United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 No. 134

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who restores peace in human hearts, thank You for Your many blessings. Guide our lawmakers so that they will discern Your purposes and become instruments of Your providence. Today, help them to speak words that will leave them without regret. May they play their part in these momentous times so that their labors will withstand the scrutiny of history and the judgment of posterity. May Your Spirit rule in our lives, teaching us to sacrifice our comforts for the good of others. Use us today as ambassadors of Your will.

We pray in Your majestic 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks, the Senate will be in recess subject to the call of the Chair for the joint meeting with the President of Ukraine.

When the Senate reconvenes, it will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

At 1 p.m. the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, the continuing resolution. There will be up to 4½ hours of debate prior to a series of rollcall votes followed by several voice votes on executive nominations. Senators should expect the votes to begin around 5 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. President, in ancient Greece the keeping of history was considered so important that Clio, daughter of Zeus, was believed responsible for recording all that occurred on Earth—everything.

In the Senate we don't have Greek gods in charge of keeping our records, but we do rely on the superhuman efforts of a group of official reporters who transcribe every word we say. It is a hard, hard job. Official reporters have to accustom their ears to all sorts of accents from across our country, find ways to spell newly invented words, try to listen to what I don't say very loudly, and all the other issues they have to deal with, and they have to suffer through talking filibusters. In fact, they may be the only people who dislike filibusters more than I do.

Today I recognize just one of those hard-working official reporters—the chief reporter of debates of the Senate Jerry Linnell, who is retiring at the end of this month. For 32 years Jerry has been a staple here in the Senate, ensuring that the words of Senators past and present are correctly recorded for the American people. While he has been here, he has witnessed many events. He has seen five different Presidents occupy the White House, worked with eight different majority leaders, transcribed speeches on everything from the Berlin Wall to Senator Byrd's legendary lectures on the history of the Senate.

I wish Jerry all the best in his well-deserved retirement. I have no doubt that he and his wife Jane will keep busy spending time with their 7 children and 11 grandchildren. And, of course, Jerry will have his Washington Nationals to follow.

It has been a pleasant respite for me to spend time with Jerry talking about baseball. He takes trips around the country that make me so envious—watching different teams in different stadiums. I think he has watched a baseball game in almost every Major League Baseball stadium in America, and I am very envious of that.

The Senate is a better place because of Jerry's 32 years here. I, along with every other Member of this body, thank Jerry for his many years of service.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. President, yesterday the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution to keep our government from shutting down for the next 3 months. In addition to keeping the government operating, this measure includes provisions important to our national security, such as funding to combat ISIS—an evil organization—by training and equipping vetted Syrian opposition forces and aid to fight the spread of Ebola.

It is not perfect; that is for sure. But no legislation is. In this era of radical ideologies and endless obstruction, the funding resolution before us is infinitely better than the alternatives—another shutdown of our government.

I think it speaks volumes that Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, the

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

Printed on recycled paper.

Republican leader, and I are supporting this legislation. That should say a lot to the American people. As every Senator knows, the funding bill we approve must first have passed the House of Representatives, and it did that. Breaking up the legislation the House sent us is not a viable option at this juncture. We need to complete our work on the House-passed resolution as soon as possible. We have an agreement in place to vote on this measure no later than 5:30 p.m. this evening. With the cooperation of Senators, we could vote even earlier today.

There is one final unanimous consent request.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Petro Poroshenko into the House Chamber for the joint meeting today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it frequently happens when we head into a recess that we have to say a reluctant farewell to some member of the Senate family. So before I yield the floor, I wish to say a word of thanks to Jerry Linnell, who has been a fixture here for more than 3 decades as an official reporter of debates and for the past 15 years as a somewhat hidden fixture up on the fourth floor as the chief reporter.

It is a tough job having to listen to the rest of us drone on every day, and as chief reporter Jerry has had the unenviable task of reviewing every single word we have said.

In his trademark suspenders, Jerry is a friendly and unmistakable presence up on the fourth floor, guiding his team through their daily rounds and maintaining a level of professionalism and integrity that has always been a key characteristic of the office.

It is a proud group. Back in the 1930s Senator Huey Long is said to have donated his own personal Bible to the office so they would have a handy reference when he quoted from it. It quickly became a tradition for new reporters to sign it when they were hired and then once they left.

In a sign of how dedicated these reporters are, only 35 names have been entered in the Bible over the past 80 years. So it is a very venerable fraternity, one that has its roots in article I of the Constitution. We thank Jerry for his many, many years of dedicated, honorable service.

I know Jerry and his wife Jane look forward to spending more time with their many children and grandchildren. After listening to us for all those years, I think he deserves it.

You have done your time. You have done it well. The entire Senate family thanks you. Jerry, all the best.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair in order to attend a joint meeting of Congress.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:39 a.m. recessed subject to the call of the Chair, and the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mike Stenger, the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, and the Vice President of the United States, JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr., proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear an address delivered by His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

(The address delivered by the President of Ukraine to the joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

Whereupon, at 11:11 a.m., the Senate, having returned to its Chamber, reassembled and was called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BOOKER).

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2779

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to ask that Republicans and Democrats in the Senate to come together and unanimously pass legislation to address the threat of American citizens fighting for ISIS and bringing our statutory system into the 21st century to protect the national security interests of our Nation.

As the American people are now painfully aware, the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, has emerged as the new face of the radical terrorist threat that has bedeviled the West in recent decades. This virulent jihadist group—so extreme they got kicked out of Al Qaeda, which I will note is not easy to do—is rampaging across Syria and Iraq in a campaign of oppression and genocide, including the relentless targeting and murder of Christians, of Jews, of Muslim minority sects, Yazidis—indeed, any who do not share their radical Sunni theology.

While other terrorist organizations have been content with a parasitic relationship with state sponsors of terrorism—notably Syria and Iran—ISIS has a new agenda, which is to establish its own state or caliphate. They now control a territory about the size of Indiana with oilfields they can exploit on the black market to the tune of some $1.5 million a day. Their ranks have grown in the last 3 months alone from roughly 10,000 to now more than 30,000.

Unlike some regional jihadists, ISIS also represents a direct and growing threat to our citizens here at home, and increasingly to our homeland itself. Just this week there were news reports of an online posting urging individual jihadists in the United States to attack targets such as Times Square, the Las Vegas strip, and even locations in my home State of Texas, with homemade pipe bombs. This is not the first time we have heard such threats, but we have to take them seriously. ISIS has made no secret that its goal is not simply to establish a caliphate in the Middle East; its desire is to impose Sharia law on the Muslim population and to exterminate any religious minorities, and that desire is not confined by geography. When the leader of ISIS, Abu al-Baghdadi, was released from a detention camp in Iraq in 2009, he reportedly remarked to Army COL Kenneth King, ''See you in New York.'' This danger, this evil intends to come home to America.

ISIS has in recent weeks graphically demonstrated their eagerness to murder American civilians by beheading two journalists, gruesomely demonstrating on the world stage their hatred for America. This is not a situation where if we simply leave ISIS alone, they will leave us alone. This is a case where America's national security interests demand a serious response, which should be both to attack ISIS directly and take them out in its claimed caliphate, as well as to defend against the attacks ISIS is planning to execute here at home.

The Obama administration's approach to this crisis has unfortunately lacked a clear focus on that issue. It doesn't help that ISIS is surrounded by regional chaos borne out of a Syrian civil war, and ISIS has exploited the inherent political weakness in Iraq. However, while both the crisis in Syria and the upheaval in Baghdad are unfortunate, concerning situations, we cannot allow resolving them to become preconditions to any military action we might need to take against ISIS.

All too often, the Obama administration proposals threaten to become embroiled in the midst of these political crises. For example, they have made training and equipping the Free Syrian Army a cornerstone of their plan to fight ISIS. But just this week, the leader of the Free Syrian Army reportedly announced he would not participate in the fight against ISIS unless we pledged to join in his fight against Syrian dictator Bashir al-Assad.

While this is certainly understandable from his perspective, resolving the Syrian civil war is not our mission nor the job of the military and we should not be making the Free Syrian Army, whose focus is Assad, central to the American plan of defending our Nation against the jihadist threat of ISIS.

The administration's ISIS policy is also marked by internal confusion that further demonstrates a lack of focus on what should be our clear mission. The President has repeatedly insisted that there will be no American boots on the ground in Iraq and Syria, as he wants any action to be led by others, even while he increases U.S. personnel in the country by a few hundred here and a few hundred there. Earlier this week, his top general, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted there were circumstances under which he would change his advice to the President to recommending ground troops—a suggestion that was subsequently echoed by the Chief of Staff of the Army and even Vice President BIDEN. The American people need and deserve greater clarity on what exactly our military mission is, and how what the President envisions relates to the advice his Department of Defense is giving him.

The disconnect between what we know or do not know about the Americans fighting for ISIS in Iraq and Syria is equally concerning. Estimates range from about one dozen, according to one Pentagon spokesman, to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's reassertion of about 100 Americans fighting with ISIS in this week's Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

Either way, Secretary Hagel agreed with my characterization of the risks posed that Americans will take U.S. passports after fighting with ISIS, after training with ISIS, to come back and commit unspeakable acts of terror here at home. Secretary Hagel agreed that risk was significant. It seems only prudent to address that threat.

I am, therefore, going to be asking for unanimous consent for the Senate to pass the Expatriate Terrorist Act of 2014, which will make fighting for ISIS, taking up arms against the United States, an affirmative renunciation of American citizenship.

I should note the Expatriate Terrorist Act is very similar to the bipartisan legislation proposed by Senators Joe Lieberman and Scott Brown in 2010 to address Americans who were joining Al Qaeda overseas, notably the radical cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, or here at home Faisal Shahzad, who attempted to blow up a car bomb in Times Square.

The Expatriate Terrorist Act thus has applicability beyond the immediate threat of ISIS. It is an important adjustment of our existing laws governing the renunciation of citizenship. To reflect the threat posed by non-nation terrorist groups, as then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said concerning the Brown-Lieberman legislation:

United States citizenship is a privilege. It is not a right. People who are serving foreign powers—

Or in this case, foreign terrorists—

are clearly in violation of that oath which they swore when they became citizens.

The Expatriate Terrorist Act of 2014 is only a very modest change to current law. It is one small step in a larger and necessary effort to refocus our ISIS strategy that I urge President Obama to consider immediately.

We also urgently need to address the question of border security on our southern border so our failure to defend ourselves does not become a weakness that ISIS and other terrorists exploit to carry out unspeakable acts of terror here at home.

The American people expect Republicans and Democrats to join together to speak in one uniform voice when it comes to protecting the national security and when it comes to protecting the lives of Americans here at home.

If we do not pass this legislation, the consequence will be that Americans fighting alongside ISIS today may come home tomorrow with a U.S. passport, may come home to New York or Los Angeles or Houston or Chicago. Innocent Americans may be murdered if the Senate does not act today.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 554, S. 2779. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. This bill has not been brought before the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over these issues. This bill affects fundamental constitutional rights and should be given the full deliberation of the Senate.

Legislation that grants the government the ability to strip citizenship from Americans is a serious matter raising significant constitutional issues. Again, we have not had the opportunity to fully consider and register a significant bill.

In addition, objections to this bill are detailed in two letters, both dated September 2014. The letters are from the bipartisan Constitution Project and the American Civil Liberties Union.

I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT,
Washington, DC, September 17, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: On September 5, 2014, Senator Ted Cruz (R–TX) introduced the Expatriate Terrorist Act (ETA). According to Senator Cruz, the bill is a common sense counterterrorism tool that would strip U.S. citizenship from Americans who fight with or support foreign terrorist organizations working to attack the United States. In fact, the ETA serves virtually no practical purpose, raises serious constitutional concerns, and would do nothing to keep America safe. I urge you to oppose it.

Like previous iterations of the same idea, the ETA would amend 8 U.S.C. §1481(a), which sets out limited circumstances under which U.S. citizens can be denaturalized or expatriated. The bill would add the following to the short list of predicate acts that can result in loss of citizenship: 1) taking an oath of allegiance to a foreign terrorist organization; 2) joining a foreign terrorist organization's armed forces while they are fighting the United States; and 3) ''becoming a member of, or providing training or material assistance to,'' a foreign terrorist organization that the person knows or has reason to know will engage in hostilities or terrorism against the U.S.

Senator Cruz has said repeatedly that his bill works an ''affirmative renunciation'' of U.S. citizenship. To the extent he means to suggest that, under the ETA, a person would automatically lose citizenship simply by engaging in the above conduct, he is wrong. The ETA does not and could not achieve that result.

Citizenship is a constitutional right, and the Constitution prohibits the government from revoking a person's citizenship against his will under any circumstances. As the Supreme Court has explained, ''the intent of the Fourteenth Amendment, among other things, was to define citizenship . . . [and] that definition cannot coexist with a congressional power to specify acts that work a renunciation of citizenship even absent an intent to renounce. In the last analysis, expatriation depends on the will of the citizen rather than on the will of Congress and its assessment of his conduct.'' As a constitutional right, citizenship can be knowingly and voluntarily waived, but it cannot be taken away from an individual absent such a waiver. Thus, to revoke a person's citizenship the government must prove not only that he committed an expatriating act prescribed in section 1481(a), but also that he did so voluntarily and with the specific intent to relinquish his citizenship.

Given these requirements, the ETA will almost certainly result in no additional expatriations. Unless Senator Cruz expects citizens subject to expatriation proceedings freely to admit that they joined or supported a foreign terrorist group specifically intending to renounce their U.S. citizenship, no one will in fact be expatriated. I doubt that government officials would believe it an efficient use of resources to try, especially given the broad reach of existing laws that already provide harsh penalties for U.S. citizens who engage in acts of terrorism.

The ETA also raises serious constitutional concerns. The ETA makes membership in or ''providing training or material assistance to'' certain foreign terrorist organizations a predicate act to expatriation. There are two constitutional problems with this provision. First, neither ''training'' nor ''material assistance'' is defined. Similar language in 18 U.S.C. §2339B was ruled unconstitutionally vague until Congress added specific definitions. Because Congress has not done so here, this provision of the ETA suffers from the same constitutional flaw.

Second, unlike other crimes currently listed in section 1481(a) that can result in loss of citizenship (see section 1481(a)(7)), Senator Cruz's addition does not require proof of a conviction as a prerequisite. As the Constitution Project's Liberty and Security Committee explained in opposing similar past attempts to amend section 1481(a):

''[T]he language of 1481(a)(7) expressly requires a conviction as a necessary prerequisite to denaturalization or expatriation proceedings. This requirement protects the

constitutional right of due process, since one cannot actually be said to have committed the acts specified in §1481(a)(7)—each of which are crimes against the United States—until and unless those acts have been proven to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. As the Supreme Court expressly held in Kennedy v. Mendoza-Martinez, Congress cannot deprive an individual of his or her citizenship as a ''punishment'' absent the procedural safeguards of a criminal trial.''

Congress has precious little time left before adjourning until November to decide how and under what authority to address the situation in Iraq and Syria. Members should spend this time debating these grave questions, not preoccupied with needless and likely unconstitutional legislation. In the event that Senator Cruz moves forward with the Expatriate Terrorist Act, I urge you to oppose it.

Sincerely,

DAVID COLE,
Hon. George J. Mitchell Professor in Law and Public Policy at Georgetown University Law Center; co-chair of the Constitution Project's Liberty and Security Committee.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION,
Washington, DC, September 17, 2014.

Re Oppose Cruz Bill S. 2779, Expatriate Terrorists Act; S. 2779 Is Unnecessary and Dangerous.

DEAR SENATOR: The American Civil Liberties Union urges you to refrain from cosponsoring—and oppose if offered—S. 2779, the Expatriate Terrorists Act, which is sponsored by Senator Ted Cruz. The bill would strip U.S. citizenship from Americans who have not been convicted of any crimes, but who are suspected of being involved with designated foreign terrorist organizations. S. 2779 is dangerous because it would attempt to dilute the rights and privileges of citizenship, one of the core principles of the Constitution. As the Supreme Court explained in 1967 in Afroyim v. Rusk, ''the Fourteenth Amendment was designed to, and does, protect every citizen of this Nation against a congressional forcible destruction of his citizenship, whatever his creed, color, or race. . . . [It creates] a constitutional right to remain a citizen in a free country unless he voluntarily relinquishes that citizenship.'' The bill is also unnecessary because existing laws already provide significant penalties for U.S. citizens who engage in acts of terrorism.

The Supreme Court has consistently found that citizenship is a fundamental constitutional right that cannot be taken away from U.S.-born citizens unless voluntarily renounced. An already overbroad federal statute, 8 U.S.C. §1481, provides that an American can lose his or her nationality by performing either of the following broad categories of acts with the intention of relinquishing his or her nationality:

acts that affirmatively renounce one's American citizenship, such as taking an oath of allegiance to a foreign government or serving as an officer in the armed forces of a foreign nation; or

committing crimes such as treason or conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government, or bearing arms against the United States, ''if and when [the citizen] is convicted thereof by a court martial or by a court of competent jurisdiction.''

The Expatriate Terrorists Act would add a new category of expatriating acts—''becoming a member of, or providing training or material assistance to, any designated foreign terrorist organization.'' This implicates several constitutional concerns.

