with MIKE ENZI on any issue quickly learns about the 80-20 rule. Through it, he forges solutions where many others see only impasse. The key to success in moving legislation, as he told us today, is to focus on the 80 percent of issues on which agreement can be found and not waste time on the 20 percent on which the disagreements are insurmountable.

That rule served him well when he, along with the late Senator Ted Kennedy, sat at the helm of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Well, as MIKE has described today, it would be difficult to think of two individuals serving in the Senate who had more different political philosophies than he and Ted Kennedy. You could probably say that this is true with his current ranking member of the Budget Committee. Yet, together, he and Senator Kennedy crafted dozens of laws. Neither side got 100 percent of what it wanted. They put aside the areas of disagreement. For them, it was far more important that progress was made for the American people.

In serving with MIKE on the HELP Committee, I have seen him employ this rule over and over again to bring about real progress. He has led efforts to help to ensure that everyone can receive a quality education. He has helped to provide Americans with access to affordable, quality healthcare. He has helped to protect workers and foster job training opportunities. As the leader of the committee, he has worked to oversee the biggest revision in pension laws in 30 years—to strengthen funding rules to enhance retirement security for millions of Americans.

MIKE comes from a small business background, and as Senator DURBIN just described, he was passionate about the Marketplace Fairness Act—to enable States to collect sales and use taxes from out-of-State online retailers. He recognized that the brick-and-mortar Main Street businesses that provide local jobs should not be penalized. MIKE and I also worked together on successful legislation to improve workplace safety for postal employees and to better protect the American people from deceptive mailings that mimic official government documents.

Senator MIKE ENZI has compiled a long record of selfless service as a business leader, as a member of the Wyoming Air National Guard, as a mayor, as a State legislator, and as an involved citizen. When he announced his intention early last year to leave the Senate, he said that he had no definite plans other than to find other ways to serve. I am 100 percent certain that the author of the 80-20 rule will continue to contribute to his community, his State, and our Nation. I wish him and his beloved wife Diana all the best in the years to come.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have had the pleasure of working with my chairman on the Budget Committee on budget reform initiatives, and I want to take this occasion to thank him for the wonderful way in which he worked with me on those issues and for all of his support.

I want to make a pledge to him as well. The effort began with a lot of

hearings in the Budget Committee to sort out how we could reform what we were doing. At the moment, the Budget Committee is, probably, the most dysfunctional piece of this dysfunctional institution, and Chairman ENZI was determined to remedy that. A lot of work went in at the committee level. Then a bicameral committee was created to look at budget reform, primarily out of the House, and I had the opportunity to serve on that bicameral committee. That was an opportunity that I owe to Chairman ENZI. He both advocated for me to his leader that I should be on that committee, and he gave up a spot on that committee to make sure there was a spot for me there. I hope and believe that I conducted myself in due accord with Chairman ENZI's wishes and principles in the course of that.

We had the ability to use that bicameral committee process to do a test run of our budget reform, and I am pleased to report that, although the end product was never adopted between the two bodies, the product that came out of the committee included our budget reform as it was then constituted. We raised our aspiration from the budget reform as it was then constituted, which was entirely voluntary, to actually try to change the Budget Committee's rules to force the process of the Budget Committee into the mold of the voluntary structure. We did good work on that, and we came to an agreement. I am sorry to say that its failure to pass into law arose not from problems on the Republican side of the aisle but from problems on my side of the aisle that I have been unable to yet surmount.

My pledge to you, Chairman ENZI, is that I will keep at it. Senator BLUNT is here, and he is helpful in that regard. Senator LANKFORD and Senator PERDUE are here, and we have a good team, along with Senator KAINE, Senator KING, myself, and others on our side—another being Senator SHAHEEN.

So I will continue the work. I vow to you that I will somehow find a way to get this done, and if I can find a way to call it the Enzi reform, I will find a way to call it the Enzi reform.

I will long remember the relationship we had and the good work we did together. I will long remember your 80/20 rule. And maybe—because I have a similar proposal in Rules—maybe we will even be able to get your phones and electronics amendment passed.

So thank you to you, sir, for doing what is right, doing your best, and treating others as they would want to be treated.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I feel a little guilty, as the chairman of the Rules Committee, standing in between the Enzi desire to get the devices on the floor.

I have watched in recent weeks. If you looked around on the floor, you would assume that we had adopted that

rule. It is a pretty hard rule to enforce with all the information that Senator ENZI always knew was there and needed to be available in ways that we have not made it available yet.

I just want to stand as a particular friend of MIKE ENZI. We came to the Congress at the same time. I came to the House, and he came to the Senate. He and Diana and I were together on travel fairly early in that we had an opportunity to go to Lithuania, as they were desperately trying to get included in NATO.

And, MIKE, you remember walking on that little square where people had their signs up: We want in NATO. They had been left behind one time; they didn't want to be left behind another time.

But that is one of the many memories I have with MIKE.

Another is just MIKE's incredible capacity to listen. I think without question and by plenty of evidence, MIKE is the best listener in the Senate. In fact, he has listening sessions in his State, where what he does, shockingly, is listen. His talking is at a minimum at those sessions. His interest in taking in input from whoever wants to talk—you can envision MIKE at the front of the room with his notepad, taking notes on what everybody says, and then often the move from one speaker to the next is "Thank you" and "Let's hear what other people have to say," and he absorbs that in a great way.

There are many times when I have come to MIKE in the Senate and said: Tell me what you are thinking about this. And it is amazing how much you can learn by listening. MIKE so often has a different view, a more nuanced view than others do because of that.

I also thought, MIKE, as you were speaking today—I know that your driver in the State is usually Diana. And even describing the return from the Jaycees event back to Gillette, I noticed who was driving, that you spent so many hours together and miles together in a State that maybe doesn't have the most people, but it sure has lots of distance, and I know it was just a challenge to get home to Wyoming every week and then to get to the place you live in Wyoming, in Gillette, as often as you can, and that is not often possible.

But what an honor and privilege to serve with you, to spend these 24 years in the Congress together, and for me to get to spend the last 10 years of your Senate time here in the Senate with you. It is a great honor. It is a great privilege.

I am trying to learn all I can about listening from the master listener who then takes all that information and actually produces, as we have heard here today, real results.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I just want to thank all the people who came and listened, and I hope there were other Senators who were watching on their

televisions and taking notes on the 80-percent tool and other things that I mentioned.

But I just appreciate the friendships that I have had here. I have no qualms about leaving because of the quality of people who will still be here, still solving problems for America.

There is some great teamwork that never gets any publicity but that actually functions around here, and I can't thank my friends enough, particularly Senator BARRASSO, who has been a part of this team and has helped to bring me along. I have learned a lot from him and gotten to do a lot with him, and he and his wife are good friends of ours. It is not all that common to be good friends with the other person in your delegation, but we have a strong delegation and get along well that way.

I want to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his comments and particularly his promise that he is going to get some reform done so that the committee is actually doing what everybody thinks it does—providing a budget that we will follow. Those were goods reform principles that we put together.

I have always said that the only time we are going to have reform to the budget is if we can do it just before a Presidential election year because nobody knows who is going to be in the majority in the Senate and the House, and nobody knows who is going to be the President. Otherwise, we want to make sure that we can keep all of the control for our party that we can.

I want to thank Senator BLUNT. I actually remember trying to get some local food and running into Senator BLUNT, who was also looking for local food overseas, and so we had local food together. That was our first year in Congress. I have known him for a long time, and I appreciate your comments.

So thank you, everybody. Thank you, all the people from Wyoming.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

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

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled votes commence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of S. 578.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2689

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2689.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 249 Leg.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—3

Harris	Loeffler	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2689) was rejected.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Alexander	Fischer	Peters
Baldwin	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Reed
Bennet	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rosen
Booker	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Inhofe	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kelly	Shelby
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	King	Smith
Collins	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Leahy	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	Menendez	Udall
Cruz	Merkley	Van Hollen
Daines	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Wyden
Feinstein	Perdue	Young

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—3

Harris Loeffler Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (S. 578) was passed, as follows:

S. 578

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 “ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF WAITING PERIOD FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(a)(1)) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E) by striking “or (ii)” and inserting “(ii) in the case of an individual who has been medically determined to have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, for each month beginning with the first month during all of which the individual is under a disability and in which the individual becomes entitled to such insurance benefits, or (iii)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to applications for disability insurance benefits filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to re-

consider is considered made and laid upon the table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume executive session in consideration of the Waller nomination.

The Senator from Arkansas.

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I am very pleased the Senate has just passed the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, 96 to 1, a bill that will bring relief to many Americans suffering from a terrible disease.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease. People with ALS tragically lose the ability to control their muscles, leading to paralysis and, ultimately, death. There is no cure.

Many are familiar with ALS because of the baseball legend who succumbed to it at the height of his career, Lou Gehrig. Others know Lou Gehrig’s disease because it has touched them or a neighbor or a loved one.

I have been fortunate to know several people with ALS. One of my earliest supporters in my first campaign was the great Tommy May of Pine Bluff. Tommy, amazingly, has lived with ALS for nearly 15 years, beating the odds with courage and good humor. Given the gift of time, he devoted his energy to finding a cure for ALS, serving as a trustee on the national ALS Association board. ALS advocates are lucky to have a fighter like Tommy on their side.

I have also been fortunate to know Kip Jackson of Little Rock and Thomas Galyon of Rogers and others. Sadly, these ALS advocates have passed away, but I know how pleased they would be to see this bill cross the finish line today.

ALS is not like other diseases. It typically appears, without warning, later in life. Its life expectancy within 16 months is only 50 percent—no better than a coin toss. In other words, ALS strikes fast, and it strikes hard.

People with ALS typically apply for disability benefits through Social Security. There is a problem. Disability has a 5-month waiting period. This waiting period is meant to ensure that applicants aren’t suffering from a temporary affliction, and under most circumstances, it is appropriate.

But, of course, ALS isn’t temporary. For those who have it, given the odds they face, every month counts. That is why, years ago, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I introduced the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, which will waive this 5-month period for people with ALS. This will ensure they have rapid access to Social Security in the early days of their diagnosis, so they don’t have to worry about benefits and can focus instead on the things that really

matter during what could be their final months on Earth.

On their behalf, I want to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his partnership over the years. I want to thank Senator BRAUN for what he has done to help get this bill across the finish line today. I am pleased so many of our colleagues supported this bill.

I want to explain briefly my position on the amendment offered by Senator GRASSLEY. I support the amendment in concept, but I opposed the amendment today because the original purpose of this bill has always been to address ALS specifically.

I will support Senator GRASSLEY’s language in future legislation, but to pass this bill in the final days of the 116th Congress, the Senate—and especially in the days ahead in the House—it was vital that we send the unamended bill to the House.

I look forward to working with Senator GRASSLEY in the next Congress to ensure the sustainability of both the Social Security Disability and the ALS trust fund. He has been a great partner in protecting these vital programs, and I know he will be in the future.

Finally, I want to close by quoting Lou Gehrig’s final address at Yankee Stadium in 1939. He had just received his fatal diagnosis. He didn’t focus on the hardships that lay in his future. Instead, he famously exclaimed:

I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth. . . . I might have been given a bad break, but I have an awful lot to live for.

The same could be said of every person living with ALS today. They have an awful lot to live for, and this bill will help them live.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me thank Senator COTTON for his work with me in getting this bill to this happy result.

As the Presiding Officer knows, a bill can look like it was easy to get done when it passes 96 to 1, but that doesn’t mean that the pathway was easy. This has been years and years of effort.

Senator COTTON really helped make it possible, so I am very grateful to him.

I also want to thank Senator BRAUN, who was the first Republican Member to join me in this and who has been a constant ally and source of support and encouragement.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Chairman GRASSLEY of the Finance Committee. This is a Finance Committee jurisdiction bill. Chairman GRASSLEY was willing to let it go forward as long as he got his amendment—without insisting on his amendment being part of the bill. He got his vote. We voted it down, and the bill has now gone forward, and that reflects a very high degree of forbearance and courtesy from Chairman GRASSLEY, which I respect and appreciate.

I also want to thank the ranking member on Finance, Senator WYDEN,

who has worked very hard to make sure that finance issues were resolved and that he was comfortable with it. He and GRASSLEY were able to give it committee clearance to come to the floor with their support on these terms.

I also want to thank Senator LEE—MIKE LEE—for his forbearance. He has been interested in this bill in the past. We debated it on the Senate floor, and he has allowed it to proceed in this way also, so I am grateful to Senator LEE.

Of course, that is all the gratitude here within the body for people who made the bill possible, but the people we really need to be grateful to and appreciative of are the ALS advocates who come to us to argue for support and for encouragement. They are filled with hope even though there is no cure. They continue to seek investment in the science to try to figure out a way to a cure. They show immense courage.

This is a devastating, uniquely bad diagnosis for somebody to get. It is very hard for the individual who receives the diagnosis and also terrible for their family as well.

We have all had the experience in this body of seeing our constituents come to advocate on ALS and have the experience of seeing them the first time they come to us with a cane. When they come back the next year, they come back with a wheelchair and, the following year after that, come back with an electronic support mechanism with ventilator assistance and are still able to steer around, but it is an apparatus much more complex than a wheelchair. Then, in the next visit, it is their widow who comes alone.

We have had the chance to do something good here. It made no sense to require people who have this diagnosis wait 5 months before they can begin to get Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. Actually, very often, that first 5 months is when the support makes the most difference in terms of the quality of life that remains during the course of the illness.

We have been at this about 5 years now. Today is a good day in that sense.

I want to call to mind, just as an example of how this strikes at home—our small, local, home State paper, the Providence Journal, has a long tradition of being a very distinguished newspaper. Very often people who worked for it went on to the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and big and famous newspapers and made national names for themselves. The Providence Journal is a really significant newspaper. Just in the course of my time in politics, two of its writers have been stricken with ALS—struck down, in fact, with ALS: Brian Dickinson, first, and Bill Malinowski afterward. Each had to learn to write in very unusual ways, including with their eyeballs by blinking as letters went by on a screen or by directing a laser.

It is a terrible disease, ALS. But one thing that it does is it displays the ex-

traordinary human character of people who fight on through this increasingly disabling condition. The courage that they show and the way that they persist—in this case, to keep writing—Brian Dickinson was writing columns really until the end of his life—stand as an example to all of us of what courage in impossible circumstances looks like. That is a blessing they give to all of us.

With many thanks and much appreciation to J.R. Pagliarini, the president of Rhode Island ALS society, and his president emeritus, Kenneth McGunagle, and to their executive director, Beth Flanagan, I am happy to get this done.

Now we hope that in the final days of this Congress, our friends over in the House—with 300-plus cosponsors on the bill in the House—ought to be able to get out of each other's way and get this done before this Congress concludes.

I yield the floor to my friend and colleague Senator BRAUN with great appreciation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, today I rise in proud support of legislation that will break down barriers for those with medically determined ALS.

ALS is a progressive and fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects the motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, gradually robbing patients of the ability to eat, speak, and eventually breathe.

Currently, there are no meaningful treatments, no known cause, and no cure. But today, we have reason to hope.

Since 2016, Senators WHITEHOUSE and COTTON have championed the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act. Thanks to their tireless efforts, we are about to give ALS patients and their families more timely access to their Social Security disability benefits. No longer will these patients have to wait 5 months to access benefits they have earned.

Passing this act will help alleviate some of the financial burdens that accompany an ALS diagnosis and will allow patients and their families to focus their precious time where it needs to be—on their loved ones and their battle against the disease.

ALS is not a rare disease. More than 5,600 individuals in the United States are diagnosed each year, meaning 15 Americans are diagnosed each day. Not only is ALS common, it is also extremely personal to many in this Chamber, and it is personal to me.

My cousin Anne Seitz lost her battle with ALS on Thanksgiving Day 10 years ago. Her husband Terry Seitz currently resides in my hometown and is my State director of outreach.

My budget and appropriations staffer, Robert Ordway, and his sister Jennifer lost their father, Douglas Raymond Ordway, to the disease.

Kathy Laesch, a member of my Indianapolis team, has a son Brian who was diagnosed with ALS this summer.

