

diligence and putting together a comprehensive funding bill that can be debated, scrutinized, debated, and voted on.

We have done our work over the year. I am very proud of my subcommittee chairmen, the ranking members who have worked on a bipartisan basis, and their staffs. We can do an omnibus when we come back that will enable us to make the choices we need to do, meet our national security needs, the compelling human needs of the country, and make sure we have an opportunity ladder for our people who are middle class to stay there or those who want to work hard to do better to be able to get there, and to also make those investments in innovation, research, and development that create the new ideas for the new jobs that keep us as an exceptional Nation.

I do hope we get final passage. I do hope also when we return after the election, we can do this comprehensive funding bill.

Again, I thank Senator SHELBY of Alabama and all of the other members of the Appropriations Committee who worked so hard with the ranking members. We had a series of debates and votes. We worked very hard. Yet I wish people would come to our committees, as they were categorized by civility, intellectual rigor, and scrutiny of IG and GAO reports. We worked very hard to accomplish the mission of these agencies to keep our government strong and to get value for the taxpayer.

Again, thanks to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, led by Senator SHELBY of Alabama.

I yield the floor and 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. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. LEAHY. I see my good friend, the senior Senator from Texas, on the floor, and I am about to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4323.

Before I do, Senator CORNYN has been very interested in this. This is the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act. I have been working with Debbie Smith since her bill was first introduced in 2001. He is probably one of the few Senators who was here with me at that time when I first supported it. It is to improve access to rape kits, testing, and services for survivors of sexual assault.

Senator CORNYN has been a strong supporter. I know he also supports the Justice for All Act as well, something he cosponsored, and the distinguished Republican leader has.

I would like to get them all passed. I realize one Republican—not the Senator from Texas—is objecting to passing the Justice for All Act, and I don't want to pit one against the other.

Because at least this one expires this month, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4323, which was received from the House.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4323) to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Simply reserving the right to object, and obviously I am not going to object, I am very happy we could reauthorize this important piece of legislation. I have had an opportunity to get to know Debbie Smith pretty well, as Senator CORNYN and Senator LEAHY have. We have met on several occasions.

The bill passed the House of Representatives a few months ago on a voice vote. We tried to clear it when it came over here. Unfortunately, there was an objection on the other side of the aisle. But I am glad we are where we are and that the bill will be reauthorized.

It is certainly fitting for Congress to pass this bill that is named for such a tireless advocate for those who suffered this terrible abuse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I won't object, let me use this occasion to say to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee how much I appreciate his leadership and cooperation.

Obviously, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator LEAHY, and I are all cosponsors of the bigger piece of legislation, the Justice for All Act. I share Senator LEAHY's desire—I am sure shared by the Republican leader—that we pass that today. But since we can't do that, and since we are engaged in the art of the possible, this is a good outcome—not just for Debbie Smith, who, as we have all heard, has been a tireless advocate for testing this backlog of rape kits, which holds extraordinary power to both identify the perpetrators in sexual assaults and exonerate people who are not implicated by a DNA test, but as we know, we have had a huge backlog, and the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act renewal is bipartisan legislation that will provide funds for law enforcement officials to deal with

the national scandal, which the rape kit backlog is.

Amidst the frustration we all experience in the Senate from time to time, this is good news and this represents progress.

So I will agree with the unanimous consent request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Reserving the right to object—and obviously I too won't—on behalf of all the women of the Senate, I thank Senator LEAHY for his consistent, persistent leadership on this issue, and Senator CORNYN.

This is how the Senate ought to work—on a bipartisanship basis, meeting a compelling need, and then being able to move it in an expeditious way.

But for rape victims everywhere to know that we can deal with this backlog and because good men stood up for women who have been wronged really is one of the edifying moments of today.

I thank the Senators for it and withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, the request is agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4323) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I will continue to work with the distinguished senior Senator from Texas on the Justice for All Act. Ninety-nine Senators agree to pass it and only 1 is objecting. It requires a rollcall vote when we come back in November. I hope we can have that rollcall vote perhaps in a timely rotation. And with 99 Senators who say they support it, the 1 Senator who has been blocking it can vote against it. But those of us who have been in law enforcement know how important it is.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015—Continued

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, how much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 3½ minutes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. In the spirit of moving the bill forward, I yield back all remaining time.

AMENDMENT NO. 3852

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 3852.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.