First, the material assistance provision added by the bill would treat suspected provision of material assistance as an act that affirmatively renounces one's American citizenship. Thus, unlike treason or conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government, this provision would not require a prior conviction. It would only require an administrative finding by an unspecified government official that an American is suspected of providing material assistance to a designated foreign terrorist organization with the intention of relinquishing his or her citizenship. This provision would violate Americans' constitutional right to due process, including by depriving them of citizenship based on secret evidence, and without the right to a jury trial and accompanying protections enshrined in the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. In sum, the bill turns the whole notion of due process on its head. Government officials do not have the power to strip citizenship from American citizens who never renounced their citizenship and were never convicted of a crime.

Second, the material assistance provision suffers from the same constitutional flaws that plague other material support laws, and goes far beyond what the Supreme Court has held is constitutionally permissible when First and Fourth Amendments rights are at stake. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court disappointingly ruled in Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project that teaching terrorist groups how to negotiate peacefully could be enough to be found guilty of material support. That logic might apply to criminal conduct; it should not cause an American to lose his or her citizenship.

For these reasons, the ACLU urges you to refrain from cosponsoring S. 2779, and oppose it if it is offered for a vote. Please contact Arjun Sethi if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

LAURA MURPHY,
Director, Washington Legislative Office.
ARJUN SETHI,
Legislative Counsel, Washington Legislative Office.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I object to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I would note that the objection from my friend from Hawaii observed that this legislation has not gone through the Judiciary Committee, and that is true. It is true, of course, because the Senate is expected to adjourn this week as Senators return to their home States to campaign for elections.

If it were to go through the Judiciary Committee, it would mean it would not pass in time to prevent Americans fighting right now with ISIS from coming back and murdering other Americans. There is an urgency and exigency to this situation.

This is also legislation the Senate considered before. As I noted, it was bipartisan legislation. Joe Lieberman, Scott Brown, Hillary Clinton are all in one accord.

It is unfortunate the Democratic Senators chose to object to this, to prevent this commonsense change in law. I would note when it comes to constitutional concerns, I don't know if anyone in this Senate has been more vigorous or more consistent in terms of defending the constitutional rights of Americans than I have endeavored to be during my short tenure.

I will yield to no one in passion for defending constitutional liberties, but I note there is an existing law that has been on the books for many decades covering the renunciation of U.S. citizenship.

It is current law right now that if someone goes and joins a foreign nation and takes up arms against America, that act has long been recognized as constituting a constructive renunciation of U.S. citizenship. As for the question of due process, existing law provides due process that an individual who goes and takes up arms with ISIS—and all this does is treat ISIS, a nonstate terrorist group, on the same footing as taking up arms with a foreign nation against America. It is a recognition of the changed circumstances of this world that many of the gravest threats facing this country are not coming from nation states but are coming from terrorist groups that sadly some Americans are choosing to join forces. The existing law has considerable due process protection such that anyone who is determined to have affirmatively renounced his or her citizenship has a right to challenge that in Federal district court and a full proceeding under existing due process standards to have that matter resolved.

The question is very simple: Would any reasonable person want an American who is right now in Iraq, who is right now training with ISIS, who is right now taking up arms, who is right now participating in crucifying Christians, who is right now beheading children, who is right now participating in beheading two American journalists, who is right now standing arm in arm with virulent terrorists who have pledged to take jihad to America—would anyone in good conscience of either party want that person to be able to come back and land at La Guardia Airport with a U.S. passport and walk unmolested onto our streets? The obvious answer is no.

It saddens me we could not see Republicans and Democrats come together, and it saddens me that in an election year the Democratic Senator, who is up for reelection, chose to block this commonsense legislation rather than to work together to protect the American citizens.

I hope in time we see less election-year politics and more service to the men and women whom all of us are obliged to protect.

I yield the floor

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Earlier we had an opportunity to hear from Ukraine's

President Petro Poroshenko. Ukraine is a friend of the United States and it has looked to the West to meet naked Russian aggression.

As President Poroshenko's speech reminded us, there are objectives that bind our countries, such as the pursuit of freedom and representative government. Let's make it clear. We stand with Ukraine. We stand with the Ukrainian people in their struggle against external aggression and we stand with them in their struggle to secure the same kinds of rights and liberties each of us enjoy in America.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. On a different matter, today the Senate will consider House legislation to fund the government and address the threats of Ebola and ISIL.

These are important issues. Many Members on both sides plan to support this legislation. I know others have some concerns too. I understand those concerns. I share some of them, but while no bill is perfect, I believe this legislation is worth supporting.

I would like to thank my fellow Kentuckian, Representative HAL ROGERS, for his leadership and work on this bill because it does a lot of important things and all without raising discretionary spending. It would reauthorize important counternarcotics operations that help keep our children and communities safe and it would extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act until December, giving us a chance to secure a permanent extension.

It would block some of the administration's discretionary policies against Kentucky coal and help address the administration's veterans crisis by providing more resources to address the backlog and investigations into potential wrongdoing that is a positive step toward the more comprehensive reforms Republicans would like to see.

Critically, the legislation would provide authorization to train and equip a moderate Syrian opposition ground force, a key component of the President's efforts to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat ISIL.

While I am concerned about the ability of the coalition to generate sufficient combat power to defeat ISIL within Syria, I do support the President's proposal to begin the program. The authorization is of limited duration and it now contains important reporting requirements that will allow Congress to assess and oversee this program to measure whether the mission is actually being accomplished.

The Ebola crisis is another area where the President deserves congressional support. As you know, he recently announced several messages to contain the spread of the disease in Africa and prevent it from reaching our shores.

Accordingly, the bill contains additional resources to support research and bolster our Nation's effort in assisting Africa to manage this growing crisis.

In summary, this isn't perfect legislation, but it begins to address many of our constituents' top concerns without raising discretionary spending. It positions us for better solutions in the months to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 35 minutes for the purposes of engaging in a colloquy with my colleagues on the issue of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

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

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, tomorrow is the sixth anniversary of the application for approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Six years. Six years ago, September 19, 2008, the TransCanada company applied for a permit for approval to cross the Canadian border to build the Keystone XL Pipeline from Hardisty, Canada, down to Cushing and ultimately the gulf coast, to provide not only oil from Canada but to move oil from States such as my State of North Dakota, of light, sweet Bakken crude, oil from Montana, to our refineries here in the United States. Six years ago, that application was filed, effective tomorrow. So we are here today to talk about the need not only for a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline but for approval of this vitally important project.

The reality is we can make this country energy secure, energy independent, working with our closest friend and ally, Canada. But to do it we not only need to develop all of our resources, our energy resources in this country, and work with Canada as they develop their energy resources, but we need the infrastructure to safely, effectively, efficiently, dependably move that energy to where it is needed, to our consumers.

That is what the Keystone XL Pipeline project is all about. This is truly about building the roads, the rails, the pipelines, the transmission, the energy infrastructure we need as a vital part of our energy plan for this country. We have bipartisan support. We have 57 Senators who support this legislation—57. The reality is I think by next year we will have 60.

So while we sit here and wait—now for 6 years, effective tomorrow 6 years, waiting for a decision from the President on the Keystone XL Pipeline—ultimately I believe this decision will be made by the American people, as it always is and as it always should be. Because I believe that after these elections in November as we go into next year we will not only have 57 Senators who support this project, we will have over 60.

Then Congress will pass legislation, a bill that we have submitted, a bipartisan bill we have pending before this body right now. We will pass it. We will attach it to something the President will not veto. The House has already passed this legislation. Because over 70 percent, I think in the most recent poll, of the American people want this project. They want this project approved.

So here after 6 years—we are going to talk about some of the history of this and all of the work we have done. But before I do that, I want to turn to my colleague from Wyoming, somebody who is incredibly knowledgeable when it comes to energy, somebody who has worked on energy in all different aspects, somebody who truly understands that, look, for the benefit of the American people to build our energy future we not only need to produce that energy, we need the infrastructure to transport it safely, effectively, and well.

I wish to call on the Senator from Wyoming for his remarks on this sixth anniversary of the application, waiting for approval, waiting for a decision from the administration on the Keystone XL Pipeline, for his thoughts and for his comments. I turn to the good Senator from Wyoming.

Can the Senator give us his thoughts as to why this project is still awaiting a decision from the administration, after the President told us, told our caucus last year, at a caucus we had here in an adjacent room, that we would have a decision by the end of 2013, why we are here still awaiting a decision on behalf of the American people?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I appreciate and want to salute the significant leadership we have seen on this issue from the Senator from North Dakota. He has been a stalwart fighter, very focused on this issue, and focused on putting together a bipartisan coalition of supporters. Americans want the jobs, they want the energy, they want action. We have an opportunity, but we have been waiting 6 long years.

The Senator from North Dakota is absolutely right. It was at a meeting in the Republican conference where the President of the United States came in. I asked the specific question: When will we expect an answer so we can get moving with the jobs and the energy that the American people are asking for?

President Obama said: Well, by the end of the year. He said that almost a year and a half ago. It was the end of the year 2013 that the promise was going to be fulfilled. Now here we are halfway—beyond halfway—through 2014. Nothing yet. Not a thing from the White House, a White House held hostage by environmental extremists who are trying to block important jobs and important energy and this important project.

We are here in the Senate today and the majority leader is ready to close this place down until after the elections. He closed it down—if you count the number of days from the beginning

of August, all through August, a few days in session in September, but most of September not in session, and then all of October up through the election, you are talking 3 months, with the Senate in session for just 2 weeks. It is embarrassing. Where is the accountability? We are sure not getting it from the majority leader. The majority leader ought to bring this for a vote today. But he is not going to. He is going to shut down the Senate today, making sure these jobs are not there, that the energy is not there for the American people. The Keystone XL Pipeline bipartisan support is an excellent example of a project that could help us from the standpoint of energy security, from the standpoint of economic growth, the standpoint of helping our economy getting people back to work.

But yet the majority leader is not going to allow a vote today, 6 years in the waiting on this specific important project. I would say to my friend and colleague from North Dakota, I know our friends and colleagues from Oklahoma and Georgia are here on the floor. I want to hear their comments as well. I salute the Senator from North Dakota for his continued leadership, for his focus, and for continuing to work to make America better, in terms of jobs, in terms of the economy, and in terms of energy. I know the Senator will not stop until we finally get this project approved, completed, and constructed.

Mr. HOEVEN. I wish to thank the Senator from Wyoming for his diligence and for his work. This is a bipartisan issue. We have legislation now with 57 supporters that is pending before this body. In fact, we have passed this legislation. We actually had passed very similar legislation, different only in the respect that it called on the President to make a decision—this was back in 2012. I think we had 73 votes on this issue. The difference is, the pending bill we have provides congressional approval because the President once again delayed the decision when we passed legislation calling on him to make the decision earlier. So now we have come back with binding legislation, after doing congressional research. This bill makes the decision congressionally under the commerce clause that gives Congress the ability to oversee commerce with foreign nations.

Simply what this does is we say to our closest friend and ally, Canada—TransCanada is a Canadian company—that: Yes, you can cross the border with this pipeline, which is the latest, greatest technology we have for pipeline transport.

Let me show one other chart here, so people understand. When we are talking about pipelines, oil and gas pipelines in this country, this gives you a little sense of the pipelines we have—thousands of pipelines, millions of miles of pipelines that move oil and gas around the country, from where it is produced to the consumers who very much need it. So that gives you a sense of all of the pipelines we have.

Now we are talking about one that has the latest and greatest technology that we are seeking to get approved. To put this into some context, the project we are seeking to have approved is the Keystone XL Pipeline. The reason XL is because the Keystone Pipeline is this pipeline here, which goes from Hardisty up in Alberta down to the Patoka, IL, area as well as Cushing. That is the Keystone Pipeline. So I want to make sure there is no confusion. That is the Keystone Pipeline. That was approved in 2 years and built in 2 years.

So in 2006 the TransCanada company—I was Governor of North Dakota at that time. You can see it runs right through North Dakota. Obviously these things are immensely important. We are now the second largest oil-producing State in the Nation. We produce over 1 million barrels of oil a day—light sweet crude, second only to Texas. We have to get that to our markets and to refineries.

I started working on these projects when I was Governor. In 2006, TransCanada applied for approval of the Keystone Pipeline. Originally that was supposed to carry 640,000 barrels a day. I think it now carries 750,000 barrels a day. That application was applied for in 2006. It was approved in 2008. The pipeline was built and came online 2 years later. So 2 years to permit, and 2 years to build—4 years total.

When TransCanada applied for a second permit in 2008 for a sister pipeline, Keystone XL, it seemed pretty logical that it was going to be approved, particularly when the initial project had been approved in 2 years, built in 2 years. This is the actual pipeline infrastructure we have. When they wanted to build the sister pipeline, 830,000 barrels a day, it seemed kind of pretty logical they would go through the process and get it approved.

On September 19, 2008, they applied for that approval to move oil from Hardisty, pick up additional oil in North Dakota, Montana, take it down to Cushing and down to the refineries in the gulf, and get oil over to the refineries in Louisiana. September, 19, 2008. Tomorrow is September 19, 2014. Six years later, no decision.

I wish to turn to my colleague, the senior Senator from the great State of Oklahoma. Cushing is a hub for oil from all over the country. It is vital that we are able to move oil in and out of there, because that is a huge transition point between where we produce oil, including our region, but from all over the country and Canada and move it to refineries where it is distributed throughout the country. So we need to be able to move product in and out of Cushing, which is truly a hub for the Nation. That is exactly what this pipeline does.

I would turn to the senior Senator from Oklahoma. I would ask him: Why in the world, given what I have described here—we have thousands of pipelines, millions of miles of these pipelines. We have to get product from where it is produced to refineries and to our consumers. We cannot put it all on rail or you create incredible congestion that leads to accidents and backlogs in shipping of other products. This is the latest, greatest technology for pipelines, for the transport of oil.

Why in the world—what rationale would there be not to approve this pipeline?

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me say first of all to leave that chart up, because it shows very clearly that I might have the biggest dog in this fight. I do not know. But I will say that Cushing, OK, has more pipelines coming through, throughout the United States, than any other city in America. That is where they all come through.

A few minutes ago the Senator from Wyoming was talking about what the President said less than a year ago, that he was going to be cooperating, we are going to do this thing, it will be the best thing for America. He has not done it. But I will tell you what is worse than that. This right here: because of this pipeline, the hub we have in Cushing, OK—the President went to Cushing, OK; this was about a year ago—over 2 years ago he did—he went there to affirm to the American people that he is going to do all he can to make sure this pipeline becomes a reality. Read this, I ask my friend from North Dakota. It says:

> I am directing my administration to make this project a priority, to go ahead and get it done.

He has made this—I am not going to use the L word because it sounds disrespectful, and I lose credibility when I do that. He is saying something that is not true. He moved from that, and he has done everything since that time to destroy the pipeline.

That was when they were talking about the southern leg. Well, obviously the southern leg is not a problem because the southern leg does not cross an international border, so the President couldn't stop that even if he wanted to. So he was taking credit for that, but he is certainly underestimating the people of Oklahoma. In fact, nobody showed up when he was there. So that portion between Canada and Cushing is where the problem began.

I am going to throw out something very briefly. I also did this yesterday on the floor, but I think it is important.

There is a new surge of opposition to this that wasn't there before this happened. Tom Steyer is a very fine person, I am sure—I don't know him—but Tom Steyer has put up $100 million—his words, not mine—$50 million of his own money, to do two things. One is to resurrect global warming, which is dead. If we read the polls today, people have caught on. It is now No. 14 out of 15 of the environmental concerns, according to all the polling data. So he is trying to bring that up again. The second thing he is trying to do is stop the Keystone Pipeline.

I say to my friend from North Dakota, and I don't want to sound disrespectful, but $50 million of that is his own money, and he has that out there right now. I am going to quote him:

It is true that we expect to be heavily involved in the midterm elections.

Fifty million of his own money.

We are looking at a bunch of . . . races. . . . My guess is that we'll end up being involved in 8 or even more races.

The Keystone Pipeline would create 42,000 jobs and tens of thousands more. If you look at my State of Oklahoma, about one-third of all those jobs are in the State of Oklahoma.

Keystone is just the tip of the iceberg. When we look at this chart, we can see all of the domestic energy resources that are being developed around the county right now. We are going through a shale revolution, and the only thing getting in its way is the Federal Government.

Look at this next chart. I can remember back when people considered the only oil States to be west of the Mississippi, the Western United States. But with the Marcellus coming through, you could argue—and I have seen the argument in the State of Pennsylvania, for example—it provides the second-most jobs in that State. Yet they need to be aware that this is what is happening in the United States.

If we look at this map, it shows what we could do if we also had the Federal lands included in that. In fact, one of the shocking things we hear when we talk about the Federal lands is that in the past 6 years—and that is since President Obama has been there, and he has done everything he could to retard the progress of oil and gas since he came to office. The production on State lands is up 61 percent—that is in 6 years, up 61 percent—and natural gas is up 33 percent. However, on Federal lands—land the President can affect—oil production is down 6 percent. How can production be up 61 percent on State lands and down 6 percent on Federal lands? I think that shows the commitment that is there.