Brian, who also lost his father, has fortunately been enrolled in a clinical trial. We are all praying for his treatments to be effective. In the network of people I have come to know back home and here in the Senate, it shows you just how many lives are affected by it, and there are countless patients it has affected in the Hoosier State.

I would like to personally thank Tina Kaetzel, the executive director of the Indiana ALS Association, for bringing this bill to the attention of our office.

I would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to Corey Polen, of Brownsburg, IN, for his passionate and unwavering advocacy in support of the bill. Corey has become a friend to our office and has also been a champion of legislation I introduced, the Promising Pathway Act, which would provide new FDA authority to more rapidly approve drugs specifically for diseases like this.

I would be remiss if I did not thank I AM ALS, especially Brian Wallach, Danielle Carnival, and Dan Tate, for their unyielding devotion to this and to fixing our broken healthcare system.

Today, we come one step closer to accomplishing this pursuit. It has been a great honor to cofound the first-ever Senate ALS Caucus with my colleague across the aisle, Senator CHRIS COONS, of Delaware. The passage of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act has been a priority for this caucus since its inception about a year ago. We readily acknowledge that the bill's passage is long overdue and that there is much more work to be done. We look forward to rolling up our sleeves and coming together to advance policies in the future that will continue to improve the quality of life for ALS patients.

In doing so, we celebrate ALS patients—those we have lost, those who are currently fighting this dreadful disease, and those whose journeys have not yet begun. It is a disease that does not have the luxury of a large community from which to raise awareness and fight for reforms. ALS has no survivor community. It is up to us, then, to speak up for those who can no longer speak and to stand up for those who can no longer stand.

To those whom we have lost to ALS and to those currently battling this disease—Anne Seitz, Douglas Raymond Ordway, Brian Laesch, Corey Polen, Brian Wallach, Dan Tate, and so many others impacted by ALS—we here in the U.S. Senate are your advocates.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today is my 276th climate speech, and my increasingly battered graphic is showing its wear, but for the first time in a really, really long time, there is real hope for climate action in America.

The light of science will shine in a Biden administration. Our U.S. Government will heed actual data. Agencies will act on facts. The White House

will care about the harm carbon pollution does right now across the country. President Biden will restore the EPA to its role of safeguarding our air and water and will task the State Department to surge climate policy abroad. Every Department—from Transportation to the USDA, to HUD, to the SEC—will have a role in turning this ship around before catastrophe.

At last, the Biden administration will cleanse America's government of its grimy infestation of polluter lackeys, stooges, and hangers-on and will shut off the disastrous handouts to fossil fuel industry donors. A flood of cleansing executive actions will wash away the grime. The American Presidency, with its great power, will shake free of the polluters' grip, but the Presidency alone cannot spare us.

Congress must pass a comprehensive climate bill, stop rewarding polluters from polluting, and clean up our energy market so it is not corrupted by or for the fossil fuel industry—for instance, putting a real price on carbon to pay for the fossil fuel damage. We have to invest in new, green infrastructure to create millions of jobs. We need to prepare communities along our coasts for rising seas, others for higher temperatures, and other climate dangers. We need to address the dangerous systemic financial risks fossil fuel presents to our economic system. There is work to be done, and it is overdue.

So what has been stopping us?

Four years ago, Senate Democrats came to the Senate floor and here exposed this web of denial and obstruction that had been built by the fossil fuel industry to prevent meaningful action on climate change. This evil web is a front for billionaire polluters like the Kochs and fossil fuel pushers like ExxonMobil and Marathon Petroleum. To hide its funders, this web uses creepy identity-scrubbing groups like Donors Trust and Donors Capital. They move money and people around in the web in a Whac-A-Mole array of disposable groups with misleadingly wholesome names like the Heartland Institute and the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity. Benjamin Franklin would vomit at this abuse of his name.

Following Big Tobacco's playbook, this web of denial kept the polluters' fingerprints off the dirty work of sowing doubt about climate science, just as the tobacco industry fraudulently stood up front groups to dispense denial of the harms of tobacco. This polluter web of denial also kept the Republican Party in line by spending stunning amounts of money in American politics.

Dr. Robert Brulle, now at Brown University, created this graphic off of his research, and it gives you a sense of how big and how complex this web of denial is that the fossil fuel industry stood up, and it is funded by huge amounts of dark money by anonymous funders.

When we exposed this web back in 2016, fossil fuel giants like ExxonMobil

said it was out of the climate denial and obstruction business. Exxon claimed it had not funded the Heartland Institutes of the world for a decade. Fossil fuel executives said they knew climate change was a threat, and they claimed to have turned the page on this nonsense.

Well, that just ain't so. The network of phony front groups, identity-laundering outfits, and bogus PR campaigns is alive and well. Like any threatened crooked enterprise, it morphs to hide in its surroundings, but we just caught another glimpse of it through a New York Times expose of the corporate PR firm FTI Consulting. FTI started 40 years ago as a hired gun for parties in litigation and now offers virtually any nasty service a corporation could need. According to the Times, the fossil fuel industry employs FTI for a lot of dirty work.

One thing FTI does is to stand up fake front groups. The New York Times chronicles how organizations like Citizens to Protect PA Jobs, New Mexicans for Economic Prosperity, and the Liberty Energy Project actually all trace back to FTI through common employees, internet domain registrations, and other ties. Each of these pop-up groups suggests that it is a broad coalition of regular Americans. Each sports a flashy website, like this one, with neighborly looking folk in scenic vistas, and, of course, they all make the fossil fuel case for cutting corporate taxes and slashing environmental protections. We call these fake environmental grassroots groups "Astroturf"—a product manufactured by big, powerful special interests to look like grassroots support.

This one is a classic—Texans for Natural Gas. The Times writes about this outfit:

Acting as Texans for Natural Gas representatives, FTI employees have launched pro-industry petitions, produced videos and reports on the importance of the Permian Basin oil field, and written opinion pieces for local newspapers supporting fossil fuels. The site features testimonials from three women—

I am quoting still—
two of whom are represented with stock photos—

Let me interrupt the quote for a minute because you know you can go to the internet and find stock photos of people you can use. So these aren't real testimonials. These are fake FTI testimonials with stock photos to make it look like it is credible. OK, I will go back to the quote:

and one with a photo used without permission from the Flickr page of a photographer in the Philippines.

Classy, huh? This bag of polluter tricks is pretty familiar to those who have studied the web of denial here, but FTI is also pulling some new tricks.

One new target is fossil fuel's own investors. A new challenge for oil and gas companies is their own shareholders—even their biggest institutional inves-

tors—calling on them to identify and address climate risks. For instance, last spring, BlackRock, the largest institutional investor in the world, voted at a shareholder meeting to remove two Exxon directors and install an independent Exxon chairman, all to improve this oil giant's "insufficient progress" in addressing its business risk from climate change. That kind of warning shot sends shivers down the spine of a big polluter.

So there is FTI, which popped up a group in 2018 called Main Street Investors, which commissioned studies arguing that activist shareholders harm shareholder value, and it launched a website, divestmentfacts.com, to argue against big university endowments, pension funds, and other big investors divesting from fossil fuels. The Times notes about this scheme: "At least six academic papers published on this website were by professors who, in addition to their university jobs, were also working for Compass Lexecon, [an] FTI subsidiary."

Neat trick using shareholder money to fool shareholders.

Who paid FTI to set up Main Street Investors? The National Association of Manufacturers, which the watchdog group Influence Map has called the worst climate obstructor in America. So it is no surprise that they are paying for this phony nonsense. The question is, Who paid the National Association of Manufacturers to set this up? They won't say. So we have to take a guess.

There is more that FTI is up to. Don't like your news coverage? FTI can build you your own news site. The Times found FTI lurking behind Energy In Depth and Western Wire—two sites that churn out pro-fossil fuel articles and spread them around the internet. With mass extinction of real local newspapers underway, FTI is busy setting up polluter news pages to fill the void. It is clever, if repulsive.

Of course, FTI does dirty work on social media. After New York City filed a climate lawsuit against Exxon, FTI launched a social media attack on New York Mayor Bill de Blasio. In a pantomime twofer, FTI used content from its phony Energy In Depth news site in its paid-for social media attack. Who paid? They won't say. Take a guess.

Another FTI campaign bought social media ads to steer people to another FTI front group, the Arctic Energy Center, which promotes—guess what—drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off the Alaskan coast.

In yet another campaign, FTI's shadowy special strategic communications unit set up a phony Facebook profile to secretly track environmental protesters. It did this for Apache Energy, which wanted to drill for fossil fuel next to a State park in Texas. See the pattern?

But wait. It gets even creepier than this, if you can believe it. FTI has a menu that it offers to its clients of fake personas.

These fake personas use fake social media and message board accounts to interfere in internet debate—say by harassing local citizens who are concerned about pollution and who may be criticizing FTT's clients, so they will bomb into the internet debate around that, offering fake personas as the phony voice to disrupt that debate.

This is actually their menu. You have what they call "the Derailleur." "The Derailleur seizes on a seemingly innocuous section of the otherwise negative narrative and attempts to pull the comment thread into a discursive discussion around that detailed non-issue."

They offer next the "Drunken Conspiracy Theorist Uncle." "The Drunken Conspiracy Theorist Uncle agrees with the negative commenter but conflates other unrelated and offensive issues into it, lumping it all together into an unpalatable whole."

They also offer the "Semantic Nitpicker," who "asks an endless series of questions seeking clarification or pointing out minor flaws in the way the argument is constructed. This can be played both friendly and oppositionally, but by different stacks of kids."

On it goes through the "Skeptical Capitalist," the "Patronizing Voice of Reason," the "Confused Time Traveler," the "Concerned Hipster," and believe it or not, here is a real beauty—the "Dog Typing on a Keyboard." You can pay FTT to send somebody real behind a fake persona to go interfere anonymously in somebody else's conversation—in this case, claiming a dog typing on a keyboard. "The dog typing on a keyboard chimes in with very poor grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and posts frequently to clutter up the thread and make it very hard to read"—basically packing the debate with so much nonsense that everybody has to tune out.

These are actually services offered to the fossil fuel industry clients that they pay for. They pay to disrupt legitimate internet debate using phony, paid-for personas that come in occupying these characteristics, I guess you would call them. It is unbelievably disgusting behavior for any corporation to engage in, which is probably why they hide the money.

You may ask, why? Why on Earth would fossil fuel companies spend big money on all this fancy, fake activity—from phony Astroturf groups to fake attack campaigns, to the dog typing on the keyboard? Why would the fossil fuel industry go through all these complex, phony schemes? Won't they ultimately get caught?

Well, the answer is simple, and it is a number—\$650 billion. Six hundred and fifty billion dollars is the subsidy for fossil fuel in the United States of America every year. Every year, \$650 billion. Another year, another \$650 billion, according to the International Monetary Fund, which is kind of a technical bean counter organization

that is not an environmental group by any stretch.

So let's say you are getting that \$650 billion subsidy every year. Even if all this fakery ends up exposed, if in the meantime you have disrupted the opposition and kept your business scheme going, you have reaped another year of multi-hundred-billion-dollar subsidies.

I mention in this web of denial the identity-laundering group called Donors Trust, and I will come back to them right now because I have called them out over and over.

Donors Trust just put a letter to the editor into my home State newspaper to assure its readers that Donors Trust is just as pure as the driven snow. Of all the newspapers in the world, Donors Trust just happened to pick mine. I appreciate the attention. But let's get the facts straight because here is Donors Trust, right in the middle of the web of denial. It has been called "the dark-money ATM of the right," behind "the right's assault on labor unions, climate scientists, public schools, [and] economic regulations." It has been called "the Right's favorite dark-money conduit, [which] allows the identities of wealthy conservative donors to stay hidden." It has been called "Donors Trust, the Right-Wing Secret Money Machine." And it is smack in the middle of this dirty, dark fossil fuel web that has propagated and funded the lie—the lie of climate denial.

From FTT and all of its schemes and its typing dogs to Donors Trust, the sleaze and the scale of the fossil fuel scheming is itself a signal of the mischief afoot. You don't put up a phony-balance operation of this magnitude unless you have some real nasty stuff that you are trying to defend and mislead people about. Well, for \$650 billion a year, you can crank up a lot of sleazy mischief.

Here in Congress, we can't keep dancing to the tune of this crowd. We still don't know which party will control this Chamber next year, but we do know that the Senate is out of excuses on climate change. It is time for a strong climate bill that can be signed into law by a new President, swept into office with the most votes in history on a strong commitment to climate action.

It is on us. It is on us whether this web of denial will hold us back or whether we will break free at last of its corrupting influence and do, for once—for once—our duty instead of its bidding.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I always appreciate the persistence and integrity and intellectual vigor of Senator WHITEHOUSE's comments on the floor talking about climate and talking about the corruption of big money and climate politics and climate decision making.

So to Senator WHITEHOUSE, thank you.

REMEMBERING LARRY WILLIS

Mr. President, this weekend we lost a great champion for American workers—Larry Willis, president of the Transportation Trades Department at the AFL-CIO.

Larry dedicated his life to the labor movement, fighting for workers on the frontlines of our transportation system. He worked to empower busdrivers and ramp workers, flight attendants and train operators around the country so they could fight for better wages and protections on the job and they could build a middle-class life for their families.

We know the labor movement is the single biggest reason that we have a middle class in this country. We know that the decline of the labor union movement is the reason that the middle class is shrinking in this country.

All of what Larry did said a lot about his character—that he took on that job and spent his whole career fighting to give power to the workers who have so often been denied a voice in this country.

Everyone who worked with him attests to his skill, his compassion, his commitment to justice, and his love of life. One of his greatest strengths was his ability to find compromise in even the most difficult, thorniest issues in front of us.

Make no mistake, Larry was always a fierce fighter for transportation workers. He never compromised when defending worker safety. He always challenged us to make legislation better, but he also understood that meaningful change sometimes comes in smaller steps, not in great bounds. He was willing to work for months, even years, behind the scenes to make real progress for transportation workers. Washington needs more advocates like Larry—someone who believes deeply in the cause and backs it up with relentless work to find a solution.

I want to talk about his grace. He was very direct. He didn't hold back when Congress did something that was not in the best interests of workers, but he never closed the door on anyone, even his adversaries. Larry was always willing to pick back up a conversation to find a path forward. He did not let egos get in the way of progress—something that happens far too often in this town. He never let disputes make him jaded. He always kept his head up and his door open.

My staff and I relied on Larry's guidance and wisdom for many years. He knew every angle of our Nation's transportation system. He used that knowledge to help millions of transportation workers. He was a wonderful person. We loved working with him.

We are deeply saddened by his passing. We are keeping his wife Amy and daughter Samantha—oh, how he loved both of them and lit up when talking about them—we are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers as they cope with this sudden, heartbreaking loss.

We will honor Larry Willis the best way we can—by continuing to fight to

empower transportation workers around the country and fight with a doggedness that would make him proud.

WORKER SAFETY

Mr. President, this spring I was talking with a grocery store worker in Southwest Ohio, who told me: You know, they call me essential, but really I feel expendable.

That grocery store worker and thousands of others are on the frontlines of this pandemic. They risk their lives so that Americans can keep food on their tables and get their packages delivered. They are changing linens in hospitals. They drive buses. They stock shelves in supermarkets and drugstores. Then workers go home at night. They worry they are going to bring to their home the virus and infect their family—always the anxiety they live with.

We know that hundreds of thousands of workers have been exposed to the virus on the job. Thousands have died. We don't know exactly how many because the President hasn't directed his government to make it a priority to keep track of these numbers. Think of that.

We know UFCW—United Food Commercial Workers—reports that more than 16,000 grocery store workers have been exposed at work. More than 100 have died. Sixteen-thousand exposed at work. More than 100 have died.

National Nurses United has recorded at least 1,700 deaths, and 58 percent of those healthcare workers who died were people of color. Seventeen hundred have died; 58 percent, people of color.

In meatpacking plants, we know the toll has been horrific. As of this summer, 16,000 workers in meatpacking plants, including in the Dakotas, the vast majority of them Black and Brown workers, and more than 230 have died. We can only expect those numbers to be higher.

