

communities safer by changing sentencing laws and providing opportunities for incarcerated people to prepare to reenter society successfully.

I was proud to champion this landmark legislation alongside Senators GRASSLEY, BOOKER, and LEE. It took months of bipartisan negotiation and compromise. But the result was a historic victory that significantly improved our justice system.

I can safely say that the Federal Probation Act laid the groundwork 100 years ago for legislation like the First Step Act.

Today, we are all responsible for advancing this work through the passage of fair and effective criminal justice reforms. And I would like to thank the Administrative Office for the Courts' Office of Probation and Pretrial Services and the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services Officers Association for their continued partnership in leading this work. It is an honor to celebrate 100 years of this pivotal law.

#### HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I voted today to oppose cloture on the motion to proceed to the HALT Fentanyl Act. Our Nation and my State of Maryland are experiencing a crisis with synthetic opioids like fentanyl and related drugs, and I strongly support action to combat drug trafficking and prevent overdoses. We need public health solutions that will help American families and our communities, but instead, the bill before us could lead to harmful unintended consequences, including limiting the potential for less addictive pain therapies and treatments like Naloxone that could prevent and reverse overdose. It also expands mandatory minimums, which increase incarceration but do not reduce crime, and applies them to a broad class of drugs regardless of their actual physiological effects, so that someone could be incarcerated for a decade or more for drugs that are effectively harmless.

It is my hope that we will have the opportunity to amend this legislation, including with amendments put forward by my colleague Senator BOOKER. However, as we have no guarantee that amendments will be permitted by the majority despite the urgency of the issue before us, I voted against cloture today. I urge my colleagues to work to improve the bill in the coming days in order to address the possible unintended consequences of this legislation so, instead, the bill focuses on tackling dangerous drugs and allows for life-saving research and development of potential treatments.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I was absent for one rollcall vote on March 6, 2025.

On March 6, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to

invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 29, Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, rollcall vote No. 107.

#### CONFIRMATION OF LINDA McMAHON

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I was absent from the Senate on March 3, 2025. Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 99 on the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, I would have voted no. As Secretary, Mrs. McMahon will be a rubberstamp on President Trump's agenda to dismantle the Department of Education. President Trump has even said that he hopes that Mrs. McMahon "puts herself out of a job."

The Department of Education is responsible for distributing funds to K-12 schools and administering Pell grants, the Federal Student Loan Program, and programs that help support students with disabilities. Already, the Trump administration has cut funding contracts within the Department that support data collection, learning tools, and programs to increase test scores.

Mrs. McMahon does not have the experience required to support the more than 62 million students in their elementary to postsecondary education across the country. Mrs. McMahon has no experience teaching or working in a school. Her experience does not lend her the tools the Secretary of Education needs to address the complex needs of our Nation's students, who are struggling with rising mental health issues.

I do not have confidence that, under Mrs. McMahon's leadership, the Department of Education will continue to perform its core duties and support students across the country, in all stages of their education.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I was absent from the Senate on March 3, 2025. Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 100 on S.9, I would have voted no. This legislation is a gross overreach of Federal authority on mandating State action. It does not in fact protect women and girls in sports, nor does it create competitive fairness. Rather, it is an effort to marginalize an already targeted community. Instead of investing in and removing barriers for women and girls to participate in sports, this bill threatens women's sports by creating harmful Federal gender verification standards that impede on the privacy and dignity of women and girls.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO PETE BUNCE

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize Pete Bunce, the president and CEO of the General Avia-

tion Manufacturers Association, GAMA, who is retiring next month. Pete is a dedicated leader and a stalwart in the aviation industry. He has done a remarkable job advocating for the interests of general aviation manufacturers, many of which call Kansas home.

I first met Pete during my time in the House of Representatives, when he was the Director of the U.S. Air Force Congressional Budget and Appropriations Liaison in the House. We worked together on military, veterans, and transportation issues. When he went over to GAMA, I knew the association would be in good hands, and he has taken it to new heights during his illustrious 20 years at the helm.

Throughout his storied career, Pete has engaged regulators, policymakers, and elected officials to promote general aviation. As part of his legislative affairs efforts, he led GAMA during the passage and implementation of the Small Airplane Revitalization Act, which modernized the certification standards and methods for small aircraft. He and his team have also provided valuable industry insights through numerous FAA reauthorizations, including the latest bill passed last Congress. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pete and his team strongly advocated for the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection (AMJP) program, which I helped successfully manage through Congress to strengthen the aviation industry's fragile supply chain and keeping highly skilled workers in the industry.

Pete and his GAMA team were also was intimately involved with consideration and passage of the Advanced Air Mobility and Coordination Act. I hope that report, which should be delivered by the administration in the near term, will help lay the foundation for this critical industry and the innovations it will bring.

Pete has been recognized for his noteworthy service to the general aviation industry with many accolades including being named the 2007 Aviation Industry Leader of the Year by the Living Legends of Aviation, awarded the ICAS Sword of Excellence in 2009, inducted as one of the 70 Living Legends of Aviation in 2010, inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, presented with the NAA Wesley L. McDonald Distinguished Statesman of Aviation Award in 2022, and bestowed with the EAA's Freedom of Flight Award in 2024.

Pete has done so much to advance the welfare of the general aviation industry, one which he has loved and cherished since first learning to fly as a teenager and working at his local airport.

Thank you, Pete, for your steadfast service to the general aviation industry, especially within the great State of Kansas. I wish you "Blue Skies and Tailwinds" during your well-earned retirement. I hope you enjoy retirement and spending more time with your lovely wife Patty.●