ICF International is a well-respected consulting firm. It is not Republican or Democratic. They recently released a report that says U.S. companies will need to invest $641 billion over the next 20 years in infrastructure to keep up with growing oil and gas production. What does that mean for jobs? According to the analysis, spending on these new pipelines alone will create 432,000 new jobs. It goes on and on talking about this.

I asked the same question: How could it be—6 years ago I thought that this was a piece of cake, that this was going to be done. What is the argument against it? There are people who fight against fossil fuels. That is alive and well. But they know they are going to be producing it anyway, and if it goes to China—and there are already discussions; that is public record—if it gets to China, they are going to have to go through the refining process, and they don't have any restrictions on emissions in China. So the argument is that if they do it, there are going to be more emissions—if they find that to be so offensive—than if we do it here in the United States where we have the capability to produce and have the jobs here.

When I go back to Oklahoma, people say: What are the arguments against it? I try to explain the argument they are using, but they don't buy it. Of course, I am in Oklahoma talking to normal people.

Anyway, good luck. We are going to do all we can do to make this a reality. We are going to win this eventually, but I am afraid we have the opposition of this administration, and unless we get that turned around, we will have to wait for another President.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would like to thank the Senator from Oklahoma and pick up on a point he made very well. He made of number of points that are extremely compelling, but one of the points he made is that overall, since about 2008, 2009, that area, our oil production in America is up 40 percent. So people say: Well, we are producing 40 percent more oil than we did in 2008, the end of 2008, so that is good. That is reducing the amount of oil we have to import into this country. We were below 50 percent. Now we are closing in on 60 percent and more oil that we produce. Together with Canada and Mexico, we are up over 75 percent, in terms of the oil that we consume, we produce in this country or get, as I say, from our closest allies and working on getting to 80 percent.

Well, people would say that is very good, but the Senator from Oklahoma made a very important point. Understand that is because we are up 60 percent in oil production on private land—on private land. We are actually down in terms of our production on public land; we are down between 6 and 7 percent. So when you net the two, we are up about 40 percent, but that is because we are up about 60 percent on private land.

I will give an example of how that works on the ground. In North Dakota 90 percent of the land is privately owned, so our oil production is growing tremendously. As I said, we are at about 1.1 million barrels a day and on our way to 1.4 million barrels a day in a few more years.

In Alaska, on the other hand, production is going down because their land is 90 percent public land and a very small percentage is private land. They can't get the permits and they can't build the infrastructure, so the amount of oil they produce is declining. The Alaskan pipeline can carry 2 million barrels of oil a day. It is down to less than 600,000 and declining. This is at a time when we are still getting oil from the Middle East and we are dealing with entities like ISIL, with terrorism, and with instability. How can we continue to be dependent on getting oil from the Middle East when we can produce that oil right here in our country and in Canada? I would ask the good Senator from Oklahoma to comment for a moment on the technology that is enabling us to do so.

Hydraulic fracturing—I think the first well hydraulically fractured in this country was in about the 1950s in Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. My friend is correct. It was 1948 in Duncan, OK.

Mr. HOEVEN. So I ask my friend from Oklahoma to talk for a minute about the technology and what that means for the future of this country and energy security.

Mr. INHOFE. Hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling are to be credited for this shale revolution we are going through now. We hear this administration—knowing the American people want to use this abundance of good, clean, natural gas and oil—sounding supportive of that, but he has done everything he can to retard our efforts to continue to use, as we have since 1948, hydraulic fracturing.

This is interesting because the first Director of the EPA who was chosen and confirmed during the Obama administration was Lisa Jackson. I asked her the question live on TV during one of our committee hearings—I said: Hydraulic fracturing—people are creating problems with this. Yet we have never had a problem, and it all started in my State of Oklahoma. Has there ever been a documented case of groundwater contamination with hydraulic fracturing?

Her answer, I say to my good friend from North Dakota, was no.

So we have the Obama administration saying there is no problem with it. Yet they are doing everything they can to federalize jurisdiction over hydraulic fracturing, with the idea that would make it much more difficult to take advantage of this revolution we are in the middle of.

Mr. HOEVEN. I again thank the Senator from Oklahoma.

Since 1948, with the first well hydraulically fractured—there have been no cases of contamination since 1948. We are now using this hydraulic fracturing with the latest new greatest technology where, on one pad, on one what we call eco-pad, we will now drill down as many as 18 wells. These wells will have—we go 2 miles underground, and then we drill laterals 3 miles long. Eighteen wells all on one site. Think of how much we have reduced the environmental footprint with that technology. Think of how much less ground disturbance there is. You are covering 1,280 acres. In the old days—and again maybe my friend from Oklahoma would like to think of how many wells they would have had to drill and how much infrastructure and well derricks and pumpers they would have to have all over the landscape, and now we do it on one pad covering 1,280 acres going out 3 miles in all directions from one eco-pad. So it is not just about energy,

I would say to my friend from Oklahoma, it is also better environmental stewardship.

Mr. INHOFE. It is also about technology. All of the environmentalists or extreme environmentalists who are trying to stop or fighting this war against fossil fuels, they ought to be rejoicing that we have this technology now.

When we talk about the number of wells, it it is now past 1 million wells that have been drilled using hydraulic fracturing. By their own admission, there has never been one documented case of groundwater contamination. So the answer is that there is no reason not to do it.

This is our opportunity to be independent. We could be independent in a matter of weeks if we had the opportunity to export.

It is not just private land, it is private and State land. All of the increase we have had, the 63 percent we talk about, is all private and State land. How is it possible that increase could take place on State land while on Federal land it goes down 6 percent? That tells the whole story.

Mr. HOEVEN. I have one more question for my friend from Oklahoma before I turn to my good friend from the State of Georgia.

Answer, please, if you would. As we produce this energy domestically—so we are producing energy here, we are creating jobs, we are creating economic activity, we are creating revenue without raising taxes from a growing economy. We are helping national security because we are not getting oil from the Middle East or Venezuela or places that are hostile to our interests. Now we are talking about environmental stewardship. We are talking about minimizing the footprint with these new technologies. Why would we not want to move that product as safely as possible, with the latest, greatest type of pipeline, with the best technology and the most safeguards? Why isn't that an environmentally sound decision as well?

Mr. INHOFE. I have often said and many of the people who are very conscious about the environment—as I am and others—have said this is the answer. I remember years ago when I was very young, I worked in the oilfields. I can remember there were small wells all over and, of course, at that time there wasn't an effort. Now they have cleaned things up, and nothing is greater in terms of the technology that has come along for the environment than what we have experienced.

When we think about what is happening all over the world—I am glad the Senator mentioned this—with ISIS and all of these problems we have right now, I believe we are facing a greater threat right now militarily than we have before. And that is where a lot of our energy is coming from, and it doesn't have to.

A good friend of the Senator and a good friend of mine named Harold Hamm—he is from Oklahoma, but he does a lot of work up there—I asked him a question in relation to the President repeatedly saying: Well, if we were to go ahead and develop this on Federal lands, it would take 10 years before that would reach the economy.

I was going to be on an unfriendly TV show, and I called up Harold Hamm and I said: Harold, I am going to ask you a question, and be careful in the way you answer it because I am going to use your name and your answer on nationwide TV. If you were set up someplace like New Mexico on Federal land that had not been touched before, how long would it take that first barrel of oil to reach the economy?

Without hesitating, he said: Seventy days.

I said: Seventy days? Well, that is 10 weeks, not 10 years.

Then he went on to say what would happen each week for those 10 weeks. I have never been refuted since we used that.

In addition to all the arguments we are using, just think about what our oil independence, our energy independence could be in this country. It is all there for the taking. This is the key element to make that a reality.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma, who has been a leader in energy for so many years.

This morning we were addressed by the President of Ukraine. Look at their situation. Because they haven't developed their own energy resources and because they don't have their own infrastructure, they are now dependent—Ukraine is dependent, along with most of the European Union, on Russia for their energy.

They get more than one-third of their energy from Russia. So at the same time that Russia is invading Ukraine, the European Union is reluctant to stand with the United States and our other allies on strong sanctions to prevent that type of aggression. Why? Because they get their energy from Russia.

So when we talk about building the infrastructure we need in this country to work with our closest friend and ally, Canada, to make sure we are energy secure and that we do not need to get energy from places such as the Middle East or Venezuela or other places that may have interests that are antithetical to ours, think about how important it is for the security of our country with what is going on in the Middle East with ISIL, and see what is going on in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, and Russian aggression.

So I turn to our colleague from Georgia, who has also been a staunch supporter of this project, and ask him what is going on in terms of national security, the situation we face today, and why in the world would we not be building—not only producing our energy resources in this country but deploying these new technologies we are talking about that produce energy with better environmental stewardship and building the infrastructure to move it to our refineries and move it to our consumers.

Why are we waiting 6 years for a decision that would enable us to do that very thing on behalf of the American people?

Mr. ISAKSON. I am pleased to join with the distinguished Senator from the State of North Dakota, and I am pleased to join with the Senator of Oklahoma.

I am pleased to speak as an American from a State that is a net consumer, not producer, of energy. The Senator's State is a great producer of energy. Senator INHOFE's State is a great producer of energy. Georgia is a great consumer. We don't have a lot of oil or natural gas or coal, but I am here because I have a lot of experience in my lifetime—a lot of it with national security issues and with economic issues. Our ability or our failure to approve the Keystone Pipeline and fracking is, very simply, professional malpractice.

I wish to refresh everybody's memory. This is the sixth anniversary of a letter to the President of the United States. Do we know what it is the 35th anniversary of? The Arab oil embargo.

I was a real estate salesman in 1970 when something called the misery index was developed. Does the Senator know what the misery index was? We had double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment, and double-digit interest rates. Why? Because the Arab oil embargo in the middle 1970s brought America to its knees.

This real estate agent salesman used to have to wait for 2 hours in a line at an ExxonMobil station with a $10 bill to get my ration of gasoline in the 1970s. Why? Because we depended on the Middle East and OPEC to supply us with energy.

We sit here on the cusp of being a net producer of energy. We can use it in our national defense, we can use it in our national security, and we can use it in our economy. If we produced the energy that we know we have available to us, and if we bring in the energy safely and environmentally soundly, as we know we have available to us, we can rule our foreign policy and our economy based on our own strength and not as dependents on anybody else.

Thirty-five years ago is not just a time of the misery index, but it was a time of failed U.S. foreign policy. Remember, it was the late 1970s when the Iranians took the American Embassy hostage in Iran and for 445 days held the strongest military power in the world hostage. Why? In large measure because they controlled petroleum to our country. So it is a national security threat.

When the President of the Ukraine spoke today, he didn't say this, but I will say it: If America was producing the oil and energy it could with the Keystone Pipeline and with fracking, if we were exporting to foreign countries, we could replace Russia in a heartbeat and be the net supplier of energy to the Ukraine and to Germany.

So it is important to the national security of our country and the employment of our people and the soundness of our economy that we do hydraulic fracking for our natural gas in Haynesville and Marcellus, and that we bring the pipeline oil from Canada-Keystone XL Pipeline in to Houston and refine that petroleum with gasoline and energy for our people.

The pipeline, to the Senator from North Dakota, is very interesting. I ran the State Board of Education in Georgia for years. By law we couldn't build a public school in Georgia if it was within 2,000 feet of an underground pipeline. It is hard in Atlanta, GA, to find a piece of land that isn't within 2,000 feet of an underground pipeline. Today America's energy and petroleum flows rapidly and safely and environmentally soundly in pipelines.

If we weren't using pipelines and we were bringing it on railcars or trucks, we would be producing carbon out the kazoo because those engines would burn petroleum to get the petroleum to Houston. By using the pipeline, it is safe, it is sound, and it is secure.

I think it is basically professional malpractice for this country to fail to approve the Keystone Pipeline or fracking because it hurts our national defense, it makes us dependent on people we shouldn't be dependent on, it hurts our economy, and one day the misery index could come back. If it comes back, it will be because we are held hostage by our own failed policy, not because somebody held us hostage because they were strong.

I want a strong America. I want an America that has strong leadership. I don't want to be a part of any professional malpractice. I want to be a part of seeking the best for our American people—bringing energy to our American people, and being the most competitive economy in the world today.

I appreciate the distinguished Senator from North Dakota for yielding me the time.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the distinguished Senator from Georgia for his strong support and his clear understanding of why we need this project and for putting the focus on national security.

In poll after poll two-thirds of Americans support this project. I think in the final analysis the American people will make a decision here. If the President after 6 years refuses to make a decision, clearly his strategy is to defeat this project with endless delays, just defeat by delay. So here we are in year 6 of the application process.

I would turn to my colleague from Georgia and ask his thoughts on this body's ability to step up and make the decision and approve this project on behalf of the American people. What does the Senator foresee? We have 57 who have signed on now. I believe we will get to 60. What is the Senator's sense of our ability to get this done for the American people?

Mr. ISAKSON. If, before we left today and had a final vote on the CR, the majority leader would let a vote come to the floor to get 60 votes to go ahead and move forward on the Keystone Pipeline, in my belief it would happen. For all the reasons I stated and what the American people want and all the reasons the Senator stated, I quite frankly do not understand why one single person in this administration would hold back the Keystone Pipeline.

Correct me if I am wrong, but the State Department has five times approved it; is that not correct?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is absolutely correct. We have the dates of the approval of five different environmental impact statements right here, all finding no significant environmental impact.

Mr. ISAKSON. So that is No. 1.

No. 2, there is no question that being independent in energy makes us a stronger country in terms of our national defense and our foreign policy; is that not correct?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is correct.

Mr. ISAKSON. No. 3, we will have more jobs, more employment, less inflation, and a more vibrant economy if we were developing this petroleum; is that not correct?

Mr. HOEVEN. That is correct.

Mr. ISAKSON. Then I think, knowing the quality and the intellect of the 100 Members of the Senate, there is no doubt that if the leader would bring that vote to the floor today, we would get more than 60 votes to move America forward and say: This Congress is ready to act. We are not in professional malpractice; we in fact are doing good for the American people. We want energy and we want it now.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the good Senator from Georgia.

I understand that our time has expired. I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to wrap up this colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. On the facts and on the merits—which is how we have to make decisions for the American people—this is a project about energy, producing energy here at home so we don't have to get it from the Middle East. We know what is going on with the Middle East with ISIL and other organizations that are creating huge problems and that are a danger not only to this country but to the world.

It is about energy here at home and working with our closest friend and ally, Canada. It is about jobs. The State Department itself says more than 40,000 jobs are created with this project. It is about economic activity, a $5.3 billion project and not one penny of Federal spending, just private investment. It is about national security, as we have talked about.

But it is also about congestion on our rails. It is about making sure we don't try to move all this oil on rail so we have so much congestion, we have accidents, and we have seen that happen. It is about harvest and moving ag products from the heartland throughout the country. It is about using the latest, greatest technology to make sure we produce more energy more dependably and with better environmental stewardship than without the project.

Six years. It is time for this body to step forward on behalf of the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

MATTERS OF WAR AND PEACE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I don't think we should adjourn and go home with matters of war and peace in front of us.

This Senator certainly intends to support the appropriations bill, the continuing resolution necessary to keep the government functioning. But one of the issues in this continuing resolution is the authorization in order to start training the Free Syrian Army in Saudi Arabia, and this Senator certainly supports that.

But the issues beyond just that training are very much in front of us, which involves the United States protecting our national security by going after ISIS—or ISIL or whatever you want to call them. It is the group that has already declared war on us. Day by day we see their efforts, and then we hear their statements that they want to fly the black flag of ISIS over the White House. What more do we need to know about the national security being threatened?

Today in a joint session we heard a very inspiring and emotional speech by the President of Ukraine. He so poignantly pointed out how Russia has invaded eastern Ukraine, and it is the Russian Army against the Ukrainian Army. We certainly should be helping them as well, as we are, but it needs to be more.

So, too, the national security of the United States is definitely threatened by ISIS. As I have said over and over, I believe the President has the constitutional authority to strike ISIS in Syria, as he already has in northern Iraq, and that is under his constitutional duty as Commander in Chief. But this is not going to be a strike for a few days; this is going to be a long effort to degrade and defeat—to use the President's words—this threat to America.

So here the Congress of the United States is going to adjourn in the middle of September; and, as I calculate, starting tomorrow it is 55 days until we would return. We need to be talking about war and peace. We need to be talking about the Congress exercising its constitutional authority to give the authority to the President for this long-term effort. The Senate has heard our colleague Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia speak very passionately about this. He believes it very firmly. I only disagree with Senator KAINE to the point that I believe the President has

the authority to strike now to protect the interests of the United States—and I expect President Obama will do that. I am talking about in Syria.

It is clear the President has already appropriately started the attacks, and has done it very well and successfully in the Kurdish region and other regions of northern Iraq, and that will continue as the President feels he has the authority, and I happen to agree. But when it comes to Syria—and that is where the head of the ISIS snake is; and if you are going to kill the snake, you have to go to where the head is and chop it off—I think it is a mistake for us to go home. I think it sends a very bad message not only to our countrymen, but it sends a very bad message to our allies and to our enemies. The opposite message would be sent if we would discuss these matters and come together with a resolution of an authorization for the use of military force and to have that clearly stating that the United States is unified to go after this insidious, evil, brutal, uncivil kind of force. It would send a message of unity not only to our allies, to this country of ours, but to our enemies.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, what is the order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak until I conclude. It may go over that time, but not by much.