What is the President's response? In the White House, they are putting up holiday displays with a lit-up ceramic post office and ornaments in the shape of garbage trucks and nurses' hats. That is right. Workers are dying around the country, and instead of doing anything at all to protect them, the President of the United States is decking the halls with ornaments. Workers don't need Christmas ornaments; they need fair pay, and they need protections on the job.

President Trump hasn't lifted a finger to protect frontline workers. Let me explain. I make a charge like that, I back it up. He spent 4 years in office putting corporate lawyers in charge of the Department of Labor. The Secretary of Labor made millions of dollars practicing law by representing corporations against workers—sometimes union workers, sometimes unorganized workers.

The Department of Labor makes it easier for corporations to skirt safety rules. The point of the Department of

Labor, the point of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, is to protect workers. Yet this Secretary of Labor, this Department of Labor—including from IBEW workers to steelworkers, to meatpacking workers—he refused to issue workplace safety requirements throughout the pandemic. He failed to get workers the protective equipment and medical supplies they need to protect themselves. He forced people back to work in meatpacking plants around the country.

In South Dakota, we know, in a meatpacking plant owned by the Chinese Communist Party, 1,300 workers got sick in one plant, and 4 of them have died that we know of.

The Trump administration fined this multibillion-dollar meatpacking—Chinese Communist Party-owned meatpacking plant—fined them \$10 a worker. Thirteen hundred workers got sick and OSHA, the government, the President, fined them \$10 a worker. But don't worry, he and his wealthy contributors who come for White House tours without masks or social distancing will get to look at some sparkly ornaments.

President Trump could crack down on corporations like Smithfield. He could mobilize American manufacturers to get every American worker the masks and the protective equipment they need. He could issue an OSHA temporary standard, as we have asked him repeatedly, that would provide clear enforceable requirements for keeping workers safe. He could stand up for workers, but he won't.

That is fundamentally why he lost. Eighty million Americans decisively rejected this President and his total lack of empathy, his complete failure to understand the dignity of work.

There are a lot of Senators in this body—not a lot. There are some Senators in this body whose mothers or fathers carried union cards and knew that was their ticket to the middle class and understood that their mothers and fathers were protected by OSHA, protected by the Department of Labor that cared about the safety of those workers in the workplace.

But all that the President did do to ignore workers and didn't do to protect workers, none of that is stopping him from trying to do more damage on his way out the door. The Trump USDA, the Department of Agriculture, is trying to race through a new rule—trying to push through, in the last weeks, a new rule that actually speeds up chicken factory processing lines; that is right, not slow them down in the face of record infections at these plants but speed up the line.

We know it is a trick. It is the oldest trick in the book. You make more money if you speed up the line. You speed up the line, and workers are more likely to get hurt. When you speed up the line during a pandemic, more workers are likely to get sick.

They tried to pass the rule earlier. It was held up over concerns workers

would get hurt and salmonella would spread. That is not even counting COVID. But to President Trump and his allies, more workplace injuries and more grandparents hospitalized by salmonella are a small price to pay if it means more profits for meatpacking companies.

Trump and his corporate lawyer Secretary of Labor are pushing through a new policy to ensure that companies can continue to exploit workers by classifying them as independent contractors. Go back to the childhood of a number of Members of the Senate who had parents who worked in factories and parents who worked in construction jobs, parents who carried a union card. You know what that would mean to those workers and the threat that they could get sick.

Think about it now. Corporations love this new business model. It is a way to classify people as independent workers. It is a way to pay people less for the same work, skirt labor laws, wash their hands of responsibility for the workers who make their businesses successful.

These workers aren't working for a big insurance company that really does have a public image they are trying to protect. These workers aren't working for a hospital or a big bank that cares about its public image. These workers are working for an entity hired by these big banks or by these insurance companies to prepare the food or to provide the security or to do the custodial work—a company you have never heard of that has no public image because this company is all about being hired by large corporations. They then can pay them lower wages. They can then protect them less on the job, and they can then not provide benefits. That is what happens with contract workers—those independent contractors. We know they love this business model. They can pay workers less. They can skirt labor laws.

President Trump wants to make that easier, partly, because he probably does that in his business, and he has a whole lot of corporate friends—big contributors to the Trump campaign who make more money by doing that.

Fundamentally, President Trump, Senator McCONNELL, and their corporate allies just don't understand the dignity of work. They think workers are always a cost to be minimized instead of the engine behind our country's success.

Think back again to those Members of the Senate whose parents carried union cards who cared about all this, who had a chance—in a job like this, who had a chance for opportunity because those workers carried a union card and were treated decently on the job. Because those workers carried a union card, their bosses couldn't think of them only as a cost to be minimized. They did think of them as the engine behind their country's success.

The American people rejected that—the 80-plus million people who voted

for a new President. They voted against the President who treated workers as expendable. They voted for the candidate who put workers at the center of his campaign.

Joe Biden had the most pro-worker campaign in a generation, and in January we get to work to deliver results. The new President, right now, on January 20 can immediately issue an OSHA emergency temporary standard forcing corporations to take important, critical, decisive steps to protect their workers from contracting or spreading the virus in their workplaces.

What is more important than protecting workers, especially essential workers who deliver our food, who prepare food, who do custodial work, who do security work, who are helping people in our country live every day?

With cases rising and hospitals filling up all over the country, the end of January isn't soon enough. Workers put themselves at risk in nursing homes and hospitals. They deliver packages of holiday gifts. They stock supermarket shelves with supplies for holiday meals.

Some of those workers are going to get sick. Some of them are going to die. They are going to die because they are essential workers, but we don't treat them like essential workers. We can do something about it now. We could pass a real plan that invests in protective equipment for them. We can pass a real plan of testing and contact tracing. We could get money to small businesses like Liz Valenti's business in Dayton, OH, so they can protect their workers—her two restaurants in Dayton.

Well, what is Leader McCONNELL doing? Ramming through more Trump nominees like Mr. Hauptman and Mr. Waller, who keep stacking the deck in favor of their Wall Street friends, trying to hold on to their power even after Americans said: No, we want something different—80 million of them.

MITCH McCONNELL needs to stop letting Donald Trump sabotage our economic recovery on his way out the door and get to work for the people he serves.

It is time to remember what makes this country great. If you love this country, you fight for people who make it work—our workers who organized in union halls and church basements and fought for workers' rights, women's rights, and civil rights.

In closing—I know that Senator LEE wants to speak. I have worn for my time in the Senate and before that, I wore this pin on my lapel. It is a depiction of a canary in a birdcage. You may remember the old labor story of the worker, the coal miner who took the canary down into the mines. If the canary died by suffocation or lack of oxygen or some contaminant in the air, the mine worker got out of the mines. He had no union in those days to protect himself, and he had no government that cared enough, that was strong enough to protect him, and he had no government that cared enough to pro-

tect him. He was essentially on his own.

This pin was given to me at a workers' Memorial Day rally by a steelworker who told me about this pin and what it stood for. He knows that the labor movement changed this country for the better. It created the greatest economy and the strongest middle class on Earth. It said the opposite of what MITCH McCONNELL says to workers all over the country: Sorry. You are on your own. What this canary pin represents is, we are all in this together. It means we fight for the dignity of work. It means if you love your country, you fight for the people who make it work. We can do that again. We can protect workers from this virus. We can build a better system centered on the dignity of work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is nothing short of a tragedy when anyone suffers from ALS. This is a progressive neurodegenerative disease, one that attacks the nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord of its victims and eventually affects control of the muscles, even the muscles that are needed to move, to speak, eat, breathe, and otherwise live.

Sadly, this is a disease that is always fatal. The average life expectancy is only 2 to 5 years following diagnosis. Not only are the people who suffer from ALS robbed of time but also their ability to work, imposing great hardships on them and on their families.

The bill that we had before us today to help these victims by reforming our Social Security Disability Insurance Program is a good cause, and it is one that I think we all support, but I think it goes about the job in the wrong way. It sets bad precedent, and it fails to include other needed reform.

We must remember that ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease, is one of many similarly debilitating and deadly diseases that Americans are suffering from today. While not as well known, all of these victims are also deserving of the same kind of special attention and accommodation in Federal policy.

Let's review some of the background of the program. The Social Security Disability Insurance Program, or SSDI, was created, in part, to help people who suffer from conditions like ALS, providing monthly cash benefits to those who become disabled and therefore unable to work.

One challenge with a program like this is that the agency administering the program, that is, the Social Security Administration, has to verify an applicant's eligibility for benefits before they can start sending out the checks. Today, eligibility determination takes an average of 3½ months. For some people and for some diseases, including ALS, 3½ months can be a dangerously long time.

So, in 2018, the SSA established a new policy to fast track the applica-

tion process for those with serious and urgent medical conditions. Under this Compassionate Allowance Initiative, more than 200 diseases now automatically make applicants eligible for expedited review.

But while the Compassionate Allowance Initiative shortens the determination process from an average of several months to an average of 39 days, there is still a lengthy 5-month waiting period to actually start receiving the benefits, and in the case of urgent, fatal diseases, that is still too long of a wait.

The bill that we have before us today seeks to address this problem but only for the victims of ALS. Now, obviously, we should try and help the victims of this tragic disease to the very best of our ability. They are not, however, the only ones who need to be helped. Of the list of compassionate allowance conditions, some are just as urgent as ALS and some are even worse. There are, sadly, several for which there is no known cure and that have life expectancies that are terribly short.

I want to cite some examples. For instance, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a degenerative brain disorder, is among these. This particular disease leads to dementia and most often results in death within 6 to 12 months. Tragically, there is no cure, and around 1,000 Americans are diagnosed with it every single year, including a dear friend of mine in Utah who a couple of years ago passed away from this ailment.

Another is cardiac amyloidosis, also known as stiff heart syndrome. This disease affects the way electrical signals move through the heart, leading to abnormal heartbeats and faulty heart signals. For those diagnosed, there is no known cure, and they typically face a life expectancy of only about 6 months after the onset of congestive heart failure. About 4,000 people develop this condition each year.

Take peritoneal mesothelioma, this disease is a cancer that develops in the lining of the abdomen, usually leading to death within 12 months of the first signs of illness. Around 600 cases are diagnosed every year in the United States.

That is why I have been working for the past year with my colleagues to broaden the scope of this legislation, so that Congress doesn't waive the SSDI waiting period one disease at a time. It should not matter which fatal, rapidly progressing and debilitating disease an American is suffering from—all fatal diseases with no known cure should have access to disability benefits after their Social Security Administration determination.

The men and women who suffer from those conditions and the family members affected by their ailments have precious little time left, and they are just as worthy of help. They are certainly no less worthy of help than those with ALS. There is always hope that a cure can be found for them or

that, at the very least, a new treatment can further extend the life of these men and women. Rather than removing the waiting period for those with one specific disease, we should remove the waiting period for those who suffer from any of a small select group of conditions that have no cure and have the shortest life expectancies. There is no reason we cannot help those who suffer from ALS and these other conditions. We can walk and chew gum at the same time. We can protect victims of ALS and these other conditions as well.

The bill, as written, sets the stage for only those diseases that have the most recognition and, to put it bluntly, the most fundraising backing to fund bill sponsors, and it would set at a disadvantage the conditions that are far more rare and underfunded. Who will be the voice for the men and women who suffer from those diseases? Who will fight for them? Adding similarly cruel maladies to this list takes nothing away from ALS, and it can make all the difference in the world for Americans suffering from similar disabilities.

I had hoped to offer my broader approach as an amendment, but after months and months of working with the Social Security Administration and with the Congressional Budget Office, I was, unfortunately, given incomplete information at the time an agreement was reached on scheduling a vote on this bill. I appreciate Senator COTTON's and Senator BRAUN's patience in allowing me to work towards a fix while they remain committed to advancing their legislation, for which I commend them.

Additionally, while I would have hoped that my work with the Social Security Administration and the Congressional Budget Office could have gone more quickly, I do appreciate their efforts to address my questions and compile the necessary information and tools to estimate my amendment's fiscal impact.

While I was pleased to see Senator GRASSLEY's amendment, which at least would have paid for the removal of the waiting period for ALS, I will continue to work on legislation that will remove the waiting period for diseases that meet a set of criteria—no known cure with a life expectancy of less than 5 years—while not further jeopardizing the solvency of the disability insurance program. It will be ready for introduction soon.

My concerns and efforts have not been about waiving the SSDI waiting period for those who tragically suffer from ALS. I certainly agree that we ought to improve the time that they have left. But picking and choosing favorites among those with comparable conditions is not the right way to go about it. The lives of the men and women who suffer from other very similar conditions are just as valuable, and we should be a voice for them, too.

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ACT OF 2019

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1044 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1044) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Lee substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2690) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

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

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. LEE. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1044), as amended, was passed.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ROB BISHOP

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman ROB BISHOP. After 18 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, he has decided to hang up his gloves and embark on his well-deserved retirement.

ROB BISHOP has served Utah's First Congressional District with integrity, tenacity, humility, and humor, and it is my high privilege to have worked with him over the last 10 years and, in the process, to have become his friend.

Born and raised in Kaysville, UT, ROB has been a lifelong resident of Utah's First Congressional District, with the exception of the 2-year mission where he lived in Germany while representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He graduated from Davis High School with high honors and later graduated magna

cum laude from the University of Utah with a degree in political science.

The embodiment of a public servant, ROB began his career as a high school teacher at Ben Lomond High School and Box Elder High School, teaching courses in German, AP U.S. history and government, and coaching debate. He notoriously had one rule in the classroom: I am never wrong. That might tell you something about ROB BISHOP.

An avid lover of musicals, he was active in community theater, where he happened to have met his wife Jeralynn. They first met on the production of "South Pacific" at the Palace Playhouse, and they later starred together as the prince and princess in a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." In their real-life love story, they have five children—Shule, Jarom, Zenock, Maren, and Jashon, with spouses Melissa, Kristin, Shalise, and Courtney, as well as nine grandchildren.

Inspired in his public service by Barry Goldwater, he was also involved in local politics from a young age, working at various levels of government and of the Republican Party. He has gone from being a precinct chair to a member of the Republican National Committee and from being vice chair of the Davis County Teenage Republican Club to the adviser to the Utah Teenage Republicans in 1996. Starting in 1997, he served two terms as chairman of the Utah Republican Party.

At just 25, he was elected to the Utah House of Representatives when he was known for always wearing sweaters and no socks. He served in the State legislature for 16 years and, during the last 2 years, having been unanimously elected, served as speaker of the house of representatives.

In 2002, after serving in the State legislature and having spent 28 years of teaching, he decided to serve at the national level. As ROB BISHOP said in one of his most popular campaign slogans: "Utah has plenty of Bishops—send this one to Washington!"

ROB has faithfully devoted his life to representing Utah's First Congressional District, and he has been doing that ever since making that critical decision to run for Congress.

I remember one of the first times I worked with him when ROB was a relatively new Member of Congress and I was serving at the time as general counsel to then-Governor Jon Huntsman. At the time, a private fuel storage organization was trying to store spent nuclear fuel rods in above-ground storage casks along the Wasatch Front corridor, just miles from Utah's major metropolitan area and just under the low-altitude flight path of fighter jets flying between Hill Air Force Base to the Utah Test and Training Range.

Out of all of the Members of Utah's congressional delegation at the time, all of whom, I would adhere, were similarly opposed to this proposal to store spent nuclear fuel in this particular place in this particular way—our congressional delegation was united in

that regard—but ROB BISHOP stood out as one who was particularly concerned about it and was particularly determined to prevent such a dangerous idea from taking place.

Congressman BISHOP had a full understanding of the problem, and he had a complete mastery of the scientific facts of the issue, and he had detailed, helpful ideas about how to address it. He also understood the significant and long-lasting potential ramifications that this plan could have had for Hill Air Force Base and the Utah Test and Training Range.

Thanks to ROB BISHOP's vision, direction, and determination, he developed a strategy and worked hard to implement that strategy and eventually worked to pass a bill designating the area in question as wilderness—creating a wilderness curtain around the designated storage area—making it impossible for the storage plant to be completed. ROB BISHOP thus successfully prevented spent nuclear fuel rods from coming to Utah and being stored in a particularly unsafe way and in an unsafe place close to Utah's major population center.

