

of whom risk their lives daily in dangerous places, we should protect them as best we can so they can carry out their duties as safely as possible.

As I mentioned, the Senate approved a similar provision last December, overwhelmingly, by voice vote. I thank Chairwoman MIKULSKI, Senator GRAM, and the other cosponsors for supporting this bill and for helping to expedite its consideration. I am confident that the chairwoman and ranking member of the House State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee share our view that this is an appropriate use of these funds. I hope the House will act quickly to send this bill to the President.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as a cosponsor of this important legislation, I am pleased the Senate will pass this bill and once again provide for stronger security at our diplomatic facilities.

Numerous reports have documented the security failures that resulted in the tragic deaths of four Americans at the consulate in Benghazi. Both the Administrative Review Board and the report of the Senate Homeland Security Committee found that inexcusable failures of judgment led State Department decisionmakers to ignore the rising threat levels in Benghazi and the repeated requests for enhanced security at the site. Marine Security Guards were not on site to protect our consulate in one of the most dangerous and unstable regions in the world. The failures of management that led to these decisions are reprehensible; the lapses in judgment indefensible. It is beyond my comprehension why the individuals whose poor decisionmaking directly resulted in the deaths of four Americans remain employed by the State Department, and compensated by the U.S. taxpayers.

One of the most troubling aspects of the Benghazi attack is the complete disregard that State Department leadership gave to the repeated requests for enhanced security from Ambassador Christopher Stevens. Should funding have been an issue, the State Department always has the option available to come to Congress for approval to transfer funds within accounts. In fact, this is what S. 227 accomplishes—it provides the State Department transfer authority to prioritize diplomatic security in our embassies around the world. It is a sad, but necessary postscript to this tragic event—and a step that, if taken earlier by the State Department, may have saved the lives lost in Benghazi.

It is my hope that the Senate takes into consideration my repeated calls for increased Marine security at our embassies in high threat areas of the world. In the two budgets I have authored during my Senate tenure, I not only called for increased funding for military protection, but also for reducing the presence of embassies in the most dangerous areas of the globe. The safety of our men and women in diplomatic service must be prioritized. This

means placing more emphasis on involvement in security by the Defense Department, but it also means assessing whether our diplomacy in the most dangerous areas of the world is better done from afar.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 227) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 228

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 “Embassy Security Funds Transfer Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SECURITY AT UNITED STATES EMBASSIES AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES WORLDWIDE.

(a) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Funds appropriated by title VIII of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2012 (division I of Public Law 112-74; 125 Stat. 1265) under the headings “DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS” and “EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE” may be transferred between such headings.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any funds transferred to a heading under subsection (a) shall be merged with funds in the heading to which transferred, and shall, except as provided in paragraph (2), be available subject to the same terms and conditions as the funds with which merged.

(2) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Any funds transferred under subsection (a) shall be available for the same period for which such funds were originally appropriated.

(c) NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.—Any transfer of funds under subsection (a) shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 209

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 209) to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 112-240, appoints the following as members of the Commission on Long-Term Care: Dr. Javid Anwar of Nevada, Laphonza Butler of California, and Judith Feder of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 47, the Violence Against Women Act, with the time until noon equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, at noon on Thursday, Senator-designate Cowan will be sworn in.

We hope to reach an agreement to complete action on the Violence Against Women Act on Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013 AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 7, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ERIC K. FANNING, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE ERIN C. CONATON, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

F. SCOTT KIEFF, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2020, VICE DANIEL PEARSON, TERM EXPIRED.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

MICHAEL WAYNE HALL, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2017, VICE SHARON TUCKER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JANET LORRAINE LABRECK, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE LYNNAE M. RUTTLEDGE, RESIGNED.