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

CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND ISIL

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you so much, Madam President.

I am here because I want to respond to the colloquy that was held on the Keystone Pipeline, but before I go there, I do want to make remarks about the very important vote we are going to be taking today both to keep the government open and to give the President the ability to train and equip vetted Syrian moderates so they can help us take the fight to ISIL.

It is my privilege to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee. I have served on it for a very long time, and yesterday we had an important hearing where the Secretary of State laid out the President's plans for how we are going to meet this threat posed by ISIL.

I have to say, before I explain the three options you have as an American as far as which option you embrace, I think I need to lay out the view of this organization ISIL or ISIS. There are different ways to describe them. They are an outgrowth of Al Qaeda in Iraq, which came about because of the catastrophic Iraq war that was based on false premises, that put us in the middle of a civil war, and created the worst sectarian tensions. One of my proudest moments was voting no on that.

Then the Bush administration said Saddam Hussein was involved with 9/11, that he had nuclear weapons, and none of it was so. None of it was so. As a result we got in the middle of this war.

We were told it would last 6 months, and then a year went by, another year, years, years, years, and it became one of our longest wars, and 4,000-plus Americans dead, tens of thousands wounded, some with very serious wounds—they will never get over them—and I would say well over $1 trillion that drew us into a terrible recession when we had previously had surpluses. What a nightmare. So that is the beginning of ISIL, an outgrowth of Al Qaeda.

There were two authorizations for the use of military force that I got to vote on. One of them was right after 9/11 when I voted to go after bin Laden and Al Qaeda and any other affiliate organization that would come out of Al Qaeda. That is one I voted for. That is why I believe the President has the authority, based on that document, to move forward and take the fight to ISIL.

The other authorization for use of force was permission to go into Iraq and go after Saddam Hussein. I voted no on that.

I think it is important to the American people to remember why we are facing trouble, but it is what it is. There are some who say—because there are three approaches here—do nothing. There are some who say do nothing. My view is: How can we possibly do nothing in the face of a group that has beheaded two innocent freelance journalists? How can you do nothing in the face of a group that sells 14-year-old girls as slaves? How can you do nothing in the face of a brute, ISIL, who, if they don't sell a 14-year-old as a slave and they let her live, give her to a warrior as a reward? How do we sit back and do nothing?

We saw what they did to minorities, the Yazidis. They said: Either you convert, flee, or we will kill you.

We cannot sit back. They did it to Christians, Yazidis. They did it to Turkmen. They have taken hostages including more than 40 Turkish hostages. We don't even know the count or what are the nationalities, but we know their intent. This is a quote from them, that they are going to make sure their thirst for American blood is quenched. This is a sick situation, and to the people who say do nothing, I say to them: I understand your concern for unintended consequences, but don't count me in your camp, because I cannot do that.

I am so cautious when it comes to voting to go to war. I know it is not easy. We don't know every single thing that can happen, what can go wrong. Things do go wrong. But my view is in this case if I were to sit back and say I am too afraid, I am too nervous, that is exactly the wrong signal to send a group of terrorists such as this. I have never seen a group like this. So one path is to do nothing.

The other path is to start up the Iraq war all over again. Colleagues in this Chamber, pounding the table: Troops on the ground. Send our American troops back. No way, no way. I am not going to send our troops back to the middle of a civil war. What we are going to do is another way—President Obama's strategy, which is the moderate strategy here. It is to take our intelligence, our strategy, our Air Force assets, and make sure those in the region who have the most at stake—remember, ISIL has killed more Muslims than anybody else—that they will be the boots on the ground. We see that strategy is working in Iraq.

It is early. We don't know how it is all going to go. But we have started this strategy where they will take back key pieces of territory—a dam, very important—and we seem to be able to coordinate well with the Kurds and the Iraqi forces.

Clearly our President is right when he says this is about the whole world. The whole world has to care about this, because this is about, truly, civilization, and every civilized person has to stand up against this. What the President is doing with the Secretary of State and our Vice President is they are building coalitions. For the first time we see the Arab nations coming forward.

So when I vote today for the continuing resolution, I want it to be clear to my constituents—and they are not all going to agree with me, I know that—that I am in favor of this strategy. I am in favor of training the moderate Syrians to take the fight to ISIL on the ground. And I can tell you because I was in Turkey in August—I had the privilege of meeting with the head of one of the moderate Syrian organizations. His comments were very strong that ISIL is absolutely going against the moderate Syrians. So it is very important that the moderate Syrians are able to fight back against ISIL. That is what we are voting for today, to allow the President to vet, train, and arm the moderate Syrian opposition to the Syrian President and also in that regard go after ISIL.

I know everything is complicated in life and nothing is the perfect solution, but if I could say rhetorically, what is wrong is to do nothing. What is wrong is to go back into the Iraq war. What is right is to organize the world through a coalition, use the American assets—because no one can do what we can do—but on the ground in the combat mission, utilize the regional forces.

I wanted to be clear today where I stand. There are three choices, and I choose the path President Obama has put together. I think the vote in the House was a very important vote yesterday because it showed there is a majority of Democrats and Republicans who can come together.

Following that, we were in the House this morning to hear the President of Ukraine. It was very touching and very moving. President Poroshenko laid out in the most beautiful language, I thought, because of its simplicity, the beauty of freedom and what they are fighting for. What I loved so much about it was the fact that his speech united everybody in the room. There wasn't one group that sat down or didn't stand up to express their appreciation for what his countrymen are going through.

I hope we can get behind this President in this fight against the terror group that is probably the best-funded terror group ever in existence, the most barbaric I have ever seen. I hope there will be a good vote today. I think that would send a very important message that we are sincere and will bring more people to our coalition.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I said I was going to talk about an issue I know the Presiding Officer and I don't agree on. I have total respect for her view. The people of her State are so lucky to have her fighting their fight on energy. The people of my State have a disagreement. We are very fearful about climate change. So we are also worried about the health impact of the tar sands.

I am going to make a few comments about why I think we should disrupt the process that is happening now with Keystone. It is a well-established process for considering projects such as this. The purpose of the review process isn't just to waste time. It is to determine whether the construction of the Keystone tar sands pipeline is in fact in the national interest. This is important. It is a major project.

In the past, Republicans have attempted to circumvent the review process for Keystone by creating shortcuts that in my opinion put our families' health at risk.

I want to show you a chart. It shows you that tar sands oil is one of the filthiest kinds of oil on the planet.

Let's look at a place in Texas where we see the tar sands oil being refined. This is Port Arthur. We have had visits from the Port Arthur community, and they said, please, we want to bear witness to the fact that this is what it looks like when these tar sands are burned. It hurts the health of our people. Residents along the gulf coast are suffering from asthma, respiratory illness, skin irritation, and cancer, and to get to the gulf coast the tar sands will be transported by pipeline through communities in environmentally sensitive areas in six States. It will pass through key sources of drinking water.

Look what happened in West Virginia when they couldn't drink the water there. It was a nightmare.

We have had experience with tar sands. People talk about how the pipeline is one thing, but it is what goes through it that is critical, and what is going to go through it if it gets built is the dirtiest, filthiest kind of water we know.

What happens in places such as Detroit and Chicago, where they store the byproduct known as petcoke—take a look at this. This is what it looks like. It looks like filthy, dirty pollution, and unfortunately for the people, that is what it is.

When the wind is blowing, we see black clouds containing concentrated heavy metals. Children playing baseball have been forced off the field to seek cover to avoid the black dust that pelts their homes and cars. Petcoke dust is a particulate matter, which is the most harmful of all air pollutants. Why? Its particles are so small, they lodge in your lungs and cause terribly severe asthma attacks, aggravate bronchitis and other lung diseases, and reduce the body's ability to fight infections. Asthma affects 12 out of every 26 people—and 7 million of those are children.

If I could, I would ask the people in the gallery how many of them have asthma or know someone who has asthma. I know a lot of them would raise their hands. It is ubiquitous. We don't need more asthma.

There are other ways to go, and my State and other countries are proving it. We can move to clean energy. We need to have a comprehensive human health impact on the tar sands that would go through that pipeline because human health is important. If you can't breathe, you can't work. It is as simple as that. If you can't breathe, you can't go to school and get an education. If you can't drink the water, it is a serious problem.

While my Republican friends come down and say: Let's bypass all of this evidence and move forward, that is a dangerous idea. It is a dangerous idea.

I went to China about a year ago. You cannot see one foot in front of the other in China. That is how bad the air is because they don't care about the environment. They say: Oh, we don't need rules; we don't need regulations. Build, build, build. Do it, do it, do it, do it. Go and get it out of the ground.

There are moments we need to look at what we are doing. We are doing great right now on energy. Under this President we have become more energy efficient. Yes, there are places to drill, there are places to get energy, but it has to be clean and it has to be good.

We have just come out of the hottest August ever known to humankind since we began keeping the records in the 1800s. Climate change is so real, the only place they don't know it is here is the United States Senate. They don't know. Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil. Everything is great. Everything is good.

My colleague from Vermont is brilliant on this point, and we know the Keystone tar sands pipeline will create 17 percent more carbon than domestic oil. This is a dirty, filthy oil that is the equivalent of adding 5.8 million new cars to the road, or eight new coal powerplants.

The State Department has concluded that the annual carbon pollution from just the daily operation of the pipeline will be the equivalent to adding 300,000 new cars on the road. If we do this, we will go backward on climate change. We cannot afford to do it.

I know people get impatient with decisionmaking—whether it is deciding how to take the fight to ISIL—and I am glad I have a deliberative President who didn't just say: Do this and this. He thought about it and came up with an idea for a coalition to do it right. When you are looking at something such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, which is going to vastly increase the importation of this filthy, dirty oil, we ought to take our time.

My very last point. I am so proud to chair the Environment and Public Works Committee. Four former Republican EPA Administrators who served under Presidents Nixon, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush spoke out on the need to address the danger of climate change.

Really, this is not about bipartisanship. Ninety-seven percent of scientists tell us climate change is real and caused by human activity. Please, let's take our time. When we are faced with a project that will set us back—the dirtiest, dirtiest oil—a picture is worth a thousand words, and this is not what I want to leave to our children.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank Senator BOXER not only for her remarks today but for her years and years of commitment to the environmental committee and pointing out the danger of climate change and the toxicity in our air.

ISIS

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the dangerous and brutal extremist organization called ISIS, the terrorist army, which in recent months has overrun vast swaths of Iraq and Syria and is a serious threat to the stability of the region, and, in fact, to the international community.

But before I do that, I also want to say that ISIS is not the only major problem facing our country. It would be a real tragedy if, in our legitimate concerns about the dangers of ISIS, we continue to ignore the very serious problems that are taking place right here in the United States of America and impacting tens of millions of working families.

There are crises here at home we have ignored for too long. Real unemployment today is 12 percent, youth unemployment is 20 percent. We can't ignore it. The minimum wage nationally is at a starvation wage of $7.25 an hour. We cannot ignore that reality. We have to raise the minimum wage.

Women earn 77 cents to the dollar that men earn. That is unfair. We cannot ignore the issue of pay equity. We have to address that issue.

Senator BOXER was just on the floor talking about the planetary crisis of global warming and the fact that virtually the entire scientific community is united in telling us that global warming is real. It is significantly caused by human activity. It is also causing devastating problems in our country and around the world. We cannot continue to ignore the crisis of global warming.

Last week many of us voted to overturn the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision that allows billionaires the ability to spend unlimited sums of money to buy elections which will benefit candidates who support the rich and the powerful. My point is that while we address the very serious problems in the Middle East—and these are very serious problems—we cannot take our eye off the very serious problems facing tens of millions of Americans.

The issue involving ISIS, in my view, is enormously complex. Just one example is Syria. The Assad government is a dictatorship which has killed many thousands of its own people and has even used, we believe, chemical weapons against its own citizens—and these are the good guys. The decisions we make now in Syria, in Iraq, and in the Middle East must be made with great thoughtfulness.

As you know, President Obama has been attacked time and time again because he publicly stated a while ago that ''we don't have a strategy yet'' for dealing with ISIS. Frankly, I applaud the President for trying to think through this incredibly complicated issue and not making rash decisions which would make a very bad and dangerous situation even worse and more dangerous.

I remember back in 2002—I was in the House of Representatives then—when George W. Bush and Dick Cheney said they did have a strategy. They were tough, they were forceful, they acted boldly, they acted swiftly, but, unfortunately, what they did was dead wrong. In fact, it was the worst foreign policy blunder in the recent history of America and opened up a can of worms we are trying to deal with today.

Frankly, I must say I am not impressed with all of the tough talk. I want smart policy that will work and that will, in fact, lead to the destruction of ISIS, not sound bites that may be effective in a political campaign.

I will take a few moments to lay out some of my concerns. First, President Obama is absolutely right when he said this struggle will not be successful unless there is a strong international coalition. Let's be clear: ISIS is a terrorist threat not only to the United States but to Britain, France, Germany, countries throughout Europe, and, in fact, to nations throughout the world.

More importantly, ISIS, which wants to establish a new caliphate, which includes many countries across a large geographical area, is a major threat in the region to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Qatar, Iran, Jordan, and other countries.

I very much appreciate the hard work that President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry have undertaken in trying to put together an international coalition that will effectively fight ISIS. We all know how difficult that effort is, but at this point it appears to me the kind of coalition we need has yet to come together.

In my view, ISIS will never be defeated unless the countries in the region—the people in the region, the Muslim world, including Sunni and Shiite nations—stand up to this threat.

I know how hard President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry are trying, but we are nowhere near where we need to be in terms of building this coalition at this moment.

It may surprise many people to know that Saudi Arabia—a country run by an autocratic royal family worth hundreds of billions of dollars and one of the wealthiest families in the world—is a country which was the world's fourth largest defense spender in 2014. Most people don't know that. According to a Reuters article from earlier this year—and I quote—''Saudi Arabia beat Britain to become the world's fourth largest defense spender in 2013.'' In other words, Saudi Arabia is now spending more money on arms and the military than is the United Kingdom.

The article goes on to cite a report by London's International Institute for Strategic Studies which estimated Saudi Arabia was spending over $59 billion, a figure researchers said was extremely conservative, pushing it above Britain at $57 billion or France at $52 billion. Once again, Saudi Arabia is spending more on their military than is Britain or France.

Another article from Bloomberg provides additional details on Saudi Arabia's military strength. It cites that ''in 2011, the U.S. Government signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia valued at $29 billion.'' That is the end of the quote from Bloomberg. But according to Military Balance, ''The Royal Saudi Air Force has more than 300 combat capable aircraft, including 81 F–15 C and D fighter aircraft, 172 advanced F–15 S Typhoon and Tornado fighters capable of ground attack, dozens of C–130 transport aircrafts.'' This is what the Saudi Arabian Air Force has.

Let me also quote from an article in Forbes which details the strength and numbers of many of the militaries in the Mideast. The article notes:

> Countries in the region have more than enough power to destroy the Islamic State. Turkey has an army of 400,000. Iran has nearly as many in the army and paramilitaries. Iraq has a nominal army of nearly 200,000 and some 300,000 police. Saudi Arabia has nearly 200,000 army, national guard, and paramilitary personnel. Syria's military, though degraded by war, numbers some 110,000, plus paramilitaries. Jordan has 74,000 in the army. The Kurdish Peshmerga numbers in the tens of thousands. All of these but Iraq and Kurdistan have some air force ground attack capabilities.

Furthermore, not only are countries in the region not stepping up in the fight against ISIS but, believe it or not, several of these gulf states are empowering ISIS and Al Qaeda-related groups through their financial contributions. A recent article in the Washington Post noted:

> Kuwait, a U.S. ally whose aid to besieged Syrian civilians has been surpassed only by the United States this year, is also the leading source of funding for al-Qaeda-linked terrorists fighting in Syria's civil war.

Now, think back not so long ago when the United States of America went to war to push Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait and restore the royal ruling family. Today we find that ''Kuwait is the leading source of funding for al Qaeda-linked terrorists fighting in Syria's civil war.''

The article goes on to state:

> . . . the amount of money that has flowed from Kuwaiti individuals and through organized charities to Syrian rebel groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra totals in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Kuwait is hardly alone in this effort. As Treasury Department Under Secretary Cohen stated:

> A number of fundraisers operating in more permissive jurisdictions—particularly in Kuwait and Qatar—are soliciting donations to fund extremist insurgents, not to meet legitimate humanitarian needs.

On and on it goes.

Why is all of this of enormous consequence? The answer is pretty obvious. The worst action we can take now is to allow ISIS to portray this struggle as East versus West and Muslim versus Christians, as the Middle East versus America. That is exactly what they want and that is exactly what we should not be giving them. In other words, this is not just a question of whether young men and women in Vermont or in North Dakota or in any other State of this country should be putting their lives on the line to defend the billionaire families of Saudi Arabia when Saudi Arabian troops are not in the struggle. This is not just whether the taxpayers of our country and not the billionaire ruling families of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and other countries should be paying for this war; more importantly, it is an understanding that at the end of the day, this war will never be won by the United States alone but it must be won by the people in the region.