Though relatively new to Congress at the time, ROB was punching way above his weight. Why? Well, because he is awesome and because he was willing to dive into the nitty-gritty details of an issue and put in the hard work, not knowing and, frankly, not even caring who got the credit. ROB BISHOP just wanted to get it done. That is who ROB BISHOP is, that is how he serves, and that is why we love him. That has characterized ROB BISHOP's entire time in Congress: doggedly, thoughtfully, and honestly working for Utahns' best interests, and never really caring much who got the attention.

He served on the Armed Services Committee, the powerful House Rules Committee, and the Science Committee. As both chair and ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee, he chaired hearings with his characteristically witty quips and wry jokes. He has also chaired the Congressional Western Caucus, served on the House German Caucus for his whole tenure, including for 2 years as chair, and he helped found the 10th Amendment Task Force.

When Speaker of the House John Boehner created committees for congressional reform, ROB BISHOP was named chairman of the Committee for Procedural Reform and, later on, leader of the Rules group. Under Speaker Paul Ryan, he was named chair of the Federalism Committee. ROB did all this in addition to being a staunch advocate for the military and, in particular, for Hill Air Force Base.

One of his proudest achievements was getting an extension of the Michaels airstrip at the Dugway Proving Ground in Tooele County. When he was told that there was no funding for it to be attained at the Federal level, he successfully got the Utah State Legislature to appropriate the funding to

make it happen. He was instrumental in establishing Falcon Hill, an aerospace research park just outside of Hill Air Force Base and a public-private partnership between the Air Force, the State of Utah, and private developers that was the first of its kind anywhere in the country and a model of many more like it to come.

ROB has also brought his love of baseball with him to Washington. A huge admirer of Mickey Mantle and Ernie Banks, ROB is known to have actual dirt from the pitcher's mound at Yankee Stadium in his Washington, DC, office. He has been a long-time supporter of the Salt Lake Bees, even championing the construction of their stadium while he was in the State legislature, and he is a diehard Cubs fan. Every year, he dons a uniform himself, leading his office in the intramural baseball league on Capitol Hill, with their team name known as the "Raucus Caucus."

ROB has brought the same passion he has for baseball to serving his constituents. He has, for years, worked with the Close Up Foundation to bring high school students to Washington, and he has partnered with teachers and students to put on an AP government conference every year.

He has famously led constituent and student groups on long, expert nighttime tours of the Capitol Building. In fact, he is known as the guy who gives the very best Capitol tours in all of Washington, and he has consistently spent hours upon hours late into the night making personal phone calls to each constituent who writes in to his office.

One of my favorite things about ROB BISHOP is precisely how understated and down to Earth and often self-deprecating he is. It is a true feat when you have been in Congress as long as he has and accomplished as many things as he has.

While he is known for his sharp three-piece suits here in Washington, I can't count the number of plane rides I have taken with ROB BISHOP where he shows up on the plane actually wearing gym shorts, sandals, and a hoodie. In fact, basically every time, he has given me the sage advice not to torture myself wearing a suit while on a 4-hour plane ride.

In fact, just the other day—just this week, as we were flying from Salt Lake City to Washington, DC, he commended me for finally having gotten the memo. At least this time, as he noted, I wasn't wearing a suit, although he derided me a little bit for not wearing shorts.

But when you have a conversation with ROB BISHOP, you never feel that he is trying to advance his own agenda or gain attention or fanfare. As a matter of fact, it is quite the opposite. It feels like a real conversation with a real goal to fix a problem. He simply tells it like it is—an altogether rare, refreshing, and much needed quality on Capitol Hill.

When ROB ran for Congress, he said it was his goal to make Congress less

powerful when he left than it was when he came. In all of his time here, he sought to put power in Washington back in the hands of Utahns and back in the hands of people across the country in their respective States. Just so, in all his time here, he slept on either an air mattress or on a futon so that he wouldn't get too comfortable, so that he would never feel too "at home" in Congress.

Rare is the person who can come to change Washington but not ever be changed by Washington. ROB BISHOP has managed to do just that. He has made a real difference for the people of Utah and the people of the United States of America.

It has been a distinct pleasure to call him a friend and a colleague, and I have to say I am going to miss ROB BISHOP's service here in Washington. Just the same, we have all benefited and we will all continue to benefit for many decades to come from what he has done here, who he has been here, and what he has stood for here so valiantly and consistently and faithfully and with such great decency and humility.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there is a rather complicated issue that is out there that not many people are aware of. It emanates from back in 1996 with the passage of something called the Communication Decency Act.

Just a few weeks before the 2020 election, Twitter did what was previously unthinkable: It suppressed a long-standing, legitimate news outlet—that was the New York Post—from sharing an article either publicly or privately it deemed unfavorable to Presidential candidate Joe Biden. Obviously, they were concerned about Joe Biden, and they were using this act to suppress information that may not have been favorable. That is not what is supposed to happen, what it is supposed to do. To make it worse, they suspended an account of the Post—that is a major news outlet—for over 24 hours.

While other big tech entities suppressed the story as well, the depths of Twitter's censorship reached new heights, telling users that sharing the article could be "potentially harmful." There is no criteria to determine what is potentially harmful; they just decided—it is a liberal mindset, and they want to punish people who are not sharing their mindset.

Contrast that with the refusal to moderate any comments made by Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, who called Israel a "cancerous growth" to be "uprooted and destroyed" and for the "elimination of the Zionist regime" through "firm, armed resistance" despite having a policy against hateful conduct and glorifying violence. That is what they did. Those are the words. That is what they did.

Yet it proves what President Trump has been talking about for a long period of time on social media. Look what they have done to him over the last 4 years.

It is time to make sure that Twitter and other social media platforms are held accountable for engaging in censorship by repealing section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. Now, that sounds a little complicated. The Communications Decency Act—we know why it was started, but we know times have changed, and now it has turned into a very liberal political organization.

For over 20 years, social media platforms have benefited from protectionism unprecedented in the modern era—a complete liability shield protecting them from how they moderate or censor content posted for their users. To add insult to injury, there is no one to check the partisan censorship of these social media platforms. Instead, they are coddled by section 230's "Good Samaritan" provision, which allows "good-faith" efforts to restrict objectionable material. But the problem is, they are the ones who decide what is objectionable.

We all know Jesus's parable of the Good Samaritan. The moral imperative that comes from the parable has guided many legislative protections for those seeking to do good—doctors responding to problems with people in midair. I can remember many times I was involved as a volunteer pilot helping to get people medical care. People who are trying to do the right thing. We know that is significant. We know that is what the history was supposed to be on this section, section 230. It was intended to make sure that Twitter could flag and remove unquestionably harmful content, like ISIS and their propaganda videos.

In the case of the social media platforms, however, it amounts to nothing more than the fox guarding the henhouse. Instead of focusing on moderation to protect users from death threats or harassment and to prevent criminal behavior, Twitter is allowed to determine what is "otherwise objectionable" and censor it from the platform, with no right to appeal and no transparency. I mean, where else can you go in America and find someone who is totally immune from that type of behavior? You can't. It doesn't exist.

This is a case in point. Last year, they kowtowed to the Chinese Communist Party by removing the accounts of more than 100 dissidents ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. I remember that well. I remember where I was when that happened. But they didn't want people to know that type of thing actually went on, and that was somehow objectionable.

Twitter's censorship and actions over the past few years make it clear it has decided that President Trump is objectionable, and they decide that they are just going to act accordingly. That is

not surprising when you look at the employee culture they have in that media.

Here is the problem with section 230. According to a strict interpretation of the 1996 law, that is allowed. Partisan censorship is allowed. Senator RON WYDEN even admitted that, when written, section 230 wasn't about neutrality or protecting the free marketplace of ideas on platforms.

Clearly, we need to completely overhaul section 230, and the best way to do it is just repeal it. Repeal the whole thing. That is what the President wants to do. Then you could start over again and build up.

Times have changed. The argument we hear against reforming alone or repealing would be that any changes to section 230 would give social media platforms like Twitter greater control over content on their platforms. They are not wrong, but that argument ignores the fact that censorship is already happening for Americans due to their political beliefs, in violation of the First Amendment—it is supposed to protect people—without any transparency or recourse.

Others believe in the need to reform 230 incrementally, but those solutions are merely bandaids on a bullet wound. We have seen the negative impact of incremental reforms. They just don't work. A good example: Efforts to hold users accountable for information by requiring a "real name" associated with an account has seen Native Americans blocked from platforms for using their legal names.

Social media platforms and supporters of section 230's last-ditch argument is to tell conservative voices to create their own social media platforms since they clearly aren't welcome in those that are existing today. That sounds good, except that the problem is that Twitter and others have a de facto monopoly on social media. House Democrats agree. They wrote a 400-plus page report arguing Big Tech constitutes a monopoly.

Just remember the internet, what it was like back in 1996. In 1996, only 20 million Americans had access to the internet—only 20 million Americans in 1996. Today, 313 million Americans have access. So now it is a way of life.

The reality is that section 230 is simply outdated for today's usage and is a strong case for why all laws should sunset. One of the problems I have with laws that are passed is that they can be passed, the problem is corrected that caused the laws to be passed, but the laws stay on the books. That is exactly what has happened with this.

Section 230 is outdated and needs to be changed. Otherwise, we will find ourselves here time and again, forced to rectify decades-old laws with modern technology and ideas.

Let me simplify. Section 230 allows Twitter and other liberal social media companies to be exempt from liability—there is no accountability whatsoever—for what their users say. For ex-

ample, Twitter can't be held responsible for someone who posts a death threat against me, and I understand that. That is where we are today. But they are also protected from what they censor even if it is in violation of the First Amendment or it is protected speech. No one else has this shield. No one else in society has this, which is why President Trump is right. We need a total repeal.

If you look at what they had done to President Trump over the last 4 years, you will know exactly what I am talking about. But the place for repeal is not the Defense authorization bill.

There is an idea that the Defense authorization bill for 60 years in a row now has passed, and so everybody who has something that doesn't pass normally, they try to put it on as an amendment—having nothing to do with the military and having nothing to do with our defense system for the ensuing year. So that is how this one was decided. They put this on. The problem is, if it had that language repealing it, we would not have a defense bill. So there is not a choice in this case. We need a place for repealing section 230, and we need to do it.

The NDAA is about making sure that our troops are cared for. It is for our kids in the field. They are the ones we are supporting. They are the ones who need us. If we don't have this Defense authorization bill passed by December 31, our pilots are not going to get flight pay; the kids are not going to get hazard pay. The whole thing will fall apart.

Just think about the problems we are having in the military. One of the big problems is—and the Presiding Officer recognizes this because he is on this committee—right now, our big problem is how to get more pilots into the Air Force, into the services. They can't do it because of the competition out there. We can't compete with the private sector. Now, if we take away their flight privileges, then it could be goodbye to most of our pilots.

We just need to get this thing done. It should not be on the Defense bill. I want to make this appeal to make sure that no one has the idea that the National Defense Authorization Act is the place to have it.

I give the President and my colleagues my commitment that I will do everything possible to work toward a complete repeal of section 230 through other means. It has to happen. President Trump is right. Total repeal is the only answer if we are going to make sure we get this thing done—not on the bill, not on the Defense authorization bill, but in any of the other vehicles that come along. It has to be done.

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I think it is important that we acknowledge what is going on right now. What is going on is that the most significant vote of the year is taking place. It is called the Defense authorization bill, the NDAA. It has passed every year for 60 years now. This will be the 60th year it is passed. Nothing else has a record like that.

Yet there is always trauma at the tail end, and the reason there is trauma is that everyone knows it is going to pass—and it is going to pass—so anything they can't pass during the normal process of the year, for any number of reasons, they try to put on this as an amendment. Some things are not acceptable because they have the effect of killing the bill.

Now, we have two people who have been working with the committees putting this thing together. I know that the Presiding Officer knows this, but these people have worked an entire year and many, many more than half the weekends. People have this idea that people don't work in Washington on causes. They do on this one.

John Bonsell in my office has been the director, the support of the bill, with Liz King on the Democratic side. They have worked hand in hand together. People talk about how Democrats and Republicans fight with each other. Not on this bill. We all support it. We all want it. We all want to make sure it is done and it is done right.

So we have a defense authorization bill. It will be the largest one that we have had in the history of the Defense authorization bills. It is one that, without it, we are not going to be able to take care of our kids in the field.

We have to remember that, while there are a lot of hitchhikers on this bill on causes that we have determined to be worthwhile causes, we don't do it if it is going to be something that will take down the bill. So we want to make sure that nothing would jeopardize passing the Defense authorization bill.

Now, the key is December 31 of this year. If we don't have the bill passed by December 31 of this year, I mentioned that we have problems, that any of the specialist groups—and I talk about the pilots; I talk about those involved in hazard occupations—the SEALs—the individuals who are out there risking their lives to a greater extent than others do in the military. And they are out there doing it for this reason, and we want to make sure that they are willing to take these risks. We want to make sure that we are taking good care of people.

I run into people all the time who say: You are always so concerned about our military. Yet the chief competition that we have is with whom: Russia and China? Russia and China actually, after the last administration—that was the Obama administration. In the last

5 years—that would be from 2010 to 2015—he knocked down the military budget by 25 percent. It had never happened before—not since World War II anyway. Yet we found ourselves in a situation where we couldn't compete.

Now, they will argue with you, and they will say: Well, we spend more money on defense than Russia and China put together. That is true, but there is a big difference, and that is that in Communist countries they don't care about taking care of their troops. Our job is to make sure that our kids have a prosperous career. They want to defend their country, but they also have families. They have to take care of their families.

Housing has been a huge problem in the military, so we want to make sure that we have good housing for our troops—not just here in the United States but around the world—and we are doing that.

Now, in Communist countries they give them a gun and say: Go out and kill people. They don't care about the troops. They don't spend any of that money.

So the largest expense, the largest ticket on running a military operation is taking care of the people. So that is why it is important that people understand this.

There is also a document that nobody reads anymore. It is called the Constitution. You read that and say: What are we supposed to be doing in Washington? We get involved in so many different things. Yet, when you read the Constitution, it says that our primary concern should be to defend against an outside enemy, and then other areas—transportation and a few other areas—are mentioned. But the No. 1 concern is that we have to have a military that is second to none. We want to make sure.

Let me say this about our President. When he first came into office, President Trump recognized what had happened to our military and had recognized that there are things like hypersonic—that is a very recent, modern technology that they are working on in China and Russia and other places, and we are actually behind them at this time.

People assume that America has better everything in the military than China has and Russia has, and that is not true. They have artillery systems that are better than the artillery systems that we currently have.

So we have a job that I consider to be the most significant job—significant job for the defense of our country, and it is just that: to defend our country.

I want to applaud all of these people who work long hours. We are now to the point where they are what they call turning the page. We are ready to pass a bill. We are in the process of getting signatures from the committees.

There are a lot of people who don't like the idea of having to sign a bill and sign on to a bill, yet they know that in order to maintain a superior position over China and Russia, we

have to do that, and we have to show our superiority, and we have to make it last. That is what we are doing right now. It is a very significant time.

I anticipate that we are going to be able to get this done, and I applaud the President for the time that he has spent and the money that he has spent on rebuilding our military. You hear him say all the time that we now have the strongest military that we have ever had and we are in great shape. But we are still rebuilding. We still have areas where our adversaries have better equipment than we do.

So that is what is going on today. That is what is taking place. It is a very proud time that we can say that we are now addressing those things that are the most significant things going on in Washington today.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Waller nomination expire at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; I further ask that if cloture is invoked on the Hardy nomination, the postcloture time expire at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INHOFE. 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.

ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have an amendment to offset the costs to the Social Security's disability insurance trust fund associated with S. 578. Eventhough my amendment did not gain the 60 vote threshold, I want my colleagues to know that you just can't tap into the Social Security disability trust funds without dire future consequences.

S. 578 waives a waiting period in the disability program for the compelling case of patients with ALS.

There are, of course, other compelling cases.

And we have to be mindful of the disability trust fund which will eventually face depletion.

As the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, which is an umbrella organization representing advocates for a number of disabling conditions, puts it:

“Bills that only fix the problem for some people who meet the strict eligibility standards for SSDI are likely to lead to interest groups requesting waiver of wait periods for other impairments.”

So it is likely that Congress will see more requests for waivers of waiting periods for those afflicted with disabilities arising from conditions other than ALS.

Waiting periods in the disability insurance program were put into law for various policy reasons.

When we waive waiting periods for specific conditions, some of which are terribly disabling and even fatal, we change the nature of the disability program.

We change benefits and don't have any offsetting change to the tax that funds the disability insurance trust fund or any offsetting change to other benefits.

However compelling it is to waive waiting periods, whenever we do it, we accelerate the exhaustion of the disability trust fund.

And that affects people with all forms of disability.

In order to help make Social Security combined disability and retirement trust funds whole, my amendment would offset the cost of the ALS bill.

My amendment simply changes the minimum monthly withholding threshold for recovery of any overpayment of Social Security benefits to reflect the increase in benefits we have seen since SSA established the current minimum of \$10 in 1960.

My amendment simply changes the threshold amount from \$10 to 10 percent of the monthly benefit payable, as is already done in the SSI program.

With this change, SSA would recover overpayments more efficiently and better fulfill its stewardship obligations to Social Security's trust funds, while retaining safeguards for beneficiaries surrounding overpayments.

Guardrails to protect beneficiaries to ensure that collections don't create hardships are maintained.

Nothing in my amendment leads to benefit cuts of even a penny that a retiree or disabled worker has earned.

This policy is something that has been in numerous budgets of the President, including President Obama and now President Trump.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, to ensure that we protect the integrity of Social Security's trust funds while also protecting beneficiaries.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK DAVIS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mark Davis on the occasion of his retirement.

Mark dedicated over five decades to broadcast journalism, including an impressive near 37 years with News 8. An award winning-radio news director in Boston, Mark quickly adapted to TV news when he arrived in Connecticut. Throughout his career, he set an example with his honest, unstinting reporting. Mark covered the administrations of seven Connecticut Governors, always speaking truth to power.

His thorough, efficient responses to stories earned Mark the respect of his colleagues. Holding himself to the highest standard, Mark was always a consummate professional. Mark's outstanding and reliable work leaves a remarkable legacy in Connecticut journalism.

As chief political correspondent, Mark remained nonpartisan while demonstrating tireless grit. He was courageous and never shied away from asking the tough questions. At the same time, Mark had an uncanny ability to put politicians at ease, facilitating discussions and ensuring he could provide a thoughtful, complete story. Trusted by constituents, he was voted our State's best local TV reporter 2 years in a row by Connecticut Magazine.

Mark's exceptional record as an insightful, driven, and honest reporter leaves a historic mark and emphasizes the vital role he and his fellow reporters play in keeping people well informed in Connecticut and across the Nation. His professional partnership with Joe Sferrazza established a model of unmatched teamwork that will have an impact for years to come.

I applaud his lifetime of tenacious commitment to comprehensive, fair work focused on uncovering the truth, and I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Mark for his extraordinary contributions to regional reporting.●

TRIBUTE TO JANICE DONALDSON

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, today I recognize and honor the career of Janice Donaldson, Director of the Small Business Development Center—SBDC— at the University of North Florida, UNF. At the end of this month, she will retire after serving the small business community for 31 years.

Since 1981, Mrs. Donaldson has supported small business owners and entrepreneurs in the Jacksonville area. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1980, Janice joined the SBDC at UNF as editor of the office newsletter. After 21 years with the office, Mrs. Donaldson took over as director in 2002 and has been a resilient leader throughout her years of service.

During her tenure as director, the center's service area grew immensely,

from one office serving five counties, to seven offices serving 18 counties. Additionally, SBDC expanded its services from supporting entrepreneurs, to now enabling clients to grow their existing small businesses.

In her final year as director, Mrs. Donaldson faced one of her most difficult challenges yet. The COVID-19 pandemic forced her office to work remotely where they had to quickly acclimate to the ever-changing economic conditions. Under her leadership, the SBDC team worked diligently to help small businesses adapt to the pandemic, advising on financial assistance opportunities available, including the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration. This year alone, the center has participated in more than 20,000 consulting hours and facilitated the awards of approximately \$50 million in capital to small businesses in her region.

Over the years, Mrs. Donaldson has shown paramount dedication to small businesses. She has played a critical role in the economic growth of northeast Florida and has nurtured the American dream. Mrs. Donaldson will be greatly missed by her colleagues and the thousands of business owners she has assisted throughout her notable career. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING LUCKY GOAT COFFEE COMPANY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a family-owned business that invests heavily in its customers, employees, and community. Today, it is my honor to name the Lucky Goat Coffee Company of Tallahassee, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2010, Ben Pautsch founded Lucky Goat Coffee Company as a coffee wholesale and distribution company. Ben, a graduate of Florida State University—FSU—focused on providing high-quality beans to local coffee cafes. The Tallahassee-based business grew quickly as orders poured in. Their reputation for roasting the best grounds led to the creation of the first Lucky Goat coffee shop in 2015. The appealing storefront and large warehouse allowed Lucky Goat to spread their knowledge and passion for coffee through various classes and tours, strengthening their customer relationships in the process.

Today, Lucky Goat Coffee has grown to include five coffee shops in Tallahassee and a franchise location in Jacksonville. Their Tallahassee-based headquarters provides more than 350 wholesale customers across the country with

premium coffee beans. Ben keeps his strong relationship with FSU. Lucky Goat Coffee products are featured on campus, and Ben regularly hires FSU students and alumni. From the start, Ben has been committed to creating dignified work. He prioritizes career development and professional growth for his employees, with one-time baristas moving up to serve in senior management within the company.

Over the years, Lucky Goat Coffee has been recognized for its growth and remained committed to investing in its community. In 2017, then-Governor Rick Scott recognized Lucky Goat Coffee with a Governor's Business Ambassador Award. As one of the 100 fastest growing companies owned or led by Florida State University alumnus, Lucky Goat Coffee was named to the Seminole 100 in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Ben mentors young entrepreneurs interested in the coffee industry, and Lucky Goat Coffee supports local youth-focused organizations, including local Little League teams and Cub Scouts. They also help Leon County Schools, donating much-needed school supplies for students and equipment, including coffee, for the teachers.

Like many Florida small businesses, Lucky Goat Coffee suffered a severe decline in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic. In April 2020, the U.S. Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, a small business relief program that I was proud to author. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. A PPP loan gave Lucky Goat the support it needed to retain its employees and survive the pandemic.

Lucky Goat Coffee is a notable example of a small business that provides dignified work to its employees and invests in its community. Through their passion and generosity, Lucky Goat fuels Floridians every day with its delicious coffee and supports them through community service.

Congratulations to Ben and the entire team at Lucky Goat. I look forward to your continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5976. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC) increasing exploitation of United States Capital to resource and to enable the development and modernization of its military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses which continues to allow the PRC to directly threaten the United States forces overseas, including by developing and deploying weapons of mass destruction, advanced conventional weapons, and malicious cyber-enabled actions against the United States and its people; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5977. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule - Branch Application Procedures" (RIN3064-AF54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5978. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5979. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5980. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CY 2021 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts" (RIN0938-AU14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5981. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CY 2021 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" (RIN0938-AU15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5982. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) Managed Care (CMS-2408-F)" (RIN0938-AT40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5983. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the re-

port of a rule entitled "Hearings Held by Administrative Appeals Judges of the Appeals Council" (RIN0960-AI25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5984. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination Obligations of Federal Contractors and Subcontractors: Procedures to Resolve Potential Employment Discrimination" (RIN1250-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5985. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination Obligations of Federal Contractors and Subcontractors: Procedures to Resolve Potential Employment Discrimination" (RIN1250-AA10) received in the Office of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5986. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Registration Requirements for Pooled Plan Providers" (RIN1210-AB94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5987. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments" (RIN1210-AB95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5988. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5989. A communication from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2020 Annual Financial Report (AFR); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5990. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5991. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Technical Amendments" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5992. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR Case

202-002, Removal of Obsolete Definitions” (RIN9000-A005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5993. A communication from the Chairman of the Board, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation’s consolidated report addressing the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA or Integrity Act) and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5994. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR Case 2019-002, Recreational Services on Federal Lands” (RIN9000-AN85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5995. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5996. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2020”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-253. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to declare the waters of the Straits of Mackinac as “designated” for purposes of Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244

Whereas, The Great Lakes are integral to Michigan’s environment, economic development, and recreation; and

Whereas, The federal Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960 established two distinct categories of pilotage on the Great Lakes—designated waters and undesignated waters—and authorized the President of the United States to determine designated waters. In 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared designated waters on the Great Lakes, including all United States waters of the St. Marys River, the Soo Locks, and approaches thereto. There have been no significant changes in designated waters since that time; and

Whereas, The act requires both United States and foreign-flagged vessels sailing in designated waters to be under the navigational direction of a United States or Canadian registered pilot to ensure marine safety and effective use of navigable waters. Further, foreign-flagged vessels operating in undesignated waters on the Great Lakes must have a United States or Canadian registered pilot on board to direct the navigation of the vessel or be available to assist in navigation if necessary; and

Whereas, Pilotage of foreign-flagged vessels on the Great Lakes is an important

function provided by individuals with years of experience sailing on the largest freshwater sea in the world. Pilots are charged with the safety of the vessel and boating public as well as protection of infrastructure and the environment; and

Whereas, The Straits of Mackinac, an environmentally sensitive area of great importance to the entire Great Lakes ecosystem, is an undesignated water. The Straits are often congested with commercial and recreational vessel traffic. Additionally, the area has restricted visibility, narrow waterways, and important infrastructure including the Mackinac Bridge and pipelines contributing to the unique navigational challenges that exist in the Straits of Mackinac; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the President and the Congress of the United States to declare the waters of the Straits of Mackinac as “designated” for purposes of Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

POM-254. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan discouraging the United States Congress from expanding the size of the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 323

Whereas, For over 150 years, there have been nine seats on the Supreme Court of the United States. While the country has grown and changed during that period, the Supreme Court has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to fulfill its constitutional role as the nation’s highest court and remain an independent arbiter of the law without additional justices; and

Whereas, In recent months, there have been calls to increase the number of justices on the Supreme Court in an effort to gain political advantage. The number of justices on the Supreme Court has been fixed by federal law since 1869 and efforts to expand the size of the Supreme Court in the century and a half since have been met with significant resistance from the American people; and

Whereas, The legitimacy of the Supreme Court is its most valuable asset. The Supreme Court’s ability to issue rulings which are followed nationwide rests on the American people’s respect for the institution’s independence and separation from day-to-day politics; and

Whereas, The federal judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, must remain insulated from partisan disputes. Politicizing the Supreme Court by adding seats for the purpose of generating an ideological shift would be enormously detrimental for the public’s faith in the judicial branch as an independent and impartial branch of government. The framers of the U.S. Constitution envisioned a system in which Supreme Court justices and federal judges would serve lifetime appointments, ensuring that the judiciary would not experience the kinds of political pressures that are present in the elected branches; and

Whereas, Subjecting the Supreme Court to major structural changes as a consequence of shifting partisan control of the executive and legislative branches would bring the judiciary into the political fray in a way that would harm its ability to fulfill its critical role in our system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we discourage Congress from expanding

the size of the Supreme Court of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-255. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take necessary actions to review and enact federal law to fully protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from sexual and physical exploitation or abuse by payees and fiduciaries; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

Whereas, the Social Security Administration, through its Representative Payment Program, appoints family, friends, or other individuals to serve as payees’ representatives for beneficiaries who are incapable of managing their Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments due to age, developmental disability, physical disability, or mental disability; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, through its Fiduciary Program, appoints family, friends, or other individuals to serve as fiduciaries and receive payments for veterans who are physically or mentally incapable of managing their veterans benefit payments due to physical injury, disease, or age; and

Whereas, recent medical testimony before the Louisiana Senate Select Committee on Women and Children revealed that developmentally or physically disabled patients were being sexually and physically exploited and abused by caregivers who were also payees; and

Whereas, studies have shown that children are more likely to be abused if they are living with certain caregivers, and disabled adults with developmental disabilities are more likely to be abused compared to the general population; and

Whereas, the Social Security Administration and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs both have programs to assess and review the suitability of payees and fiduciaries; and

Whereas, the Senate finds that greater efforts must be made to protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from exploitation and abuse by certain caregivers who are payees or fiduciaries; and

Whereas, Social Security recipients, SSI recipients, and veterans are entitled to health care benefits through Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans health benefits; and

Whereas, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans health benefits cover an annual wellness visit or routine medical examination with a primary care physician or other health care provider; and

Whereas, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana finds that it would further protection efforts to require developmentally or physically disabled recipients of Social Security, SSI, or veterans benefits to undergo an annual medical examination with their primary care physician outside of the view of a caregiver so as to eliminate or minimize the possibility of sexual or physical exploitation or abuse from their caregiver who is also a payee or fiduciary. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take necessary actions to review and enact federal law to fully protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from sexual and physical exploitation or abuse by payees and fiduciaries; and be it further,

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-256. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the Louisiana Attorney General and all appropriate federal agencies, including but not limited to the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA or Suddenlink Communications has violated state or federal law in its dealings with the citizens of Louisiana; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, internet connectivity has become a more essential service in the light of COVID-19; and

Whereas, tens of thousands of students in Louisiana are dependent on internet service to go to school, thousands of Louisianans are reliant on internet services for telemedicine, and small businesses depend on online sales more than ever; and

Whereas, the restoration of communication service after a natural disaster is paramount to relief efforts and Louisianans returning to their normal lives; and

Whereas, the Louisiana legislature has received more than one hundred complaints about Suddenlink engaging in deceptive trade practices, charging fees for services that are not delivered, providing poor customer service, failing to communicate about key events including hurricanes, and engaging in various other problematic and potentially illegal behaviors; and

Whereas, a joint commerce committee hearing examined how Suddenlink has been failing to meet its obligations to reconnect customers to essential communication equipment, has been charging customers for services it has not delivered, and has lagged behind its peers in assisting in recovery; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Attorney General to use the powers granted to him under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law to investigate Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications and whether they have been engaging in actions that are prohibited under Louisiana law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request any appropriate federal agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications have engaged in a violation of federal law in their dealings with the people of Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Attorney General, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-257. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the Louisiana Attorney General and all appropriate federal agencies, including but not limited to the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA or Suddenlink Communications has violated state or federal law in its dealings with the citizens of Louisiana; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

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Whereas, tens of thousands of students in Louisiana are dependent on internet service to go to school, thousands of Louisianans are reliant on internet services for telemedicine, and small businesses depend on online sales more than ever; and

Whereas, the restoration of communication service after a natural disaster is paramount to relief efforts and Louisianans returning to their normal lives; and

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Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Attorney General to use the powers granted to him under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law to investigate Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications and whether they have been engaging in actions that are prohibited under Louisiana law, and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request any appropriate federal agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications have engaged in a violation of federal law in their dealings with the people of Louisiana, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Attorney General, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-258. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment after natural disasters in Louisiana; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, hurricanes that blow through coastal Louisiana, particularly those that come ashore as a Category 3 or higher, such as Hurricane Rita in 2005 and particularly Hurricane Laura in 2020, leave behind destruction and dislocation of people, homes, and equipment; and

Whereas, Hurricane Laura is estimated to have caused between \$4 billion and \$12 billion in damages mostly to Louisiana and mostly in the coastal areas of Southwest Louisiana; and

Whereas, a component of that damage involves the dislocation of equipment from the oil and gas industry located in coastal Louisiana, including storage tanks, drums, pipe segments, and other equipment used in the oil patch, equipment that is picked up by the wind and water of the hurricane and dropped elsewhere in the coast; and

Whereas, nearly eighty percent of the land in coastal Louisiana is privately-owned land, so much of the dislocated oil and gas equipment lands on privately-held property; and

Whereas, some of the dislocated oilfield equipment contains materials that can cause

pollution if the tanks and drums are damaged through the dislocation and could also be the cause of marine accidents when they are located in waterways where boat captains do not expect to find such hazards; and