Should we, as the most powerful military in the world, be of help to those people struggling against ISIS? The answer is obviously yes. Along with the international community, we should be strongly supportive of those countries in the region that are standing up to ISIS. And I personally believe President Obama is absolutely right in his efforts to judiciously use airstrikes which, at this point, have shown some success. But at the end of the day, in my view, the United States of America

cannot and should not lead this effort. We must be supportive of other countries in the region who are standing and fighting against the ISIS terrorist organization, but this fight will have to be fought by countries in the region that are, in fact, most threatened by ISIS. They cannot stand aside. They cannot say: Hey, go for it, United States. Thank you, American taxpayers. But we in Saudi Arabia—no, we don't want our young people involved in this war. We don't want our airplanes involved in the attacks. We don't want our billions to go into this war. Thank you, America. It is really nice of you to do that. By the way, while you do that, we may play both sides of the issue and some families may actually fund terrorist organizations. But we really do appreciate your stepping to the plate because we are not doing that.

So that is where we are today. It is a very complicated, difficult situation. Again, I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for trying to work through this. But this is what I worry about: I worry very much that supporting questionable groups in Syria—so-called moderates who are outnumbered and outgunned by both ISIS and the Assad government—I worry very much that getting involved in that area could open the door to the United States, once again, being involved in a quagmire, being involved in perpetual warfare. And what happens when the first American plane gets shot down or the first American soldier is captured? What happens then? I am hearing from some of our Republican colleagues who are already talking about the need for U.S. military boots on the ground. That is what they are talking about today, and that concerns me very, very much.

So I am going to vote against this continuing resolution because I have very real concerns about the United States getting deeply involved in a war we should not be deeply involved in. At the end of the day, if this war against this horrendous organization called ISIS is going to be won, it will have to be Saudi Arabia, it will have to be Iraq, it will have to be the people of Syria, it will have to be the people of that region saying: No, we are not going to accept an organization of terrorists such as ISIS. And we should be there to help, as should the United Kingdom, as should Britain, as should France, as should Germany. This has to be an international coalition. But the last thing we need is the United States being the only major military power involved in this war.

So I thank the Chair, 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. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, what is the order before the Senate?

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 124) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3851

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have an amendment to the joint resolution that has already been filed at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3851.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike ''30 days'' and insert ''29 days''.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3852 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3851

Mr. REID. There is now a second degree amendment which has also been filed at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3852 to amendment No. 3851.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''29'' and insert ''28''.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3853

Mr. REID. I have a motion to commit H.J. Res. 124 with instructions which has been filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment numbered 3853.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike ''not later than 30 days after the enactment of this joint resolution'' and insert ''By October 31, 2014''.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3854

Mr. REID. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3854 to the instructions of the motion to commit.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''October 31'' and insert ''October 30''.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3855 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3854

Mr. REID. I have a second degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3855 to amendment No. 3854.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''30'' and insert ''29''.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

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

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.J. Res. 124, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., John E. Walsh, Mazie K. Hirono, Cory A. Booker, Heidi Heitkamp, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Carl Levin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under Rule XXII be waived.

Mr. REID. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline under rule XXII for first-degree amendments to H.J. Res. 124 be at 2 p.m. this afternoon and that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments be at 3:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to table an amendment to the joint resolution, as provided under the previous order, be in order during time for debate and, if made during the debate, the vote on the motion to table occur immediately after all debate time has been used and yielded back on H.J. Res. 124; further, that if a budget point of order is made, the motion to waive be considered made and the vote on the motion to waive occur following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.J. Res. 124.

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

Mr. REID. There will be up to 4 hours 30 minutes equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

I now suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be charged equally on both sides.

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

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.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise today to bring to the floor H.J. Res. 124. It is the continuing funding resolution for fiscal year 2015.

Let me explain where we are. We are in the closing hours before the Senate takes the recess before the fall elections. In the middle of all that, on October 1, our fiscal year begins. If we don't have a bridge between now and December 11 or around that, we could face a government shutdown. We do not want a government shutdown. We want to make sure we provide funding and make sure the government will not be shut down and that after the election we can return and do due diligence and pass this in a more comprehensive way.

Our job as the Appropriations Committee in Congress is to put money in the Federal checkbook each year to keep the Federal Government functioning. The American people want their government to work as hard as they do. They want us to combat the threats against the United States of America. They want us to honor our commitments to our veterans. They want us to meet the compelling human needs of the American people, and they want us to have an opportunity ladder so the American people can have a fair shot.

What we do is, we provide funding one year at a time. September 30 is our fiscal New Year's Eve. October 1 is the first day of the fiscal year. If Congress leaves before we pass the continuing resolution, the government could shut down. We don't want another government shutdown. I believe there is support on both sides of the aisle not to do that.

We know from last year that it was a terrible situation. Thousands of Federal workers were paid not to work. Other personnel, such as FBI agents, had to work for IOUs, even using their own money to put gas in their car as they pursued the people who wanted to undermine us. We know we don't want a government shutdown.

What is our goal for this continuing resolution? To avoid a government shutdown but to do more than that. To do no harm to existing programs so that we can meet our compelling human needs, the national security needs of the United States of America, and continue those public investments in innovation that make America the exceptional Nation and often the indispensable Nation.

It allows us also to lay the groundwork for an omnibus funding bill in December which will be a comprehensive funding bill including all 12 appropriations.

Also, it gives the President the fiscal resources to protect the Nation, to deal with ISIL, to make sure we support the needs of Ukraine and NATO, and also to work on a global basis to stamp out Ebola.

What I want to say to my colleagues, who will look at this bill and scrutinize it, is the continuing resolution is only from now until December 11.

Remember, it is a temporary stopgap bill. Also, it is at current levels of funding. So I want to say that there are no new programs and there is no new funding. As I said, it meets these needs.

I worked very closely with my House counterpart, the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. HAL ROGERS, the chair of the Appropriations Committee in the House. We worked very hard to do bills where we thought we could bring individual ones to the Nation. Well, it did not work out that way because one party stopped me from bringing bills to the floor. I am sorry we do not have that omnibus, but poison-pill riders kept the Senate from considering appropriations bills on the floor and also the demand for 60-vote thresholds. That is a debate for another day.

So where are we in this continuing resolution? As I said, it keeps the government running through December 11, operating at the same amount of money as fiscal year 2014, with the same items and the same programs and the same restrictions. People might say: Have things not changed since last year? There are some technical adjustments that we do, but we just simply are extending what we have.

Again, what we do here is help the President, though, with what has changed—the three alarming threats that are facing us. No. 1, there is this growing threat of an organization called ISIL. People say: Are you talking about ISIS? No, I am talking about ISIL, because it goes beyond Syria—the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. What we have in here is the authority for the President to use title 10 of the United States Code.

What that does is allow the President to train and equip, with proper vetting, the moderates in the Syrian rebel forces. We also are supporting our President as he works with NATO and tries to deal with the Russian threat to Ukraine. Then there is another grim and ghoulish thing going around in Africa and spreading, which is Ebola. What we are doing here is providing the President with the resources to help Africa fight this problem. At the same time, while we are fighting in Africa, we make sure that NIH, FDA, and CDC have the resources to fight the issues here.

I could elaborate on this bill more. I want everyone to know that the CR is bicameral. It has already passed the House. It is bipartisan. I have worked with my counterpart in the other party, Senator SHELBY, who really has worked in a very rigorous way here, bringing the principles of fiscal conservatism and flexibility so we have this.

But I know there are other Senators who want to debate. I want them to have the opportunity to debate this bill. I will have more to say when there are not others waiting.

I want to yield the floor, but before I do, I am going to thank Senator SHELBY for the cooperation of his staff. We have not always agreed on the content or every line item. He is a very staunch fiscal conservative. But out of it all, working with civility, due diligence, and absolute candor, I think we have been able to bring a bill to the floor. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will pass this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, this afternoon I rise in support of this continuing resolution which is now before the Senate. Overall, it is a relatively clean bill that carries forward current levels for discretionary spending and avoids another government shutdown. It contains a minimal amount of what we call anomalies or deviations from a straight continuation of previous-year funding.

The anomalies it does contain are limited in duration and subject to relitigation when we return after the break. The bill is also consistent with the total level of discretionary spending enacted in the Bipartisan Budget Act for the fiscal year 2014. But most significantly, this legislation will authorize assistance to elements of the Syrian opposition to help confront the threat presented by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL.

While I believe action against this menace is long overdue, it is unfortunate, I believe, that the action once again requires the involvement of our military and our resources. This authority for training and equipping appropriate moderate elements in Syria is no panacea. We should remember this. We should not expect quick and easy progress in turning the tide against this new terrorist threat that has developed in the region while this administration withdrew and hoped for the best.

History and our experience in the region tell us that this will not be the last time Congress will struggle with this issue. Even if we can identify, train, and equip a large number of fighters in a relatively short period of time, there will come a time when more will be required to defeat this enemy. It will not be of a short duration. It is unfortunate, I believe, that

the President has chosen to ignore the fact, thereby avoiding an honest discussion with the American people.

Nevertheless, I believe today it is important that we give the moderates in the region a fighting chance. If proper training and equipment can do that, we should support it until it becomes clear that we must pursue other means to achieve our goals. When that time comes, I expect Congress to have a full and open debate on that issue. But for now, Congress, I believe, has the responsibility to carefully track what the administration is doing with any funds that it reprograms for this assistance and how this fits into a broader regional strategy there.

The language in this bill will ensure that the administration provides the information to the Congress that we need to do our job. Once again, support for this continuing resolution will achieve two very important goals: one, avoiding a government shutdown, and maintaining spending levels currently in the law—very important. For these two reasons, I will be supporting the bill.

During the break that we are about to go on, and when we return in November, Senator MIKULSKI, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, and I will be working closely on an omnibus bill to put in place funding for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is my hope that we will be able to, once again, reach an agreement and complete the work of the committee before this Congress adjourns. I believe that this is an achievable goal as long as both sides come to the table with reasonable expectations. We have done it before. I expect that we can do it again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, we have before us one of the most important duties of the Senate and the Congress; that is, to decide whether we will be involved in war. I think it is inexcusable that the debate over whether we involve the country in war—another country's civil war—that this would be debated as part of a spending bill and not as part of an independent free-standing bill.

It was debated as a free-standing bill yesterday in the House. There was a free-standing amendment.

It takes 15 extra minutes. One might wonder why the Senate—the most deliberative body of the world—does not have 15 minutes to debate separately a question of war. It will be thrown into an amendment or a bill over spending. Instead of having a debate over war, we will have a debate over spending. I think this is a sad day for the Senate. It goes against our history. It goes against the history of the country. Therefore, I have asked that the amendment that I will set before the Senate will separate the votes so we will have a debate over war and then we will have a debate over spending.

I have an amendment at the desk that would cue up the two separate votes on this legislation and allow the Senate to vote on the inclusion of the Syria language as a separate question.

I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to call up my amendment No. 3856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I want to acknowledge, first of all, the longstanding views on foreign policy of the Senator from Kentucky and also on this process. What I want to say is that, No. 1, the Senate bill and the authorization in title 10 we have here takes us only to December 11. So this is temporary. What we hope is that the appropriate committees have additional legislation they are working on so that we can really look at other matters, such as a greater authorization on the war and the greater refinement of title 10.

So I acknowledge that there is much to be debated. I say to my colleague from Kentucky, we have allowed 4½ hours to debate. Quite frankly, if the Senator has views on it, I look forward to hearing those views. So the objection is not meant to be pugnacious at all. But in the way that the leadership has agreed to move this bill, that is where we stand. I look forward to hearing the debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, if there is a theme that connects the dots in the Middle East, it is that chaos breeds terrorism. What much of the foreign policy elite fail to grasp, though, is that intervention to topple secular dictators has been the prime source of the chaos. From Hussein to Assad to Qadhafi, it is the same history—intervention to topple the secular dictator. Chaos ensues and radical jihads emerge. The pattern has been repeated time and time again.

Yet what we have here is a failure to understand, a failure to reflect on the outcome of our involvement in Arab civil wars. They say nature abhors a vacuum. Radical jihadists have again and again filled the chaotic vacuum of the Middle East. Secular dictators, despots who, frankly, do terrorize their own people, are replaced by radical jihadists, who seek terror not only at home but abroad.

Intervention, when both choices are bad, is a mistake. Intervention, when both sides are evil, is a mistake. Intervention that destabilizes the Middle East is a mistake. Yet here we are again, wading into a civil war. I warned a year ago that involving us in Syria's civil war was a mistake, that the inescapable irony is that some day the arms we supply would be used against us or Israel. That day is now.

ISIS has grabbed up from the United States, from the Saudis, and from the Qataris weapons by the truckload. We are now forced to fight against our own weapons, and this body wants to throw more weapons into the mix. Even those of us who have been reluctant to get involved in Middle Eastern wars feel, now that American interests are threatened, that our consulate and our embassy are threatened. We feel that if ISIS is left to its own devices maybe they will fulfill what they have boasted of and attack our homeland.

So, yes, we must now defend ourselves from these barbarous jihadists. But let's not compound the problem by arming feckless rebels in Syria who seem to be merely a pit stop for weapons that are really on their way to ISIS. Remember clearly that the President and his Republican allies have been clamoring for over a year for airstrikes against Assad. Assad was our enemy last year. This year he is our friend. Had all of those air strikes, though, occurred last year in Syria, today ISIS might be in Damascus. Realize that the unintended consequences of involving ourselves in these complicated, thousand-year-long civil wars lead to unintended consequences. Had we bombed Assad last year, ISIS would be more of a threat this year. ISIS may well be in Damascus had we bombed Assad last year.

Had the hawks been successful last year, we would be facing a stronger ISIS, likely in charge of all Syria and most of Iraq.

Intervention is not always the answer and often leads to unintended consequences.

But some will argue no, no, it is not intervention that led to this chaos, we didn't have enough intervention. They say if we had only given the rebels more arms, ISIS wouldn't be as strong now. The only problem is the facts argue otherwise.

We did give arms and assistance to the rebels through secret CIA operations, through our allies, through our erstwhile allies. We gave 600 tons—let me repeat that—we gave 600 tons of weapons to the Syrian rebels in 2013 alone. We gave 600 tons of weapons and they cry out and say we haven't done enough?

Perhaps they are giving them to people who don't want to fight. Perhaps the fighters from ISIS are taking the weapons we give to the so-called moderate rebels. It is a mistake to send more arms to the Syrians.

According to the U.N. records, Turkey alone, in the space of a 4-month period, sent 47 tons in addition to the 600 tons of weapons. They sent 29 tons in 1 month. But there are rumors that the Turks are not quite that discriminating, that many of these weapons either went directly or indirectly to the very radical jihadists who are now threatening us.

If you want to know are there any weapons over there, are there enough weapons, is it a lack of weapons that causes the moderate Syrian rebels to be not very good at fighting, well, there are videos online of the Free Syrian Army, the army our government

wants to give more arms to. We see them with Mi-8 helicopters, we see them with shoulder-launched missiles, and yet we see them lose battle after battle.

We see American-made TOW anti-tank weapons in the hands of Harakat al-Hazm, a so-called moderate group. The Wall Street Journal reported that Saudi Arabia has been providing weapons such as this to the rebels. It also detailed millions of dollars in direct U.S. aid to the rebels.

We have not been sitting around doing nothing. Six hundred tons of weapons have already been given to the Syrian rebels. What happened during the period of time we gave 600 tons of weapons to the moderate rebels in Syria? ISIS grew stronger.

They say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different result. We gave 600 tons of weapons to the rebels and they got weaker and weaker and ISIS grew stronger.

Perhaps by throwing all of these weapons into the civil war, we actually degraded Assad's ability to counter them. So perhaps Assad might well have taken care of the radical jihadists and he can't because of the weapons. Perhaps we have created a safe haven.

The other night the President said in his speech that it will be a policy of his administration to leave no safe haven for anyone who threatens America. It sounds good, except for the past 3 years we have been creating a safe haven for ISIS. ISIS has grown stronger because we have been arming the resistance that ISIS is part of.

A New York Times article reports that Qatar has used a shadowy arms network to move shoulder-fired missiles to the rebels. According to Gulf News, Saudi Arabia has also partnered with Pakistan to provide a Pakistan version of a Chinese shoulder-launched missile. It doesn't sound like a dearth of weapons, it sounds like an abundance of weapons.

Iraqi officials have accused Saudi Arabia and Qatar of also funding and arming ISIS at the same time.

Kuwaitis—a Sunni majority country bordering Iraq—have funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to a wide range of opposition forces throughout Iraq and Syria, according to the Brookings Institute.

According to the New York Times, over 1 year ago the CIA began training Syrian rebels in nearby Jordan, thousands of them, delivering arms and ammunition. Over this period of time, what has happened? ISIS has grown stronger. Perhaps sending more weapons into the Syrian civil war is not working.

The New York Times also reports huge arms and financial transfers from Qatar to the Syrian rebels beginning as early as 3 years ago. No one really knows where this is all going to end, where are these arms going to wind up.

Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center noted that the transfer of Qatari weapons to targeted troops has the same practical effect of transferring the weapons to al-Nusra, a violent jihadist group.

Let me repeat. Jane's defense analysts say that if you give the weapons to moderate—the so-called moderate rebels—it is the same as giving it to al-Nusra.