Whereas, initial efforts to locate and identify equipment displaced by a hurricane include an attempt to identify the owner of the equipment, notify the owner that their equipment has been found, and request that the owner remove their equipment from another person's property; and

Whereas, the second step in attempting to address the dislocated equipment is the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LaDEQ), the Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) working in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard and, under the auspices of FEMA, working to remove any tank or drum that could be the source of pollution in the marsh or could be the cause of marine accidents involving boats and displaced tanks or drums; and

Whereas, after sources of pollution and immediate hazards are removed by LaDEQ, State Police, and LOSCO, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana National Guard, again under the auspices of the FEMA, identify the location and nature of additional tanks, drums, and other oilfield equipment dislodged by the hurricane so removal plans can be developed; and

Whereas, plans for removal of dislodged equipment that is neither hazardous nor polluting include a development of a timeline and an assessment of the potential damage to the marsh that could occur as a result of removal efforts versus the damage that the item may cause by its relocation to the spot; and

Whereas, because the process is a bifurcated process, requiring removal of hazardous or polluting items first and then removal of the remainder of the equipment, many times a situation arises that results in a displaced tank being bypassed on the way to remove a hazardous or polluting tank when removing all the equipment at the same time would be more efficient, more cost-effective, and require less overall time to remove all the dislodged equipment; and

Whereas, the FEMA practices and procedures do not allow the removal of nonhazardous, non-polluting items prior to or at the same time as removal of other displaced oilfield tanks, drums, and other equipment, thereby elongating the process and increasing the damage to the private property located in the marshes of coastal Louisiana; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment after natural disasters in Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-259. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment

after natural disasters in Louisiana; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, hurricanes that blow through coastal Louisiana, particularly those that come ashore as a Category 3 or higher, such as Hurricane Rita in 2005 and particularly Hurricane Laura in 2020, leave behind destruction and dislocation of people, homes, and equipment; and

Whereas, Hurricane Laura is estimated to have caused between \$4 billion and \$12 billion in damages mostly to Louisiana and mostly in the coastal areas of Southwest Louisiana; and

Whereas, a component of that damage involves the dislocation of equipment from the oil and gas industry located in coastal Louisiana, including storage tanks, drums, pipe segments, and other equipment used in the oil patch, equipment that is picked up by the wind and water of the hurricane and dropped elsewhere in the coast; and

Whereas, nearly eighty percent of the land in coastal Louisiana is privately-owned land, so much of the dislocated oil and gas equipment lands on privately-held property; and WHEREAS, some of the dislocated oilfield equipment contains materials that can cause pollution if the tanks and drums are damaged through the dislocation and could also be the cause of marine accidents when they are located in waterways where boat captains do not expect to find such hazards; and

Whereas, initial efforts to locate and identify equipment displaced by a hurricane include an attempt to identify the owner of the equipment, notify the owner that their equipment has been found, and request that the owner remove their equipment from another person's property; and

Whereas, the second step in attempting to address the dislocated equipment is the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LaDEQ), the Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) working in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard and, under the auspices of FEMA, working to remove any tank or drum that could be the source of pollution in the marsh or could be the cause of marine accidents involving boats and displaced tanks or drums; and

Whereas, after sources of pollution and immediate hazards are removed by LaDEQ, State Police, and LOSCO, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana National Guard, again under the auspices of the FEMA, identify the location and nature of additional tanks, drums, and other oilfield equipment dislodged by the hurricane so removal plans can be developed; and

Whereas, plans for removal of dislodged equipment that is neither hazardous nor polluting include a development of a timeline and an assessment of the potential damage to the marsh that could occur as a result of removal efforts versus the damage that the item may cause by its relocation to the spot; and

Whereas, because the process is a bifurcated process, requiring removal of hazardous or polluting items first and then removal of the remainder of the equipment, many times a situation arises that results in a displaced tank being bypassed on the way to remove a hazardous or polluting tank when removing all the equipment at the same time would be more efficient, more cost-effective, and require less overall time to remove all the dislodged equipment; and

Whereas, the FEMA practices and procedures do not allow the removal of nonhazardous, non-polluting items prior to or at the same time as removal of other displaced

oilfield tanks, drums, and other equipment, thereby elongating the process and increasing the damage to the private property located in the marshes of coastal Louisiana. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to more efficiently coordinate the removal of dislocated oilfield equipment after natural disasters in Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-260. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to the manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4897. A bill to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Daniel Huff, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*Gregory Autry, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

*Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 4944. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve access to care for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries through models tested under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 4945. A bill to improve end-of-life care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4946. A bill to counter Saudi Arabia's possible pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4947. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require annual lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico region of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 4948. A bill to provide funds for addressing COVID-19 conditioned on requiring the use of face coverings in public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4949. A bill to require the Secretary of Health of Human Services to publish guidance for States on strategies for maternal care providers participating in the Medicaid program to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity with respect to individuals receiving medical assistance under such program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4950. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Agriculture to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4951. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Transportation to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 4952. A bill to establish a grant program to expand the domestic production of certain medical supplies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 4953. A bill to prohibit data brokers from selling, trading, licensing, or otherwise provide for consideration lists of vulnerable populations to any individual or commercial entity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S.J. Res. 81. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 782. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of the Honorable George Pratt Shultz; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. BARASSO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 783. A resolution designating November 2020 as "National Hospice and Palliative Care Month"; considered and agreed to. By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 784. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 785. A resolution expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 786. A resolution designating December 19, 2020, as "National Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 787. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children waiting for adoption, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1342

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1342, a bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

S. 2006

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs.

GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2006, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

S. 2054

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

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 2948

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

S. 3004

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3004, a bill to protect human rights and enhance opportunities for LGBTI people around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) 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. 3753

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3753, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs have physical locations for the disposal of controlled substances medications.

S. 3812

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3812, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II.

S. 4113

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4113, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide grants to States and Indian Tribes to deploy affordable, high-speed broadband to unserved and underserved areas.

S. 4138

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4138, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to conduct a telework travel expenses program.

S. 4258

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

S. 4429

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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. 4600

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4600, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the responses of the Department of Defense to sex-related offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 4647

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4647, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes.

S. 4659

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4659, a bill to require a determination as to whether crimes committed against the Rohingya in Burma amount to genocide.

S. 4708

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4708, a bill to establish a commission to review certain regulatory obstacles to preparedness for, response

to, and recovery from the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and other pandemics, and for other purposes.

S. 4717

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4717, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment of certain Medicaid providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 4746

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4746, a bill to permit reenrollment and establishment by retiree beneficiaries of monthly enrollment fee payment for TRICARE Select at any time during 2021, and for other purposes.

S. 4792

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4792, a bill to extend the availability of Coronavirus Relief Fund payment funds for States or governments that use such funds to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency in accordance with a qualifying economic development plan.

S. 4838

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4838, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

S. 4860

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4860, a bill to exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 4898

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4898, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period during which States, Indian Tribes, and local governments may use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

S. 4909

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4909, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian Tribe.

S. RES. 754

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 754, a resolution request-

ing information on the Government of Azerbaijan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 755

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 755, a resolution requesting information on the Government of Turkey's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 782—HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE PRATT SHULTZ

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 782

Whereas, on December 13, 1920, the Honorable George Pratt Shultz was born in New York City as the only child of Margaret Lennox and Birl Earl Shultz;

Whereas, upon graduating *cum laude* from Princeton University with a major in economics and a minor in public and international affairs in 1942, Shultz joined the Marines and nobly served his country as a captain with a Marine anti-aircraft unit deployed with the United States Army's 81st Infantry Division to the Pacific for the bitterly fought Battle of Angaur in the Palau Islands;

Whereas, following the war, Shultz earned a doctorate in industrial economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he taught in the Department of Economics and at the Sloan School of Management until taking leave to serve on President Eisenhower's Council of Economic Advisors;

Whereas Shultz then went on to join the University of Chicago as Dean of the Graduate School of Business from 1962 until 1968;

Whereas Shultz left academia to honorably serve his country in a number of critical economic positions, including as Secretary of Labor, the country's first Director of a modernized Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Secretary of the Treasury;

Whereas, during his time at the Department of the Treasury, Shultz co-founded the "Library Group", which helped coordinate follow-up to the abolishment of the gold standard and the Bretton Woods system and develop what would eventually become the "Group of Seven" or the "G-7", an important forum that has strengthened international economic and security policy by regularly bringing together the world's advanced economies to assess global trends and tackle pervasive and crosscutting issues;

Whereas Shultz served as Secretary of State from 1982 until 1989 and was directly involved in bringing Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan together through a process based upon mutual and verifiable trust, thereby allowing them to reach agreement on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (the INF Treaty), which eliminated ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, and to ini-

tiate negotiations to reduce long-range strategic nuclear arms;

Whereas, during his tenure as Secretary of State, Shultz had a strong and mutually supportive relationship with the career Foreign Service, which he relied upon heavily to advance key international initiatives and attain the foreign policy achievements of the Reagan Administration;

Whereas Shultz recognized the need to better prepare a new generation of diplomatic service officers, whether Foreign or Civil Service, and ensured the creation of what became the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC), thus expanding short-term skills training to hundreds of ever more diverse Department of State and Federal Government personnel;

Whereas, upon returning to private life in 1989, Shultz became a Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, wrote and edited several books, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, along with more than a dozen other awards and prizes;

Whereas, in his later years, Shultz passionately advocated for a world without nuclear weapons;

Whereas Shultz recently called for the strengthening and modernization of the professional education and training of our career diplomats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of the Honorable George Pratt Shultz;

(2) recognizes Shultz on the occasion of his 100th birthday and expresses its thanks and commendations to his family;

(3) celebrates the statesmanship that has consistently characterized Shultz's life;

(4) acknowledges Shultz's published concern for rebuilding and strengthening United States diplomacy and its home institution, the Department of State, and his call for the creation of a school of diplomacy at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center; and

(5) commends to future generations Shultz's example as a patriot and public servant both in war and in the pursuit of a more peaceful, prosperous, and cooperative world order.

SENATE RESOLUTION 783—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2020 AS "NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH"

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. BARASSO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 783

Whereas hospice and palliative care services can empower individuals to live as fully as possible, surrounded and supported by family and loved ones, despite serious illnesses or injuries;

Whereas the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic public health emergency has—

(1) led to a sudden and unexpected increase in the number of individuals facing a serious illness or injury, which has brought attention to the need for better understanding and use of—

- (A) hospice;
- (B) palliative care; and
- (C) advance care planning;

(2) disproportionately impacted residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities; and

(3) restricted access to family caregivers who play a critical role in hospice and palliative care for their loved ones;

Whereas ensuring access to hospice and palliative care for all individuals in the

United States in need, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, is important;

Whereas hospice and palliative care aims to bring patients and family caregivers high-quality care delivered by an interdisciplinary team of skilled health care professionals, including—

- (1) physicians;
- (2) nurses;
- (3) social workers;
- (4) therapists;
- (5) counselors;
- (6) health aides;
- (7) spiritual care providers; and
- (8) other health care professionals;

Whereas there is a need to increase training opportunities for health care professionals to receive interdisciplinary team-based training in hospice and palliative care;

Whereas hospice focuses on quality of life through pain management and symptom control, caregiver assistance, and emotional and spiritual support, with the goal of allowing patients to live fully until the end of life, surrounded and supported by loved ones, friends, and caregivers;

Whereas trained hospice and palliative care professionals, during a time of trauma and loss, can provide grief and bereavement support services to individuals with a serious illness or injury, the family members of those individuals, and others;

Whereas palliative care is a patient and family-centered approach to care that—

- (1) provides relief from symptoms and stress;
- (2) can be complementary to curative treatments; and
- (3) improves the quality of life of the patient and their family;

Whereas, in 2018, more than 1,550,000 individuals in the United States living with a serious illness or injury, and the families of those individuals, received care and support from hospice programs in communities across the United States;

Whereas volunteers continue to play a vital role in supporting hospice care and operations; and

Whereas hospice and palliative care providers encourage all patients to learn more about their options for care and to share their preferences with family, loved ones, and health care professionals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates November 2020 as “National Hospice and Palliative Care Month”; and
- (2) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to increase their understanding and awareness of—

- (i) care for hospice patients with a serious illness or injury; and
- (ii) the benefits of integrating palliative care early into the treatment plans for patients with a serious illness or injury;

(B) to recognize the care and dedication of family caregivers, hospice and palliative care volunteers, and hospice and palliative care providers; and

(C) to observe “National Hospice and Palliative Care Month” with appropriate activities and programs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 784—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 784

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the “CDC”)—

- (1) 34,200,000 individuals in the United States have diabetes; and
- (2) an estimated 88,000,000 individuals in the United States who are 18 years of age or older have prediabetes;

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects individuals of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that—

- (1) Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes and develop the disease at much higher rates than the general population of the United States; and
- (2) an estimated 21.4 percent of individuals with diabetes in the United States have not yet been diagnosed with the disease;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 10.5 percent of the population, including 26.8 percent of individuals who are 65 years of age or older, have diabetes;

Whereas, of the 17,400,000 veterans in the United States, 8,800,000 who are 65 years of age or older, and 1 in 4 overall, are receiving care for diabetes from the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the risk of developing diabetes at some point in life is 40 percent for adults in the United States;

Whereas, according to the American Diabetes Association, the United States spent an estimated \$237,000,000,000 on direct medical costs for cases of diagnosed diabetes in 2017, and out-of-pocket costs for insulin have grown significantly in recent years for many patients;

Whereas the American Diabetes Association reports that care for people with diagnosed diabetes accounts for 1 in 4 health care dollars spent in the United States;

Whereas the cost of health care is estimated to be 2.3 times higher for individuals in the United States with diabetes than those without diabetes;

Whereas, as of November 2020, a cure for diabetes does not exist;

Whereas there are successful means to reduce the incidence, and delay the onset, of type 2 diabetes;

Whereas, with proper management and treatment, individuals with diabetes live healthy and productive lives; and

Whereas individuals in the United States celebrate American Diabetes Month in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) supports the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, including—

(A) encouraging individuals in the United States to fight diabetes through public awareness of prevention and treatment options; and

(B) enhancing diabetes education;

(2) recognizes the importance of awareness and early detection, including awareness of symptoms and risk factors such as—

- (A) being—
 - (i) older than 45 years of age; or
 - (ii) overweight; and
- (B) having—

(i) a particular racial and ethnic background;

(ii) a low level of physical activity;

(iii) high blood pressure;

(iv) a family history of diabetes; or

(v) a history of diabetes during pregnancy;

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes in the United States through research, treatment, and prevention; and

(4) recognizes the importance of addressing systemic barriers to health care that—

(A) leave many vulnerable communities at a heightened risk for diabetes; and

(B) limit access to health care resources that are needed to effectively prevent the onset, and to manage the condition, of diabetes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 785—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 785

Whereas stomach cancer, also known as gastric cancer, is one of the most difficult cancers to detect in the early stages of the disease, which contributes to high mortality rates;

Whereas stomach cancer occurs when cancer cells develop in the lining of the stomach;

Whereas stomach cancer is the fifth most common type of cancer in the world;

Whereas, in 2020, an estimated—

- (1) 27,600 cases of stomach cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and
- (2) 11,010 people in the United States will die from stomach cancer;

Whereas the estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 32 percent;

Whereas, in the United States, stomach cancer is more prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities;

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among patients and health care providers could improve timely recognition of stomach cancer symptoms;

Whereas more research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer is needed; and

Whereas November 2020 is an appropriate month to observe Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month;

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among the general public of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages States, territories, and localities of the United States to support the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 786—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 19, 2020, AS “NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 786

Whereas 29 years before the date of adoption of this resolution, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December, of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir veterans’ remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the 29 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 10,100,300 wreaths have been sent to various locations, including national cemeteries and

veterans memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to “Remember, Honor, and Teach”, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans cemeteries; and
- (3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veteran’s parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

- (1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;
- (2) honoring those who serve; and
- (3) teaching the next generation of children about the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by all in the United States;

Whereas, in 2019, approximately 2,200,000 veterans’ remembrance wreaths were delivered to 2,200 locations across the United States and overseas, including more than 13,300 wreaths placed at the American Cemeteries in Luxembourg and the Netherlands, in remembrance of some of those lost during World War II;

Whereas, in December 2019, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will be continued by—

- (1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
- (2) other patriotic escort units, including—
 - (A) motorcycle units;
 - (B) law enforcement units; and
 - (C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans’ remembrance wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 2,200 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 14, 2019, as “Wreaths Across America Day”;

Whereas, on December 19, 2020, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans’ remembrance wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 19, 2020, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”;

- (2) honors—
 - (A) the Wreaths Across America project;
 - (B) patriotic escort units, including—
 - (i) motorcycle units;
 - (ii) law enforcement units; and
 - (iii) first responder units;
 - (C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, their family members, and members of the Armed Forces have made, and continue to make, for the United States, a great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 787—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH AND NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN WAITING FOR ADOPTION, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 787

Whereas there are far too many unparented children in the United States;

Whereas the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Report on fiscal year 2019 foster care and adoption population characteristics indicates that, in the United States—

- (1) there are approximately 424,000 children in the foster care system, approximately 122,200 of whom are waiting for adoption;
- (2) 65 percent of the children in foster care are 10 years of age or younger;
- (3) the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 20 months;
- (4) during fiscal year 2019, approximately 20,400 youth “aged out” of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home; and
- (5) during fiscal year 2019, the number of children who—

(A) achieved permanency through adoption increased for the fifth year in a row; and

(B) entered foster care decreased for the third year in a row;

Whereas, still, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas a survey conducted in 2019 showed that—

- (1) 21 percent of respondents had considered or were considering adoption;
- (2) about ½ of respondents viewed adoption through the foster care system favorably; and
- (3) of the respondents who had not considered adoption—

(A) 20 percent believed that they could not afford adoption; and

(B) 18 percent believed that they would be unprepared for the emotional or health needs of an adopted child;

Whereas the Children’s Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services, supports programs, re-

search, and monitoring to help eliminate barriers to adoption and find permanent families for children;

Whereas, every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to the United States, the foster care system, prospective adoptive parents, and the children awaiting permanency;

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and the President has proclaimed November 2020 as National Adoption Month;

Whereas National Adoption Day has been celebrated as a collective national effort to find permanent and loving families for children in the foster care system; and

Whereas the Saturday before Thanksgiving has been recognized as National Adoption Day since at least 2000, and, in 2020, the Saturday before Thanksgiving is November 21: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and throughout the year.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2689. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 578, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

SA 2690. Mr. LEE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1044, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

SA 2691. Mr. INHOFE (for Mr. SULLIVAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 496, to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2689. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 578, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; as follows:

Insert the following after section 2:

SEC. 3. INCREASING THE OVERPAYMENT COLLECTION THRESHOLD FOR OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “With respect to” and inserting “(i) Subject to clause (ii), with respect to”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ii) For purposes of clause (i), if the Commissioner of Social Security determines that decreasing a payment under this title to an individual by 100 percent would defeat the purpose of this title, the Commissioner may decrease such payment by a smaller amount, provided that such smaller amount is not less than 10 percent of the amount of such payment.”.

SA 2690. Mr. LEE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1044, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) PER COUNTRY LEVELS FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the total number of immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area under section 203(a) in any fiscal year may not exceed 15 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas made available under such section in that fiscal year.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 202 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “both subsections (a) and (b) of section 203” and inserting “section 203(a)”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR COUNTRIES AT CEILING.—If the total number of immigrant visas made available under section 203(a) to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any fiscal year, immigrant visas shall be allotted to such natives under section 203(a) (to the extent practicable and otherwise consistent with this section and section 203) in a manner so that, except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of the visas made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 203(a) is equal to the ratio of the total visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total visas made available under section 203(a).”.

(c) COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OFFSET.—Section 2 of the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(as defined in subsection (e))”;

(2) by striking subsection (d); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and shall apply to that fiscal year and each subsequent fiscal year.

(e) TRANSITION RULES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), and notwithstanding title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8

U.S.C. 1151 et seq.), the following rules shall apply:

(A) During the first nine fiscal years after the effective date, certain visas will be reserved within the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)).

(B) With regard to immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) for the first nine fiscal years after the effective date, visas will be reserved for immigrants native to countries other than the two states with the largest aggregate number of natives who are beneficiaries of approved but backlogged petitions for immigrant status under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)), as follows:

(i) For the first fiscal year after the effective date, 30 percent of the immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives waiting for immigrant status.

(ii) For the second fiscal year after the effective date, 25 percent of the immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives waiting for immigrant status.

(iii) For the third fiscal year after the effective date, 20 percent of the immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives waiting for immigrant status.

(iv) For the fourth fiscal year after the effective date, 15 percent of the immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives waiting for immigrant status.

(v) For the fifth and sixth fiscal years after the effective date, 10 percent of the immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives waiting for immigrant status.

(vi) For the seventh, eighth, and ninth fiscal years after the effective date, 5 percent of the immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that is not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives waiting for immigrant status.

(C) 5.75 percent of the immigrant visas made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be reserved annually for the first nine fiscal years after the effective date for immigrants who are native to countries other than the two states with the largest aggregate number of

natives who are beneficiaries of approved but backlogged petitions for immigrant status under such section. Such visas will be made available by the following priority ordering:

(1) Derivative dependents described in section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d)) who seek to join a principal beneficiary of a petition for an immigrant visa under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)).

(ii) Immigrants who seek to enter the United States as new arrivals and who have not resided or worked in the United States at any point in the four-year period immediately preceding the filing of their petition for an immigrant visa under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)).

(iii) Other immigrants who meet the criteria of this subparagraph.

(D) The two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives who are beneficiaries of approved petitions referred to in subparagraphs (B) and (C) are the two states with the largest aggregate number of approved cases awaiting visa number availability for immigrant visas under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)), as identified by adding the numbers associated with aliens awaiting employment-based immigrant status in the most recent and available Count Of Approved Employment-Based Immigrant Petitions With Priority Dates On Or After the State Department’s Visa Bulletin from the Department of Homeland Security and such numbers in the most recent Annual Report of Immigrant Visa Applicants in the Employment-Based Preferences Registered at the National Visa Center from the Department of State (or successor publications).

(E) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) through (D), for each of the seven fiscal years after the effective date, not fewer than 4,400 of the immigrant visas made available under paragraph (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) and not reserved by subparagraphs (B) and (C) shall be allotted to immigrants who are described in section 656.5(a) of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) and are seeking admission to the United States to work in an occupation described in that section.

(F) Family members described in section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d)) who are accompanying or following to join a principal beneficiary seeking admission under subparagraph (E) shall be entitled to an unreserved visa in the same status and in the same order of consideration as such principal beneficiary, but shall not be counted against the 4,400 immigrant visas allotted under that subparagraph.

(2) PER-COUNTRY LEVELS.—

(A) RESERVED VISAS.—The number of visas reserved under each of clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) and each of clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (1)(C) made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area in the appropriate fiscal year may not exceed 25 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas.

(B) UNRESERVED VISAS.—Not more than 85 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) and not reserved under paragraph (1), for each of the first nine fiscal years after the effective date, may be allotted to immigrants who are natives of any single foreign state.

(3) SPECIAL RULE TO PREVENT UNUSED VISAS.—If, with respect to first nine fiscal

years after the effective date, the application of paragraphs (1) and (2) would prevent the total number of immigrant visas made available under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) from being issued, such visas may be issued during the remainder of such fiscal year without regard to paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) **RULES FOR CHARGEABILITY AND DEPENDENTS.**—Section 202(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(b)) shall apply in determining the foreign state to which an alien is chargeable, and section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d)) shall apply in allocating immigrant visas to dependents, for purposes of this subsection.

(5) **EFFECTIVE DATE DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “effective date” means the first day of the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. POSTING AVAILABLE POSITIONS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

(a) **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WEBSITE.**—Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) For purposes of complying with paragraph (1)(C)—

“(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2020, the Secretary of Labor shall establish a searchable internet website for posting positions in accordance with paragraph (1)(C) that is available to the public without charge, except that the Secretary may delay the launch of such website for a single period identified by the Secretary by notice in the Federal Register that shall not exceed 30 days.

“(B) The Secretary may work with private companies or nonprofit organizations to develop and operate the internet website described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) The Secretary shall promulgate rules, after notice and a period for comment, to carry out this paragraph.”

(b) **PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register and in other appropriate media, a notice of the date on which the internet website required under section 212(n)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as established by subsection (a), will be operational.

(c) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any application filed on or after the date that is 90 days after the date described in subsection (b).

(d) **INTERNET POSTING REQUIREMENT.**—Section 212(n)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (ii) as subclause (II);

(2) by striking “(i) has provided” and inserting the following:

“(i)(I) has provided”; and

(3) by inserting before clause (ii), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following:

“(i) except in the case of an employer filing a petition on behalf of an H-1B nonimmigrant who has already been counted against the numerical limitations and is not eligible for a full 6-year period, as described in section 214(g)(7), or on behalf of an H-1B nonimmigrant authorized to accept employment under section 214(n), has posted on the internet website described in paragraph (6), for at least 30 calendar days, a description of each position for which a nonimmigrant is sought, that includes—

“(I) the occupational classification, and if different the employer’s job title for the position, in which the nonimmigrant(s) will be employed;

“(II) the education, training, or experience qualifications for the position;

“(III) the salary or wage range and employee benefits offered;

“(IV) the location(s) at which the nonimmigrant(s) will be employed; and

“(V) the process for applying for a position; and”.

SEC. 4. H-1B EMPLOYER PETITION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **WAGE DETERMINATION INFORMATION.**—Section 212(n)(1)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(D)) is amended by inserting “the prevailing wage determination methodology used under subparagraph (A)(i)(II),” after “shall contain”.

(b) **NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (G)(ii) the following:

“(H)(i) The employer, or a person or entity acting on the employer’s behalf, has not advertised any available position specified in the application in an advertisement that states or indicates that—

“(I) such position is only available to an individual who is or will be an H-1B nonimmigrant; or

“(II) an individual who is or will be an H-1B nonimmigrant shall receive priority or a preference in the hiring process for such position.

“(ii) The employer has not primarily recruited individuals who are or who will be H-1B nonimmigrants to fill such position.

“(I) If the employer, in a previous period specified by the Secretary, employed one or more H-1B nonimmigrants, the employer shall submit to the Secretary the Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statements filed by the employer with respect to the H-1B nonimmigrants for such period.”

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR NEW H-1B PETITIONS.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by inserting after subparagraph (I), the following:

“(J)(i) If the employer employs 50 or more employees in the United States, the sum of the number of such employees who are H-1B nonimmigrants plus the number of such employees who are nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) does not exceed 50 percent of the total number of employees.

“(ii) Any group treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of clause (i).”

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subparagraph (J) of section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)), as added by paragraph (1), may be construed to prohibit renewal applications or change of employer applications for H-1B nonimmigrants employed by an employer on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **LABOR CONDITION APPLICATION FEE.**—Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)), as amended by section 3(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7)(A) The Secretary of Labor shall promulgate a regulation that requires applicants under this subsection to pay an administrative fee to cover the average paperwork processing costs and other administrative costs.

“(B)(i) Fees collected under this paragraph shall be deposited as offsetting receipts with-

in the general fund of the Treasury in a separate account, which shall be known as the ‘H-1B Administration, Oversight, Investigation, and Enforcement Account’ and shall remain available until expended.

“(ii) The Secretary of the Treasury shall refund amounts in such account to the Secretary of Labor for salaries and related expenses associated with the administration, oversight, investigation, and enforcement of the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program.”

(e) **ELIMINATION OF B-1 IN LIEU OF H-1.**—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12)(A) Unless otherwise authorized by law, an alien normally classifiable under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) who seeks admission to the United States to provide services in a specialty occupation described in paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (i) may not be issued a visa or admitted under section 101(a)(15)(B) for such purpose.

“(B) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to authorize the admission of an alien under section 101(a)(15)(B) who is coming to the United States for the purpose of performing skilled or unskilled labor if such admission is not otherwise authorized by law.”

SEC. 5. INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST H-1B EMPLOYERS.

(a) **INVESTIGATION, WORKING CONDITIONS, AND PENALTIES.**—Section 212(n)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(C)) is amended by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

“(iv)(I) An employer that has filed an application under this subsection violates this clause by taking, failing to take, or threatening to take or fail to take a personnel action, or intimidating, threatening, restraining, coercing, blacklisting, discharging, or discriminating in any other manner against an employee because the employee—

“(aa) disclosed information that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection; or

“(bb) cooperated or sought to cooperate with the requirements under this subsection or any rule or regulation pertaining to this subsection.

“(II) An employer that violates this clause shall be liable to the employee harmed by such violation for lost wages and benefits.

“(III) In this clause, the term ‘employee’ includes—

“(aa) a current employee;

“(bb) a former employee; and

“(cc) an applicant for employment.”

(b) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—Section 212(n)(2)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(H)) is amended to read as follows:

“(H)(i) The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall provide the Secretary of Labor with any information contained in the materials submitted by employers of H-1B nonimmigrants as part of the petition adjudication process that indicates that the employer is not complying with visa program requirements for H-1B nonimmigrants.

“(ii) The Secretary may initiate and conduct an investigation and hearing under this paragraph after receiving information of noncompliance under this subparagraph.”

SEC. 6. LABOR CONDITION APPLICATIONS.

(a) **APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 212(n)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (I), as added by section 4(b)—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting “, and through the internet website of the Department of Labor, without charge.” after “Washington, D.C.”;

(2) in the fifth sentence, by striking “only for completeness” and inserting “for completeness, clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact.”;

(3) in the sixth sentence, by striking “or obviously inaccurate” and inserting “, presents clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, or is obviously inaccurate”;

(4) by adding at the end the following: “If the Secretary’s review of an application identifies clear indicators of fraud or misrepresentation of material fact, the Secretary may conduct an investigation and hearing in accordance with paragraph (2).”.

(b) ENSURING PREVAILING WAGES ARE FOR AREA OF EMPLOYMENT AND ACTUAL WAGES ARE FOR SIMILARLY EMPLOYED.—Section 212(n)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), in the undesignated matter following subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) will ensure that—

“(I) the actual wages or range identified in clause (i) relate solely to employees having substantially the same duties and responsibilities as the H-1B nonimmigrant in the geographical area of intended employment, considering experience, qualifications, education, job responsibility and function, specialized knowledge, and other legitimate business factors, except in a geographical area there are no such employees, and

“(II) the prevailing wages identified in clause (ii) reflect the best available information for the geographical area within normal commuting distance of the actual address of employment at which the H-1B nonimmigrant is or will be employed.”.

(c) PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION.—Section 212(n)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2)(A) Subject” and inserting “(2)(A)(i) Subject”;

(2) by striking the fourth sentence; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii)(I) Upon receipt of a complaint under clause (i), the Secretary may initiate an investigation to determine whether such a failure or misrepresentation has occurred.

“(II) The Secretary may conduct—

“(aa) surveys of the degree to which employers comply with the requirements under this subsection; and

“(bb) subject to subclause (IV), annual compliance audits of any employer that employs H-1B nonimmigrants during the applicable calendar year.

“(III) Subject to subclause (IV), the Secretary shall—

“(aa) conduct annual compliance audits of each employer that employs more than 100 full-time equivalent employees who are employed in the United States if more than 15 percent of such full-time employees are H-1B nonimmigrants; and

“(bb) make available to the public an executive summary or report describing the general findings of the audits conducted under this subclause.

“(IV) In the case of an employer subject to an annual compliance audit in which there was no finding of a willful failure to meet a condition under subparagraph (C)(ii), no further annual compliance audit shall be conducted with respect to such employer for a period of not less than 4 years, absent evidence of misrepresentation or fraud.”.