The New York Times further detailed that even Sudan has been sending anti-tank missiles and other arms to Syria. It is hard to argue there are not enough weapons floating around over there.

So the idea that these rebels haven't been armed is ludicrous. It is also ludicrous to believe that we know where all the money and all the arms and all the ammunition will wind up or who will benefit from these arms.

Why? Because we don't even know who these groups are, even if we think we do. The loyalty shifts on a daily basis. The groups have become amorphous with alleged moderates lining up side-by-side with jihadists, not to mention that, guess what, some of these people don't tell the truth.

Finally, moderates have been now found to sell their weapons. In fact, there are accusations by the family of Steve Sotloff—who was recently killed by the barbarians—that he was sold by the moderate rebels to the jihadists.

The Carnegie Endowment says there are no neat, clean, secular rebel groups. They don't exist. They reiterate that this is a very dirty war with no clear good guys on either side.

The German Ambassador to the United States has acknowledged this. The Germans are arming the Kurds. They are not sending anything into Syria. It is a mess, and they are concerned that the weapons they send into Syria will wind up in the wrong hands.

Many former officials are very forthright with their criticism. According to the former ambassador to Iraq and Syria, our ambassador says: We need to do everything we can to figure out who the non-ISIS opposition is because, frankly, we don't have a clue.

Think about this. We are voting or obscuring a vote in a spending bill to send $500 million worth of arms to Syria, to people who we say are the vetted moderate Syrian rebels. Guess what. One of the men with the most knowledge on the ground, who has been our ambassador to Syria, says we don't have a clue who the moderates are and who the jihadists are. And even if they tell you they are the moderates, they say: Oh, we love Thomas Jefferson. Give us a shoulder-fired missile. We love Thomas Jefferson.

Can you trust these people?

The rebels are all over the map. There are said to be 1,500 groups. It is chaos over there. We will be sending arms into chaos.

The largest coalition is the Free Syrian Army. I say largest coalition—really, all the Islamic fronts, al-Nusra, ISIS, Al Qaeda are all much bigger than the Free Syrian Army—but the biggest group that we give to is the Free Syrian Army, which currently has three different people who claim to lead the Free Syrian Army. We don't even know who is in charge of the Free Syrian Army. They voted out one guy, in another guy, and he didn't even know they were voting.

There are estimates that half of the Free Syrian Army has defected, many to al-Nusra, Al Qaeda, and to ISIS. These are the people your representatives are going to vote to send arms to. Half of them have defected. Half of them are now fighting with the jihadists. We have proven time and again that we don't know how to vet these leaders.

Two groups that were initially provided U.S. aid and help last year are good examples. A top official of Ahrar al-Sham, one of the largest rebel groups at the time, announced publicly that he now considers himself to be allied with Al Qaeda.

Just yesterday, our most recent ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford, said the moderate forces have and will tactically ally with Al Qaeda, with Al Qaeda-linked al-Nusra.

Listen carefully. Your representatives are sending $500 billion to people who will tactically ally with Al Qaeda.

I asked Secretary Kerry: Where do you get the authority to wage this war?

He says: From 2001.

Some of the people fighting weren't born in 2001. Many of the people who voted in 2001 are no longer living.

We voted to go to war in Afghanistan—and I supported going into that war because we were attacked and we had to do something about it. But the thing is, that vote had nothing to do with this—absolutely nothing to do with this.

You are a dishonest person if you say otherwise. That sounds pretty mean-spirited. Hear it again. You are intellectually dishonest if you argue that something passed in 2001, to deal with the people who attacked us in 9/11, has anything to do with sending arms into Syria. It is intellectually dishonest—and to say otherwise, you are an intellectually dishonest person.

I said it yesterday: Mr. President, what you are doing is illegal and unconstitutional.

The response from Secretary Kerry was: We have article II authority to do whatever we want.

It is absolutely incorrect. We give power to the Commander in Chief to execute the war, but we were explicit that the wars were to be initiated by Congress.

There was debate over this. There were reports of Thomas Jefferson's opinion about how this was the legislative function. There were letters in the Federalist Papers from Madison talking how they precisely took this power from the Executive and gave it to the legislative body.

We hear: Oh, we will do something in December.

What happens between now and December? An election.

The people of this body are petrified, not of ISIS, but of the American voter. They are afraid to come forward and vote on war now. We should have a full-throated discussion of going to war, but we shouldn't put it off until December.

Secretary Kerry was asked: Will there be Sunni allies in this war on the ground, fighting to overturn ISIS? The ones, precisely—maybe who may have been funding it, which is Saudi Arabia—who should be the first troops in line, receiving the first volley, should not be U.S. GIs, they should be Saudi Arabians, Qataris, Kuwaitis, and Iraqis—but they should not be Americans.

According to the Washington Free Beacon, some of the people we have been supplying and some of the people we continue to supply arms to aren't so excited about Israel.

Surprise.

One of them remarked: Their goal is to topple Assad, but when they are done with Assad, their goal is to return all Syrian land occupied by Israel.

Mark my words. I said the great irony here would be that someday our dollars and our weapons would be used against us and Israel. They will.

We will be fighting—if we get over there with troops on the ground—against arms that we supplied to feckless rebels, that were immediately snatched and taken by ISIS. We will be fighting our own weapons.

Mark my own words, if these people get a chance, they will attack Israel next.

These are among the many problems I have in arming the Syrian opposition. Who are we really arming? What would be the result? Where will the arms end?

There are too many here who believe the answers to these questions when all indicators are otherwise—or maybe even when it is unknowable—they continue to believe something that frankly is not provable and not true.

I am a skeptic of this administration's policies, but this is a bipartisan problem. This is not a Republican or a Democratic problem, this is a bipartisan problem.

I do share the administration's belief that the radical jihadists in this region are a threat to America, but they need to think through how we got here. Radical jihad has run amok in the Middle East because intervention has toppled secular dictators. There weren't radical jihadists doing much of anything in Libya until Gadhafi was gone. He kept them in check.

Was Gadhafi a great humanitarian? No. He was an awful despot. But his terror was on his own people, not the United States.

The people in charge—if we can say anybody is in charge in Libya—their terror is to be exported. Some of them are fighting in Syria.

Where I differ with this administration is whether to arm the same side as the jihadists. We will be in a war on the same side as the jihadists. They said: Oh, no. We can make it a three-way war.

War is very confusing, but imagine: We will be in the middle of a three-way war where many analysts say when you are in the trenches with the so-called moderates that our money is going to buy arms for—when they are in the trenches, they are side by side with al-Nusra; they are side by side with Al Qaeda. Do we want our money and arms being sent to support troops that are fighting alongside Al Qaeda?

Here is the great irony. The use of force resolution they predicate this whole thing upon from 2001 says that we can fight terrorism. They have interpreted that to be Al Qaeda and associated forces. Guess what. The moderate rebels are fighting with Al Qaeda. We could use the 2001 use of force authorization, as Secretary Kerry understands it, to attack the same people we are giving the weapons to.

Think about the insanity of it. We are giving weapons to people fighting in trenches with Al Qaeda. If we interpret the use of force resolution as Secretary Kerry does, under that formulation we could attack the very people we are giving the weapons to. It is absurd. We shouldn't be fighting alongside jihadists.

This administration and its allies have really been on both sides of this civil war. It is messy; it is unclear. There are bad people on both sides. We need to stay the heck out of their civil war. I have opposed them for reasons that I think are becoming clear and I think the American people will understand. It is not that I am against all intervention. I do see ISIS as a problem. ISIS is now a threat to us. But I see our previous policy as having made it worse.

I supported the decision to go into Afghanistan after 9/11. There are valid reasons for war, but they should be few and far between. They should be very importantly debated and not shuffled into a 2,000-page bill and shoved under the rug.

When we go to war, it is the most important vote any Senator will ever take. Many on the other side have been better on this issue. When there was a Republican in office, there were loud voices on the other side. I see an empty Chamber.

There will be no voices against war because this is a Democratic President's war. The hypocrisy of that should resound in this nearly empty Chamber. Where are the voices on the other side who were so hard on George Bush who, by the way, actually did come to Congress? And we voted on an authorization of force. Agree or disagree, but we did the right thing. But now we are going to fight the war for 3 or 4 months, see how it is going, see how the election goes, and then we are going to come back and maybe we will talk about the use of authorization of force, maybe we will have amendments.

Colin Powell wrote in his autobiography:

> War should be the politics of last resort. And when we go to war, we should have a purpose that our people understand and support.

I think that is well thought out. I think he had it right. America should only go to war to win. We shouldn't go to war sort of meandering our way through a spending bill. War should only occur when America is attacked, when it is threatened or when our American interests are threatened or attacked.

I spent about a year—and I will probably spend a couple more years—trying to explain to the American people why Secretary Clinton made terrible decisions in Benghazi not defending the consulate—not the night of, not the day after, not the talking points—the 6 months in advance when security was requested. This is one of the reasons it persuades me that, as reluctant as I am to be involved in Middle Eastern wars, we have to do something about it. We either have to leave Iraq or we have to protect our embassy and protect our consulate. I think there are valid reasons for being involved, and I think we are doing the right thing but just in the wrong way.

If we want to have less partisan sniping about war, if we want to unify the country, think back to December 8, 1941. FDR came before a joint session of Congress and he said, this day ''which will live in infamy,'' and he united the country. People who had previously been opposed to war came forward and said: We can't stand this attack. We will respond. We will be at war with Japan.

He didn't wait around for months. He didn't wait and say: Let's wait until the midterm elections, and then we will come back maybe in a lame-duck—if there is a lame-duck—and maybe we will discuss whether the Japanese should be responded to.

War is a serious business, but we make it less serious by making it political, hiding and tucking war around. By tucking war away into a spending bill we make it less serious. We don't unify the public. Then, as ISIS grows stronger or they are not quelled by sending arms to feckless allies in Syria, what happens? Then they come back again and again. There is already the drumbeat. There are already those in both parties who insist that we must have American GIs on the ground. I am not sending American soldiers—I am not sending your son, your daughter or mine—over to the middle of that chaos.

The people who live there need to stand up and fight. The Kurds are fighting. They seem to be the only people who are really capable of or willing to fight for their homeland. The Iraqis need to step up and fight. It is their country. If they are not going to fight for it, I don't think we need to be in the middle of their fight.

Am I willing to provide air support? Am I willing to provide intelligence and drones and everything we can to help them? Yes. We have been helping

them for 10 years. We have a lot invested. So I am not for giving up, but it is their war and they need to fight. And I expect the Saudis to fight, and the Qataris and the Kuwaitis.

Even our own State Department says there is no military solution here that is good for the Syrian people and that the best path forward is a political solution. Is someone going to ultimately surrender? Is one side going to wipe out the other?

Part of the solution here is that civilized Islam needs to crush radical Islam. Civilized Islam needs to say to radical Islam: This does not represent our religion. The beheading of civilians, the rape and killing of women does not represent Islam.

The voices aren't loud enough.

I want to see civilized Islam on the front page of the newspaper and international TV saying what they will do to wipe out radical Islam. I want to see them on the frontlines fighting. I don't want to see them sipping tea or in the discotheque in Cairo. I want to see them on the frontlines fighting a war to show the Americans and to show the world that there is a form of civilized Islam that doesn't believe in this barbarity.

The United States should not fight a war to save face. I won't vote to send our young men and women to sacrifice life and limb for a stalemate. I won't vote to send our Nation's best and brightest to fight for anything less than victory.

When American interests are at stake, it is incumbent upon those advocating for military action to convince Congress and the American people of that threat.

Too often the debate begins and ends with a conclusion. They say: Well, our national interest is at stake. That is the conclusion. The debate is: Is the national interest at stake? Is what we are going to do going to work? I would think we would debate for days and this Chamber would be full.

Before I came here, I imagined that when war was discussed, everybody would be at their desk and there would be a discussion for hours on end on whether we would go to war. Now it seems to be some sort of geopolitical chess game or checkers: Let's throw some money. What is $500 million? Which is yet another problem around here.

But when we go to war, the burden of proof lies with those who wish to engage in war. They must convince the American people and convince Congress. Instead of being on television, the President should have been before a joint session of Congress—and I would have voted to authorize force. But it needs to be done according to the Constitution.

Not only is it constitutional, but there is a pragmatic or a practical reason why the President should have come to us. It galvanizes people, it brings people together. Both sides vote for the war, and it is a war of the American people—not a war of one man. Until there is a vote—if there ever is one—this is one man's war.

Our Founding Fathers would be offended, would be appalled to know that one man can create a war. We were very fearful of that. We came from Europe with constant war, where brothers fought cousins and fathers fought sons, where everybody was related and they fought continuously. We didn't want a king. We wanted the people, through the Congress, to determine when we went to war.

This President was largely elected on that concept. I didn't vote for the President, but I did admire, when he ran first for office that he said no President should unilaterally take a country to war without the authority of Congress. That is what President Obama said. He was running against the wars of the previous administration. People voted for him for that very reason, but he became part of the problem. He now does everything that he criticized. It is what the American people despise about politics.

When they say we have a 10-percent approval rating—Republicans or Democrats—it is because of this hypocrisy, because we don't obey the law, because we don't engage in important debate, and because we stuff war and shuffle war into a spending bill.

Bashar al-Assad is clearly not an American ally. He is an evil dictator. But the question is: Will his ouster encourage stability or will it make the Middle East less stable? With his ouster, will that mean ISIS replaces him? What are the odds that the moderate rebels, who have lost every battle they have ever engaged in, will be the rulers in Damascus? If we succeed in degrading Assad where someone can get to him, we will have ISIS. We will have ISIS in charge of Syria. It will be worse. We have to ask: Are these Islamic rebels our allies?

I am reminded of the story of Sarkis Al-Zajim. He lived in a city called Maaloula, Syria. They speak Aramaic there. It is one of the few remaining villages in the Middle East where they speak the language that Jesus spoke.

As the marauding Islamic rebels came into town on the same side of the war—who knows who funded them or where they got the arms—but when the Islamic rebels came and marauded into town, Sarkis Al-Zajim stood up. He is a Christian. He lives and sides with Assad. Most of the Christians side with Assad. So Sarkis Al-Zajim lives in Maaloula, speaks Aramaic, stands up, and says: ''I am a Christian, and if you must kill me for this, I do not object to it!'' And these were his last words.

I don't know who these rebels were, but they are fighting on the same side that we are arming and we don't know who they are.

Our former Ambassador to Iraq and Syria says we have no clue who the non-ISIS rebels are. So for all we know, the rebels that killed Sarkis Al-Zajim could well be part of the so-called vetted opposition.

When they win, will they defend American interests? Will they recognize Israel? If we want to have a good question, why don't we ask the vetted moderate Syrians how many will recognize Israel. I am guessing it is going to be a big goose egg. There is not one of those jihadists—there is not one of those so-called moderate rebels that will recognize Israel. And if they win, they will attack Israel next. Several of the leaders have already said they would. Will they acknowledge Israel's right to exist? Will they impose Sharia law?

Sharia law has the death penalty for interfaith marriage, death penalty for conversion—apostasy—and death penalty for blasphemy.

In Pakistan right now—a country that billions of our dollars flow to, that the vast majority of the Senate loves and will send billions more of our dollars to if they can get it from us—in Pakistan, Asia Bibi sits on death row. She is a Christian. Do you know what her crime was? They say blasphemy. She went to drink from a well and the well was owned by Muslims. As she was drawing water from the well they began hurling insults. Then they began hurling stones. They were stoning her and beating her to death with sticks. The police came, and she said, thank God. They arrested her and put her in jail because the Muslims said that she was saying something about their religion. Heresy is life in prison, death. These are the countries we are sending money to.

The other side up here will argue: Well, we are only sending it to the moderates in Pakistan; otherwise, the radicals will take over. Well, the moderates are the ones with Asia Bibi on death row. I wouldn't send a penny to these people. Why would we send money to people who hate us? Maybe we should just have a rule: No money to countries that hate us.

Will these rebels, whom we are going to vote to give money to, tolerate Christians or will they pillage and destroy ancient villages such as Sarkis Al-Zajim's church and village?

The President and his administration haven't provided good answers because they don't exist. As the former Ambassador said: They don't have a clue.

Shooting first and aiming later has not worked for us in the past. The recent history of the Middle East has not been a good one. Our previous decisions have given results that should cause us to be quite wary of trying to do the same again.

I would like President Obama to reread the speeches of Candidate Obama. There is a great disagreement between the two, and Candidate Obama really seemed to be someone who was going to protect the right of Congress to declare war, but it hasn't been so.

Our Founding Fathers understood that the executive branch was the branch most prone to war, and so with due deliberation our Founding Fathers took the power to declare war and they gave it to Congress exclusively.

President Obama's new position as President, which differs from his position as candidate, is that he is fine to get some input when it is convenient for us—maybe after the election—but he is not really interested enough to say that it would bind him or that he would say we need attacks now and come to us tomorrow and ask for permission. He thinks ''maybe whenever it is convenient and you guys get around to it.''