(d) PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.—Section 212(n)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), or (1)(F)” and inserting “a condition of paragraph (1)(B), (1)(E), (1)(F), (1)(H), or (1)(I)”;

(B) in subclause (I), by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$3,000”;

(2) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “\$5,000” and inserting “\$15,000”;

(3) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “\$35,000” and inserting “\$100,000”;

(4) in clause (vi)(III), by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$3,000”.

(e) INITIATION OF INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 212(n)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “In the case of an investigation” in the second sentence and all that follows through the period at the end of the clause;

(2) in clause (ii), in the first sentence, by striking “and whose identity” and all that follows through “failure or failures.” and inserting “the Secretary of Labor may conduct an investigation into the employer’s compliance with the requirements under this subsection.”;

(3) in clause (iii), by striking the second sentence;

(4) by striking clauses (iv) and (v);

(5) by redesignating clauses (vi), (vii), and (viii) as clauses (iv), (v), and (vi), respectively;

(6) in clause (iv), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “clause (viii)” and inserting “clause (vi)”;

(B) by striking “meet a condition described in clause (ii)” and inserting “comply with the requirements under this subsection”;

(7) by amending clause (v), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(v)(I) The Secretary of Labor shall provide notice to an employer of the intent to conduct an investigation under clause (i) or (ii).

“(II) The notice shall be provided in such a manner, and shall contain sufficient detail, to permit the employer to respond to the allegations before an investigation is commenced.

“(III) The Secretary is not required to comply with this clause if the Secretary determines that such compliance would interfere with an effort by the Secretary to investigate or secure compliance by the employer with the requirements of this subsection.

“(IV) A determination by the Secretary under this clause shall not be subject to judicial review.”;

(8) in clause (vi), as so redesignated, by striking “An investigation” in the first sentence and all that follows through “the determination.” in the second sentence and inserting “If the Secretary of Labor, after an investigation under clause (i) or (ii), determines that a reasonable basis exists to make a finding that the employer has failed to comply with the requirements under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide interested parties with notice of such determination and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 556 of title 5, United States Code, not later than 60 days after the date of such determination.”;

(9) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) If the Secretary of Labor, after a hearing, finds that the employer has violated a requirement under this subsection, the Secretary may impose a penalty pursuant to subparagraph (C).”.

SEC. 7. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.

(a) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 245 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien who has status under section 214, other than an alien described in subsection (c) (as remedied by subsection (k), as amended by the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2020) or subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 101(a)(15), and any eligible dependents of such alien, who has filed a petition or on whose behalf a petition has been filed for immigrant status pursuant to subparagraph (E) or (F) of section 204(a)(1), may file an application with the Secretary of Homeland Security for adjustment of status if such petition was approved not less than two years before the date on which the application for adjustment of status is filed, regardless of whether an immigrant visa is immediately available on that date. For any dependent child who files an application under this subsection, that individual may continue to qualify as a dependent child for purposes of the application regardless of the individual’s age or whether the principal beneficiary is deceased at the time an immigrant visa becomes available. Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), an alien who files an application under this subsection shall be eligible for work authorization and travel permission on the same terms as an alien who files an application under subsection (a).

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—An adjustment of status application filed pursuant to paragraph (1) may not be approved until the date on which an immigrant visa becomes available. An admissible alien who has properly filed such an application shall have the same status as an alien who files under subsection (a).

“(3) DUTIES, HOURS, AND COMPENSATION.—The terms and conditions of a qualifying employment position offered to an alien who has filed a petition or on whose behalf a petition has been filed, for immigrant status pursuant to subparagraph (E) or (F) of section 204(a)(1), including duties, hours, and compensation, during the period following the filing of an application for adjustment under paragraph (1) and before a visa becomes immediately available, must be commensurate with the terms and conditions applicable to the employer’s similarly situated United States workers in the area of employment. If the employer does not employ and has not recently employed more than two similarly situated U.S. workers in the area of employment, the employer nevertheless remains obligated to attest that the terms and conditions of the alien’s employment are commensurate with the terms and conditions of employment for other similarly situated United States workers in the area of employment. ‘Similarly situated United States workers’ includes United States workers performing similar duties, subject to similar supervision, and with similar educational backgrounds, industry expertise, employment experience, levels of responsibility, and skill sets as the alien in the same geographic area of employment as the alien. The duties, hours, and compensation of such aliens are ‘commensurate’ with those offered to United States workers employed by the employer in the same area of employment when the employer can show that the duties, hours, and compensation are consistent with the range of such terms and conditions the employer has offered or would offer to similarly situated United States employees.

“(4) ENFORCEMENT.—A principal applicant applying for adjustment pursuant to paragraph (1) shall file a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability with any request for an employment authorization document. Any employment authorization document issued to such a principal applicant shall expire after three years, and another

Confirmation of Bona Fide Offer or Portability shall be filed with any request for a renewal of employment authorization. No final decision on an application under paragraph (1) may be issued without a filing of a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability by the principal applicant received within 12 months of such decision. A principal applicant shall provide sufficient information to verify compliance with paragraph (3), and an indication that the filing is to ensure compliance for an adjustment applicant under this subsection, when the applicant files a Confirmation. A principal applicant shall also provide a signed letter from his or her current or prospective employer attesting that the terms and conditions of the alien's employment are commensurate with the terms and conditions of employment for other similarly situated United States workers in the area of employment. If a required Confirmation is not timely received by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the underlying Application to Adjust Status filed under paragraph (1), including the applications for eligible dependents, shall be denied. In adjudicating the Application to Adjust Status, when an immigrant visa becomes available, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall request the filing of a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability if a Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability has not been filed within the previous 12 months and may consider the validity of any Confirmation filing that has not already been reviewed and found satisfactory. If the most recent Confirmation filing or prior filings not previously found satisfactory do not warrant a finding of compliance with section 204(i) or paragraph (3), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall issue a Notice of Intent to Deny the underlying Application to Adjust Status providing an opportunity for further evidence to be submitted on such deficiency after which any applicant that does not meet his or her burden of proof shall receive a denial of the underlying Application to Adjust Status and the applications of eligible dependents.

“(5) LIMITATION ON WORK AUTHORIZATION.—An alien who was neither authorized to work nor eligible to request work authorization at the time an application was filed under paragraph (1) shall not be eligible to receive work authorization pursuant to paragraph (1) or section 274a.12(c)(9) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(6) CONFIRMATIONS OF BONA FIDE JOB OFFER OR PORTABILITY FEE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall charge and collect a fee in the amount of \$2,000 for each Confirmation of Bona Fide Job Offer or Portability filed under this subsection.

“(B) DEPOSITS.—The fees collected under subparagraph (A) shall be deposited and used as follows:

“(i) Fifty percent of such fees shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account established by section 286(m) and available as provided in this subsection.

“(ii) Fifty percent of such fees shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 245(k) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(k)) is amended by adding “or (n)” after “pursuant to subsection (a)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) This section and the amendments made by this section—

(A) shall take effect one year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), shall cease to have effect as of the date that is nine years after that date of enactment.

(2) This section shall continue in effect with respect to any alien who has filed an application under this section any time prior to the date on which this section otherwise ceases to have effect.

SEC. 8. LIMIT ON ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FROM H-1B NONIMMIGRANT OR H-4 NON-IMMIGRANT TO EB IMMIGRANT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1235), as amended by section 7, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(O) LIMIT ON ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FROM H-1B NONIMMIGRANT OR H-4 NONIMMIGRANT TO EB IMMIGRANT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In applying this section to an alien who is (or has been during the most recent 2-year period) a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), or to the spouse or any minor children of such alien who is (or has been during the most recent 2-year period) an H-4 nonimmigrant—

“(A) the number of such aliens (including the spouses and children of such aliens) granted an adjustment of status to that of an immigrant described in section 203(b) or otherwise issued an immigrant visa under this Act in a fiscal year—

“(i) during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection and ending on the date on which the ninth fiscal year after the effective date ends, may not exceed 70 percent of the total number of employment-based immigrants admitted in such fiscal year; and

“(ii) after the date on which the ninth fiscal year after the effective date ends, may not exceed 50 percent of the total number of employment-based immigrants admitted in such fiscal year; and

“(B) the limitations set forth subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any such alien (or the spouse or children of such alien) if such alien—

“(i) has graduated from medical school and will be performing services in the United States as a member of the medical profession; or

“(ii) has been granted a national interest waiver by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under section 203(b)(2)(B).

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘effective date’ means the first day of the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection.”

(b) UNUSED EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT VISAS.—Any immigrant visas reserved under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) for employment-based immigrants that are not needed for an employment-based immigrant may be issued to aliens described in subparagraph in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)).

SEC. 9. PROHIBITION ON ADMISSION OR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF ALIENS AFFILIATED WITH THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OR THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall not adjust status of any alien affiliated with the military forces of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence.

SA 2691. Mr. INHOFE (for Mr. SULLIVAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 496, to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commer-

cial fishermen, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Young Fishermen's Development Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SEA GRANT INSTITUTION.—The term “Sea Grant Institution” means a sea grant college or sea grant institute, as those terms are defined in section 203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122).

(2) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal organization” has the meaning given the term “tribal organization” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) YOUNG FISHERMAN.—The term “young fisherman” means an individual who—

(A) desires to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States, including the Great Lakes fisheries;

(B) has worked as a captain, crew member, or deckhand on a commercial fishing vessel for not more than 10 years of cumulative service; or

(C) is a beginning commercial fisherman.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Sea Grant Office, shall establish a program to provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen, to be known as the “Young Fishermen's Development Grant Program” (referred to in this section as the “Program”).

SEC. 4. GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall make competitive grants to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen, including programs, workshops, and services relating to—

(1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and safety;

(2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and repair;

(3) innovative conservation fishing gear engineering and technology;

(4) sustainable fishing practices;

(5) entrepreneurship and good business practices;

(6) direct marketing, supply chain, and traceability;

(7) financial and risk management, including vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

(8) State and Federal legal requirements for specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, licenses, and regulations;

(9) State and Federal fisheries policy and management;

(10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships; and

(11) any other activities, opportunities, or programs, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the Program, a recipient shall be a collaborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include—

(A) a Sea Grant Institution;

(B) a Federal or State agency or a Tribal organization;

(C) a community-based nongovernmental organization;

(D) fishermen's cooperatives or associations;

(E) an institution of higher education (including an institution awarding an associate's degree), or a foundation maintained by an institution of higher education; or

(F) any other appropriate entity, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seeking to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to participate in the activities funded through grants provided for in this section, except that participants in such activities shall be selected by each grant recipient.

(c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall—

(A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal years; and

(B) be in an amount that is not more than \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

(2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipient may receive consecutive grants under this section.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a recipient shall provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions from the recipient in the amount equal to or greater than 25 percent of the funds provided by the grant.

(e) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographic diversity.

(f) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In carrying out this section and in developing criteria for evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall consult, to the maximum extent practicable, with—

(1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents of such institutions;

(2) community-based nongovernmental fishing organizations;

(3) Federal and State agencies, including Regional Fishery Management Councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.);

(4) institutions of higher education with fisheries expertise and programs; and

(5) partners, as the Secretary determines.

(g) PROHIBITION.—A grant under this section may not be used to purchase any fishing license, permit, quota, or other harvesting right.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

The Secretary of Commerce shall carry out this Act using amounts made available to the Department of Commerce for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have 7 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing nomination.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 2, 2020, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PROVIDING FOR A REPORT ON THE MAINTENANCE OF FEDERAL LAND HOLDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 349, S. 434.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 434) to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 434

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

SECTION 1. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND ACQUISITION DATA.

The Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management) shall—

(1) collect centralized data on land acquired for administration by the Bureau of Land Management using amounts from the Land and Water Conservation Fund established under sec-

tion 200302 of title 54, United States Code, including data on—

(A) the method used for the acquisition; and

(B) the type of interest acquired;

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, submit to Congress a report describing the information collected under paragraph (1); and

(3) develop guidance to ensure that land acquisition data collected under paragraph (1) is entered correctly and properly coded in the data system of the Bureau of Land Management.

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

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 434), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The committee-reported amendment to the title was agreed to as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to require the collection of certain data relating to Bureau of Land Management land acquisitions, and for other purposes."

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS LEGATION MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3349 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 (H.R. 3349) to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. INHOFE. 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 (H.R. 3349) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FALLEN JOURNALISTS MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3465 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 (H.R. 3465) to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 3465) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2020

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 910.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 910) entitled "An Act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

DIGITAL COAST ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1069.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1069) entitled "An Act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal ca-

pacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

YOUNG FISHERMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 394, S. 496.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 496) to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the Sullivan substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 2691) 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 "Young Fishermen's Development Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SEA GRANT INSTITUTION.—The term "Sea Grant Institution" means a sea grant college or sea grant institute, as those terms are defined in section 203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122).

(2) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term "Tribal organization" has the meaning given the term "tribal organization" in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) YOUNG FISHERMAN.—The term "young fisherman" means an individual who—

(A) desires to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States, including the Great Lakes fisheries;

(B) has worked as a captain, crew member, or deckhand on a commercial fishing vessel for not more than 10 years of cumulative service; or

(C) is a beginning commercial fisherman.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Sea Grant Office, shall establish a program to provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen, to be known as the "Young Fishermen's Development Grant Program" (referred to in this section as the "Program").

SEC. 4. GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall make competitive

grants to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen, including programs, workshops, and services relating to—

(1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and safety;

(2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and repair;

(3) innovative conservation fishing gear engineering and technology;

(4) sustainable fishing practices;

(5) entrepreneurship and good business practices;

(6) direct marketing, supply chain, and traceability;

(7) financial and risk management, including vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

(8) State and Federal legal requirements for specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, licenses, and regulations;

(9) State and Federal fisheries policy and management;

(10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships; and

(11) any other activities, opportunities, or programs, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the Program, a recipient shall be a collaborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include—

(A) a Sea Grant Institution;

(B) a Federal or State agency or a Tribal organization;

(C) a community-based nongovernmental organization;

(D) fishermen's cooperatives or associations;

(E) an institution of higher education (including an institution awarding an associate's degree), or a foundation maintained by an institution of higher education; or

(F) any other appropriate entity, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seeking to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to participate in the activities funded through grants provided for in this section, except that participants in such activities shall be selected by each grant recipient.

(c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall—

(A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal years; and

(B) be in an amount that is not more than \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

(2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipient may receive consecutive grants under this section.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a recipient shall provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions from the recipient in the amount equal to or greater than 25 percent of the funds provided by the grant.

(e) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographic diversity.

(f) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In carrying out this section and in developing criteria for evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall consult, to the maximum extent practicable, with—

(1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents of such institutions;

(2) community-based nongovernmental fishing organizations;

(3) Federal and State agencies, including Regional Fishery Management Councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.);

(4) institutions of higher education with fisheries expertise and programs; and

(5) partners, as the Secretary determines.

(g) PROHIBITION.—A grant under this section may not be used to purchase any fishing license, permit, quota, or other harvesting right.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

The Secretary of Commerce shall carry out this Act using amounts made available to the Department of Commerce for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. INHOFE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 496), as amended, was passed.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. INHOFE. 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. 783, S. Res. 784, S. Res. 785, S. Res. 786, and S. Res. 787.

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

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered

made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 783, S. Res. 784, S. Res. 785, S. Res. 786, and S. Res. 787) were agreed to en bloc.

The preambles were agreed to en bloc.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, December 3; 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 Waller nomination, under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. INHOFE. 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 7:17 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

WILLIAM S. JASSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORA-

TION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2023, VICE ANTHONY FRANK D'AGOSTINO, TERM EXPIRED.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS REFORM BOARD

GINO D. CAMPANA, OF COLORADO, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS REFORM BOARD FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MELANIE J. BEVAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE WILLIAM BENEDICT BERGER, SR., TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. PAUL J. LACAMERA

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. JOHN C. AQUILINO

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

RICKY RODEN, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021, VICE JAMES R. THOMPSON III.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

WILLIAM PATRICK JOSEPH KIMMITT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2029, VICE F. SCOTT KIEFF, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ELDON P. REGUA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 2, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY

KATHRYN C. DAVIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

KYLE HAUGHTMAN, OF MAINE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 2, 2025.