Secretary Kerry stated explicitly that his understanding of the Constitution is that no congressional authorization is necessary. I say, why even bother coming back in December? They kind of like it. They like the show of it. They understand it might have some practical benefit. But it is theater and show. If you are going to commit war without permission, it is theater and show to ask for permission. The President said basically article II grants him the power to do whatever he wants. If so, why have a Congress? Why don't we just recess the whole thing? Oh, that is right, that is what we are getting ready to do. It is election season.

The President and his administration view this vote just as a courtesy but not as a requirement. Even if Congress votes against it, he said he would do it anyway. He already has authority; why would it stop him?

Article I, section 8, clause 11 gives Congress and Congress alone the power to declare war. If Congress does not approve this military action, the President must abide by the decision.

But it worries me. This President worries me, and it is not because of ObamaCare or Dodd-Frank or these horrific pieces of legislation. As I travel around the country, when people ask me ''What has the President done? What is the worst thing he has done?'' it is the usurpation of power, the idea that there is no separation of powers or that he is above that separation. If you want to tremble and worry about the future of our Republic, listen to the President when he says: Well, Congress won't act; therefore, I must. Think about the implications of that.

Democracy is messy. It is hard to get everybody to agree to something. But the interesting thing is that had he asked, had he come forward and done the honorable thing, we would have approved—I would have approved an authorization of force. It would have been overwhelming had he done the right thing, but he didn't come forward and ask. He didn't come forward and ask when he amended the Affordable Care Act. He didn't come forward and ask when he amended immigration law. And he is not coming forward to ask on the most important decision we face in our country; that is, a decision to go to war.

Our Founders understood this and debated this. This is not a new debate. Thomas Jefferson said the Constitution gave ''one effectual check to the dog of war by transferring the power to declare war from the Executive to the Legislative body.''

Madison wrote even more clearly:

> The power to declare war, including the power of judging the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature.

There was no debate. Our Founding Fathers were unanimous. This was our power. To do it when it is convenient after the election is to abdicate our responsibility and is to make a serious discussion a travesty.

There is no debate more significant than this, and we are going to stuff it in a bill. We are going to stuff it in a 2,000-page bill and not talk about it, not vote on it individually. Our leaders must be held accountable. If we don't, there will be no end to the war. The ridiculous and the absurd must be laid to rest. We have all heard it before.

Toppling Qadhafi led to a jihadist wonderland in Libya. Toppling Hussein led to chaos in Iraq with which we are still involved. Toppling Assad will lead to more chaos and greater danger to America from the jihadists.

The moss-covered, too-long-in-Washington crowd cannot help themselves: War, war, what we need is more war. But they never pay attention to the results of the last war. Their policies and the combination of feckless disinterest, fraudulent redlines, and selective combativeness have led us to this point.

Yes, we must confront ISIS, in part for penance for the President's role in their rise. But while we do so to protect our interests here and abroad, what we need is someone to shout: War, war, what are we fighting for?

Amidst the interventionists' disjointed and frankly incoherent rhetoric, amidst the gathering gloom that sees enemies behind every friend and friends behind every enemy, the only consistent theme is war. These barnacled enablers have never met a war they didn't like. They beat their chests in rhythmic ode to failed policies. Their drums beat to policies that display their outrage but fail to find a cure. Unintended consequences drown and smother the possibility of good intentions.

Must we act to check and destroy ISIS? Yes—and again yes—because of the foolishness of the interventionists. But let's not mistake what we must do. We shouldn't give a free pass to forever intervene in the civil wars of the Middle East. Intervention created this chaos. Intervention aided and abetted the rise of radical Islam. Intervention has made us less safe in Libya and in Syria and in Iraq.

To those who wish unlimited intervention and boots on the ground everywhere, remember the smiling poses of politicians pontificating about so-called freedom fighters and heroes in Libya, in Syria, and in Iraq, unaware that the so-called freedom fighters may well have been allied with kidnapers and killers and jihadists. Are these so-called moderate Islamic rebels in Syria friends or foes? Do we know who they really are?

As the interventionists clamor for boots on the ground, we should remember that they were wrong about Iraq, they were wrong about Libya, and they were wrong about Syria. When will we quit listening to the advocates who have been wrong about every foreign policy position of the last two decades? When does a track record of being consistently wrong stop you from being a so-called expert when the next crisis comes up? We should remember that they were wrong, that there were no WMDs, that Hussein, Qadhafi, and Assad were not a threat to us. It doesn't make them good, but they were not a threat to us. We should remember that radical Islam now roams the countryside in Libya and in Syria and in Iraq. We should remember that those who believe war is the answer for every problem are wrong. We should remember that the war against Hussein, the war against Qadhafi, and the war against Assad have all led to chaos. That intervention enhanced the rise of radical Islam and ultimately led to more danger for Americans.

Before we arm the so-called moderate Muslims in Syria, remember what I said a year ago: The ultimate irony you will not be able to overcome is that someday these weapons will be used to fight against Americans. If we are forced onto the ground, we will be fighting against those same weapons that I voted not to send a year ago.

We will fight ISIS, a war that I accept as necessary largely because our own arms and the arms of our allies—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar—have enabled our new enemy ISIS. Will we ever learn?

President Obama now wishes to bomb ISIS and arm the Islamic rebels' allies at the same time. We are on both sides of a civil war. The emperor has no clothes. Let's just admit it. The truth is sometimes painful.

We must protect ourselves from radical Islam, but we should never ever have armed radical Islam, and we should not continue to arm radical Islam. To those who will say, ''Oh, we are just giving to the moderates, not to the radicals,'' it is going and stopping temporarily with the moderates and then on to ISIS. That is what has been going on for a year. Somehow they predict that something different will occur. We have enabled the enemy we must now confront.

Sending arms to so-called moderate Islamic rebels in Syria is a fool's errand and will only make ISIS stronger. ISIS grew as the United States and her allies were arming the opposition. So, as we have sent 600 tons of weapons, ISIS has grown stronger. You are going to tell me that 600 tons of more weapons will defeat ISIS?

The barnacled purveyors of war should admit their mistakes and not compound them. ISIS is now a threat. Let's get on with destroying them. But make no mistake—arming Islamic rebels in Syria will only make it harder to destroy ISIS.

Thank you. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, the provision in the continuing resolution before us authorizes the President to train and equip friendly forces whose interests and objectives are aligned with ours so that they can fight on their own behalf, much as we have done elsewhere in the world—for example, a number of African countries which we have helped support their own freedom and independence, their own efforts to go after the terrorists who terrorized them. We have done that pursuant to provisions we have included in previous Defense authorization bills.

This year, as our Presiding Officer knows as a very important member of our committee, when the Armed Services Committee marked up the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, we approved a similar Syria train-and-equip provision by a bipartisan vote of 23 to 3.

While ISIS is currently focused on building an Islamic caliphate in the Middle East, its poisonous ideology is hostile not only to the region but to the world, and there is a real risk that the area it controls could become a launching pad for future terrorist attacks against the United States and its friends and allies. ISIS is terrorizing the Iraqi and the Syrian people, engaging in kidnappings, killings, persecutions of religious minorities, and attacking schools, hospitals, and cultural sites.

The threat to Americans and American interests was dramatically and tragically brought home recently by the brutal beheading of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff and British aid worker David Haines.

The President has announced a four-pronged strategy to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIS. Those four prongs are as follows: first, increased support to Iraqi, Kurdish, and Syrian opposition forces on the ground; second, a systemic campaign of airstrikes against ISIS; third, improved intelligence and efforts to cut off ISIS's funding and recruiting; and fourth, continued humanitarian assistance to ISIS's victims.

Our senior military leaders support the President's strategy. When General Dempsey testified before the Armed Services Committee, I asked whether he personally supports the President's strategy, and of course I asked the question exactly that way—''Do you personally support the President's strategy?''—so that we would get his own answer and not simply the answer he might feel he has to give because of his Commander in Chief's position.

When we ask military officers for their own personal position, that is what they must give us. When we have confirmation hearings, we ask them that question: Will you give us your own personal opinion when you come before us even though it might differ from the administration in power? That is one of the questions we ask on every confirmation, and, of course, if we don't get the answer that they will, there will not be a confirmation.

So we asked and I asked as my first question a few days ago whether General Dempsey as Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff personally supports the President's strategy, and his response was, ''I do.'' He explained that the best way forward runs ''through a coalition of Arab and Muslim partners and not through ownership of this fight by the United States.'' Training and equipping the moderate Syrian opposition is a critical step. As General Dempsey explained, we need to build ''a force of vetted, trained moderate Syrians to take on ISIL in Syria'' because ''as long as ISIL enjoys the safe haven in Syria, it will remain a formidable force and a threat.''

Some colleagues have expressed the concern that this new military effort could lead us back into a quagmire that we entered with the Iraq invasion in 2003, but what we are voting on here is virtually the opposite of what was voted on in the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq.

I voted against the Iraq authorization in 2002. I am voting for this train-and-equip authority today. The differences are huge between what was voted on in 2002 and what we are voting on today.

First, in 2003, we invaded Iraq and threw out Saddam Hussein's government. This year, by contrast, the Iraqi Government has requested our assistance against ISIS. This request has been joined by leaders of Iraq's Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, and other religious minorities. The global community will provide support in response to this request, but ISIS remains a problem that only Iraqis and Syrians can solve. They can solve it with our help, but only they can solve it.

I am continuing on the differences. Indeed, the contrast between what we are voting on today and what was voted on in 2002 is relative to the same country, but what a difference.

In 2003, the United States and Britain invaded Iraq with token support from a handful of Western partners. It was a unilateral approach without visible participation or support from Arab or Muslim nations. It helped spawn Iraqi resistance, including Al Qaeda in Iraq, the predecessor to ISIS. Al Qaeda in Iraq and ISIS didn't exist before our invasion of Iraq in 2003. They are a direct response to our unilateral action in Iraq. This year, by contrast—and what a contrast—we are seeing the participation of key Arab and Muslim States in the region and their active, visible role will be critical to the effectiveness of any international coalition.

Our senior military and civilian leaders recognize, as General Dempsey testified before our committee, that ISIS ''will only be defeated when moderate Arab and Muslim populations in the region reject it.''

The recent international conferences in Jeddah and Paris were a good start, with a number of Arab States declaring their shared commitment—and this was a public statement—to develop a strategy ''to destroy ISIL wherever it is, including in both Iraq and Syria,'' and joining in an international pledge to use ''whatever means necessary'' to achieve this goal.

The contrast to the Iraq invasion of 2003 is particularly sharp with regard to ground combat troops. In 2003, almost 200,000 American and British combat troops invaded Iraq. Only after years of relentless ground combat operations were we able to get our troops out. This year, by contrast, the President's policy is that ground combat operations in Iraq and Syria will not be carried out by us, but by Iraqis, Kurds, and Syrians. While the United States and a broad coalition of nations, including Arab and Muslim countries, will support this effort, there is no plan to have American combat forces on the ground.

As General Dempsey explained to the Armed Services Committee, U.S. forces ''are not participating in direct combat. There is no intention for them to do so.'' You wouldn't know that if you read the press coverage of his testimony, so I will repeat it in the wan hope that maybe this time his statement will be covered. General Dempsey said we ''are not participating in direct combat. There is no intention for them to do so.'' General Dempsey was talking about the U.S. Armed Forces.

General Dempsey added a caveat that if circumstances change, he might, for instance, recommend to the President that U.S. advisers be authorized to accompany Iraqi security forces into combat. He was clear that these comments were focused on how our forces could best and most appropriately advise the Iraqis on their combat operations.

Senator GRAHAM asked General Dempsey whether he thought they could defeat ISIL without us being on the ground. The question he asked was: ''If you think they can [defeat ISIL] without us being on the ground, just say yes,'' and General Dempsey responded, ''Yes.''

I saw that in all of one newspaper article across the country.

Our senior military leaders, of course, reserve the right to reconsider their recommendations based on conditions on the ground. I would expect that General Dempsey would say, just as any general would say, we must be free to change a recommendation to the President if circumstances on the ground change. That is a very different statement from what the press put into General Dempsey's mouth when they said General Dempsey suggested we may need U.S. combat forces. The direct answer of General Dempsey was: We have no plan to do it. We believe they can do it without us, and, of course, if conditions change, I must make a different recommendation, or at least might make a different recommendation to the Commander in Chief.

At the end of the day, of course, the President, who is the Commander in Chief, and not the military, will establish policy. Even if conditions change and even if General Dempsey decided to recommend a different role for U.S. ground combat troops, it would just be that, a recommendation.

The struggle against ISIS in Iraq and in Syria will be a long and hard one and we should give it our support. We cannot take the place of Iraqis and Syrians. They must purge the poison they have in their country. These extremist groups, such as ISIS and Al Qaeda, must be purged by the people they plague, but we can help these people get rid of this poison.

We are already working with Muslim and Arab countries that are openly uniting against a poisonous strain of Islam. It threatens them even more than it threatens us. This has to be an Iraqi and Syrian fight—an Arab and a Muslim fight—and not a Western fight if it is going to be successful. It will be highly destructive to our efforts to bring about a broad coalition if Congress and the President appear disunited.

We are asking Arab and Muslim countries to openly take on a plague, a cancer, a poison in their midst. That is what we are asking of them. There has been too much behind-the-scenes support, too much quiet support or opposition, too much inconsistency from a number of Arab and Muslim countries. So what the President and Secretary Kerry are doing is not just helping to organize a broad coalition of Western and Muslim countries to go after this stain, this threat that is in their midst, what we are asking them to do is to do it openly so their people see that their governments, and indeed their people, are threatened by this terror poison in their midst. What is critical, and what is so hugely different is this time it will be an international coalition going after terrorists and not just a Western invasion of a Muslim country.

It would be, again, destructive of our efforts to get open support in the Muslim and Arab world for going after these terrorists—this stain called ISIS—if Congress and the President are disunited. So we should give our support to the provision authorizing the training and equipping of vetted, moderate Syrian opposition forces. I hope we do it on a bipartisan basis here, making it then not only bipartisan but also bicameral. What an important statement that will be to the very countries that are seeking to help rid themselves of this cancer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, when we head to the Senate floor, we make choices. We first choose how to get here—whether to take the subway or walk. We choose whether to stop and talk to a colleague or two along the way. We also choose whether to speak to the press, and normally there are plenty of reporters available to speak to. I and many of my colleagues are often picky about who we talk to. I like talking to reporters just fine, but my staff gets a little nervous.

Last week, after coming out of the secure briefing on the situation in the Middle East, I went up to the first reporter I saw, because in that briefing no one asked how much this war with ISIL would cost or how we were going to pay for it. At the end of the briefing I asked those questions myself. But it is telling that no one up to that point and time had voiced their concerns about costs, which leads me to ask: Are we putting another war in the Middle East on a credit card? Will it be added to our debt? Will our grandchildren once again have to pay for our choices today?

I also asked what domestic programs will be cut if this war is an unpaid war. Will they cut improvements to our highways, Head Start, Violence Against Women Act funding?

We are not having a real debate. We will be voting on whether to authorize the training of moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State.

Earlier this year the President told us this would cost about $500 million. We can say this bill contains no specific dollar amount, but that is what this administration is going to spend, and that is just a start. This discussion will take less than half a day. We need more information. We have had some briefings and some of the committees up here have had some hearings, but the Senate needs a real debate on the extent of our involvement in Iraq and Syria and with ISIL. We need more information, and that is why I am speaking today and why I spoke to the press last week. After all, $500 million is a lot of money. That would go a long way in a State such as Montana where we need to upgrade our roads, bridges, fund pre-kindergarten education, and take care of our public lands.

This week the President said he will spend up to $1 billion to combat the threat of Ebola in West Africa. I am not going to argue that there is a strong case for these requests. ISIL and Ebola are terrible in their own rights, and no one would think twice if we wiped them from the face of the Earth. But I do have questions about how we pay for these kinds of actions and what our long-term strategy is.

The President requested $58 billion for additional defense spending for the 2015 fiscal year. That is spending on top of the $490 billion that is just a part of the normal Defense Department's budget.

But the bill we are voting on today puts the defense budget on auto pilot. There is no chance to find other places to cut spending. There are no chances to raise revenue so we don't just put this new spending on the credit card and on the backs of our grandchildren.

Folks will say this bill is only for 2 months. They will say that on December 11, when this bill expires, we can pursue the defense budget to cut programs that aren't working to pay for this new military action. But we all know that is a heavy lift in a city where it is easier to spend than it is to save, especially when we are already dipping our hands into the pot to fight ISIL and Ebola.

Over a decade ago we sent American servicemembers to Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Americans lost sons and daughters, husbands and wives. Families made great personal sacrifices, but our government never asked us to sacrifice as a whole. We didn't raise taxes. We didn't cut spending. We didn't set aside money to take care of our veterans who returned from the battlefield with wounds both seen and unseen. As a result, combined with massive tax cuts, our deficit and our debt exploded.

Now $500 million is a far cry from the hundreds of billions of dollars we spent in Iraq over the last decade, but this is just a start. We must stop putting wars on credit cards. I wonder if once we start an overseas conflict, do we know when and where it will stop? Do we know what our spending will achieve?

Over the last 5 years, we have actually had some progress on deficit reduction. We reduced the deficit by two-thirds. But all that is at risk with the beginning of a new conflict.

We simply have too many unanswered questions.

The President says we are backed by a coalition of nations ready to join our fight against ISIS, but will it be a real coalition? Violent extremists are threats to peace-loving societies no matter where they are, and I agree with the President that we need to contain and destroy ISIL before it gets stronger. But only a real coalition, one that includes strong commitments of money, equipment, and manpower from Middle Eastern, Asian, South American, and European nations will lead to a long-term stability in that region.

These allies should be footing their share of the bill. As I mentioned, Americans—whether today's taxpayers or tomorrow's—should not shoulder a disproportionate burden of the cost. After all, if countries such as Saudi Arabia or Turkey feel the growth of ISIL, they should make real commitments to this war-fighting effort. That is what happened during the first gulf war. In that war, members of the coalition contributed more than 80 percent of that war's costs. Because if ISIL is truly a worldwide problem, then there should be a worldwide response and commitment to addressing that problem. If ISIL is threatening to upset the balance of power in the Middle East, then Middle Eastern nations must step up. If terrorists and ISIL are a worldwide threat, then the world must step up. Anything else is unacceptable.

Some say that in order to ensure world peace, America must be a world leader. They say no other country is prepared to be the world's policeman. World peace is important, but true peace stems from our ability to rally

other nations to our cause. When we convince someone of the merit of our argument, when we form strong alliances that stand the test of time, when we act in concert with other nations, our word and our acts become stronger, and the world's respect grows.

We are told today that other countries will respond, that other folks are joining the fight. But actions speak louder than words. I, for one, would like to see more of it before I vote to commit America's taxpayers' money to this fight.

Eleven years ago, we invaded Iraq without a real coalition, and we built our argument on false pretenses. Moving forward, we must have a real debate, a sound strategy, and an end game.

This body is historically the world's greatest deliberative body. It was here that men such as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay deliberated. We are not having that kind of debate today. We are not gathering more information. There were committee hearings this week, but the die is cast, the wheels are in motion. As we say in Montana, the horse is out of the barn, the cows are out to pasture.

There are 1,600 American troops in Iraq right now who deserve a real debate. Many of them have husbands, wives, children, families. I do not know that I can say with certainty to them: Don't worry, we are training the right people to fight on the ground in Syria. If America is wrong about who we train and who we arm in Syria, my fear is that these 1,600 servicemembers will be joined again by tens of thousands more. For their sake and the sake of the American taxpayer, we need a fuller debate that will have a real impact on the decisionmaking process here in this Senate, and more of that debate should have happened before now.

I serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee. I know we must fund the government and prevent a shutdown. That is the responsible thing to do. The cost of last year's shutdown on Montana business was extraordinary and unnecessary, and I do not want to repeat that fiasco. That is why I will be voting for that continuing resolution later today.

I know some folks are opposed to this continuing resolution because they think we should pass appropriations bills individually. I appreciate that and I agree. But the fact is, the Appropriations Committee—under the chairmanship of Chairwoman MIKULSKI, who is on the floor right now, and Senator SHELBY—has worked hard and worked in a bipartisan way to try to make that happen. They have tried to reinvigorate this committee and make sure the Senate fulfills our constitutional responsibility to make the hard choices about how we spend taxpayers' money.

Ironically, some of the folks who have said they don't like passing the CR are the very same folks who have made it harder to pass the bipartisan bills that come out of that Appropriations Committee. Talk about playing down to the American people's already low expectations for Congress.

So we have no choice other than to pass the CR today. But I am tired of spending without a plan. I am tired of getting caught up in fighting wars in the Middle East, performing the same actions and expecting a different result. I am tired of repeating history without learning its lessons.

We can do better. And for the sake of our troops, for the sake of our taxpayers, for the sake of our kids, for the fate of our Nation and the world, we must.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, we have had some excellent debate here today on a very consequential matter of arming these so-called Syrian moderates. I know the Senator from Maine, Mr. KING, will be coming here shortly to participate in that debate, and I think this is a very good activity.

While we wait for Senators to come to the floor, I wish to take a few minutes to speak about the Baltimore Orioles. This in no way minimizes the debate going on now, but while we have the time for some of the Senators coming who want to emphasize this topic, I want to take a little bit of a breather here.

As my colleagues can see, I am wearing the Orioles' colors on the Senate floor today, and while we must address issues, we have to remember the kinds of things that make America great. In this continuing resolution, in addition to dealing with intense foreign policy needs and intense foreign policy crises, we have to remember that we are actually funding both our national security and the Department of Defense and very important domestic programs, including preschool, NIH to find cures for autism and Alzheimer's, and so on. We also want to not only keep the government going but remember what is so great about our country.

Of course, baseball is one of the things that makes our country great. That is why I rise today to congratulate the Baltimore Orioles who won the American East title. As I said, I wear their colors today on the floor and I hope to wear them at Camden Yards.

My home team not only represents the tough, enduring spirit of Baltimore, but the entire State. This team never quits, and it always plays hard. Sure, we tip our hats to the rest of the American East, including the Yankees, the Red Sox, the Rays, the Blue Jays, but this is our year.

The Orioles are celebrating their 60th anniversary in Baltimore. The O's, as we affectionately call them, arrived in 1954. I was a high school girl. I remember the excitement of the team coming, our first major league team. We played AAA up until then. There was a big parade up and down Charles Street. Charm City was charmed by this new baseball team.

There have been many amazing events that have occurred since then, and, of course, fantastic and legendary players, including Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Jim Palmer, Eddy Murray, ''Iron Man'' Cal Ripken, Jr. We remember our coaches such as Earl Weaver, who got the fans excited, and, of course, we remember Cal Ripken, Sr., who taught us the Orioles way.

So this year we have a team that, once again, is energized and on its way to the playoffs.

Anyone who has watched the Orioles this season at Camden Yards knows this was a true team effort. The American East title was made possible by clutch hits and home runs, spectacular catches and gutsy pitching. When the All-Star players weren't on the field, workhorse veterans and promising young rookies stepped up night after night.

Yes, there is Oriole magic. We have our manager, Buck Showalter, who, as my colleagues know, is a laugh a minute. I am joking. If my colleagues have looked at Mr. Showalter, they know he doesn't crack a smile, but he sure teaches his players how to crack the bat. His attention to the big picture and to the smallest detail is the way he has taught his team to function.

We think we are on our way to what is called the battle of the beltways. It is conceivable that we will be playing the Washington Nationals who have just won the National League East title, and a tip of the hat to our friends in the District of Columbia. We are as excited for them as we are about ourselves, and we can't wait to meet. I am hoping for this.

Three cheers for the Baltimore Orioles who have earned this fantastic title. We won't stop until we have a pennant flying high over our stadium.

I want to congratulate the entire Orioles organization, from the managers to the front office, and the owner of the team, Peter Angelos, who rescued our team many years ago from being sold out of town. Peter Angelos stepped up to the plate and saved it and kept the team in Baltimore, and he has kept the team on the go. Now that fantastic team, under great leadership, wonderful players, and the best fans in both leagues, is looking forward to the playoffs.

We are also looking forward to not only the game, but it is the spirit of community that is in Baltimore. Our city hall in the evening is lit up in orange. When we travel the city, we see people wearing the colors and laughing and giving each other shoulder to

shoulder and high fives. When people come to Baltimore now to go visit a great institution such as Johns Hopkins, whether a person is an orderly or a facilities manager, or whether a person is a Nobel Prize winner, everybody is wearing the orange. Whether people are Black, White, Hispanic, Latino, men, women, we are all there. That is because it is about baseball. It is about a team. It is about America. It is about the land of the free and the home of the brave.

So let's keep our government open. Let's be on the playing field and in the competition for jobs and opportunity. And I will be back for the lameduck, gloating.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I rise today to speak about ISIS—the threat, what we can do about it, and what we must do about it.

Why are we having this debate? Why are we conducting airstrikes? This is a clear and present danger to the United States of America. This group has done everything but send us an email saying we are coming for you. They have made comments: We will see you in New York. They brutally murdered two of our citizens.

If they have free rein in the area that is as big as the State of Indiana, I suppose, between eastern Syria and western and northern Iraq, there, undoubtedly, will come a time when they will strike here and in Europe and in other parts of the world.

I am here today to support the provision of the continuing resolution that will allow us to begin the arming, equipping, and training of the Syrian moderate opposition.

Why do we even have this discussion? Because the most fundamental responsibility of any government anywhere, any time is to protect our citizens. The preamble of the U.S. Constitution says that one of the fundamental purposes listed in the preamble is to ''provide for the common defense'' and ''insure domestic tranquility''—a basic function of any government. This is why we are having this debate today.

This arming and equipping provision is not a panacea. It is not going to end the war. It is not going to be easy. It is no sure thing.

A friend said to me this morning: It is the least worst option. It is one that we must undertake. It has to be part of the solution because to root out ISIS, whose headquarters are in Syria—not Iraq—there are going to have to be troops. There are going to have be combat troops. There is no such thing as a surgical war.

Where are those troops going to come from? Not from the United States—they have to come from within the Syrian opposition itself.

This is also important as a gesture to the coalition we are building to confront this threat. Having a credible coalition—which I will expand upon in a moment—is an incredibly important part of this entire strategy. Without a functioning real coalition, it is impossible, it is an impossible task. This cannot be a U.S. war. This cannot be a war of the West against this so-called Islamic State. It has to involve particularly the neighbors in the region.

I am also supportive of the general strategy the President outlined, but I think there are several points that need to be absolutely emphasized. One is the importance of the coalition. We cannot have a coalition that just holds our coat while we do the fighting. They have to be engaged in an active way—not just writing checks.

If we try to do this ourselves, not even if we were inclined to do this with our own troops, it wouldn't work. These have to be local faces on the ground. There are going to be boots on the ground, but they are not and should not and cannot be ours.

The second thing that is so important in this strategy the President outlined the other night is a trustworthy, inclusive government in Baghdad. The reason ISIS was so successful in this sweep through northern Iraq and into Mosul was that they were swimming in friendly waters. They were swimming in the Sunni regions of Iraq where the local tribes and Sunni leaders have been alienated and systematically excluded from the government in Baghdad.

If the government in Baghdad cannot build credibility with that group, this is a hopeless enterprise. Prime Minister al-Abadi needs to channel his inner Mandela. He has to be inclusive of even the people who were his enemies and the enemies of his sect at a prior time.

This has to be a government that can be trusted. Really what is going on is a battle for the loyalty of the Sunni population of Iraq to see whether they are going to be loyal to this brutal so-called Islamic State or to the government of the country in Baghdad. That is the challenge that is before that government today.

So far the signs are positive, but we are still in the very first weeks of this regime. But that has to be a crucial element of our strategy. So these are two pieces that are largely out of our control.

We can try to build a coalition. We can put pressure on the government in Baghdad, but these folks have to do it themselves. We cannot be the policemen of the Middle East.

The third piece is building the Syrian opposition. The same goes for Al-Raqqa, the headquarters of ISIS in Syria. There are going to have to be people on the ground, and they are not going to be Americans. They have to come from the Syrian opposition, and that is why that is an important element of the strategy.

I think there is another discussion we have to have. Unfortunately, the calendar doesn't allow us to have it today. I believe there must be a new authorization for the use of military force. The authorization that was passed right after September 11, 2001, has been stretched and strained to the point where if it is allowed to become the justification for anything, there is nothing left of the clause of the Constitution that says Congress shall be the one to declare war.

I have gone back and looked at the history of that clause. Very interestingly, the original draft of the Constitution said Congress shall make war. At the time, the Framers realized that Congress would not be the right entity to execute the war itself, to make the battlefield decisions. The Framers were adamant that the momentous decision of entering this country into war had to be in the branch of the government most representative of the people.

They went through history—in the 49th Federalist they talk about how throughout history unfettered executives, princes, kings mischievously and often on weak grounds got their countries engaged in war. They made a conscious decision that this responsibility was left with the Congress. Unfortunately, over the years, going back to the late 1940s, we allowed that clause to atrophy. We allowed the Executive to take more and more responsibility and power and unilateral authority. People are saying: Well, this President is acting unilaterally. This is nothing new. This goes back to Harry Truman and the Korean war. This isn't something that Barack Obama invented.

Presidents naturally want more authority. They do have the power to defend our country when the threat is imminent and real, but they don't have the power to commit American armed forces in any place, at any time, under any circumstances.

I believe we have a constitutional responsibility to consider this matter, to debate it, to argue about the terms of what the authorization should be—how it should be limited in duration, geography, target, in means of confrontation with the enemy. That is what we must do.

Finally, beyond this AUMF, beyond ISIS, assume for a moment we are tremendously and utterly successful over the next 6 months, a year, 2 years, and ISIS is gone, the problem is history has taught us someone will take their place.

The real issue is radical jihadism. We have to have a strategy to deal with that in the long term that doesn't involve trying to just kill them as they come forward. It was characterized recently as geopolitical Whac-A-Mole. We stop them in one place, and it comes up somewhere else, and we all know about al-Shabaab, al-Nusra, Al Qaeda, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and Boko Horam.

We have to be talking about and developing a strategy to deal with this threat to our country and to the rest of the world on a more long-term basis than simply having continuous—what amounts to—battles against elements of these people.

Why are they doing this? What is attracting young people to this destructive philosophy, and how can we best counteract that? I believe we have to make a decision today.

As I said, I also think we have to make a decision before the end of the year as to what the scope, limits, and authority of the President are in this matter. We can try to avoid it, but I don't believe we can.

On December 1, 1862, Abraham Lincoln sent a message to this body, and the conclusion of that message was that we cannot escape history. It will light us down from one generation to the next. I believe that we need to stand and debate, argue, refine, and finally reach a conclusion so that the American people can understand what we are doing and why.

The Executive will have clear authority. The rest of the world will know that this is the United States of America taking this position—not a President and not a few Members of Congress. That is a responsibility I believe we are ready to assume. This is a threat. It must be met, and we must participate in the decision to meet it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UKRAINE

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I come to the floor to, first of all, thank President Poroshenko for the speech he gave to a joint session of the Congress today. It was a very moving speech. I think it was a very direct speech, and it really showed how important it is that we stand with the people of Ukraine during this trying time with the aggression they are facing from Russia.

I come to the floor to say a couple of things. At the end of his speech, he used the motto of my home State—the State of New Hampshire: Live Free or Die. In New Hampshire we are very proud of that motto. It came from a statement during the American Revolution from General John Stark, and it really does not only have meaning to my home State of New Hampshire but also to the people of Ukraine with what they have been facing—those who stood in the Maidan and gave their lives for freedom and democracy in Ukraine.

I have had the privilege of going to Ukraine twice, both in March and also to oversee their presidential elections. In both instances, I was very struck by the patriotism, by their love for America, and their gratefulness for our support.

As we heard President Poroshenko say to all of us today, now more than ever they need American support. There is something I have been calling for—for a while, in fact. When I went there in March—and also I had the privilege of traveling with Senator DONNELLY—it was a bipartisan codel—and also in May, in both of those instances we had the request for lethal assistance so that the Ukrainian military would have the arms they need to defend themselves against this Russian aggression.

So today we also heard President Poroshenko call upon us again to provide the support for the Ukrainian military. They have fought and continue to fight and die for their own independence, freedom, and territorial integrity. The least we can do is provide them lethal assistance.

As President Poroshenko rightly said today: Blankets and night vision goggles are important, but one cannot win a war with a blanket.

I would hope all of us stood together today, both Democrats and Republicans, to say we stand with the people of Ukraine.

I know this afternoon the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has come together and marked up a very important aid package to Ukraine which contains lethal assistance for their military.

I would hope our President would see that on a bipartisan basis we stand with the people of Ukraine and we must provide them with this assistance they need.

Finally, I would say that the Budapest Memorandum that President Poroshenko mentioned today is very important.

We were a signatory to that memorandum, as was Russia. In that memorandum, the signing of it, Ukraine gave up their nuclear weapons in exchange for our assurances that we would respect their sovereignty, security assurances, and their territorial integrity. Obviously, Russia has trampled all over this. But I would say the least we can do is provide this lethal assistance they have asked for given that they gave up their nuclear weapons.

We signed on to that agreement. We should support them in their time of need so that they can defend their sovereignty. What country ever again is going to give up their nuclear weapons if we will not even give them basic military assistance when their country is invaded the way Ukraine has been invaded by Russia?

Now is our time and our moment. We all stood together in the House Chamber today for the people of Ukraine. What matters is our actions, not just our words and our standing ovations.

I hope we will stand with the people of Ukraine. I call upon our President to provide lethal assistance to the people of Ukraine and to provide the support and tougher sanctions on Russia—economic sanctions—for their invasion and their total disrespect for the sovereignty of the country of Ukraine.

I would defer to my colleague, Senator MCCAIN from Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I always appreciate it when the Senator from New Hampshire defers to me—a rare occasion, I might add.

I rise today to speak in support of the continuing resolution on which we will vote. I do not do so because I approve of the bulk of the CR. I certainly do not approve of the process that got us here. It is a broken, dysfunctional process that deserves and has received the scorn and disdain of the American people. Long ago we should have been taking up these bills one by one. But that is not why I come to the floor today

I am voting for this CR for one particular reason: It would help the Department of Defense train and equip moderate, vetted Syrian opposition forces to fight the barbaric terrorist army that calls itself the Islamic State, commonly known as ISIS. I will support it. It is long overdue support for the brave Syrians who are fighting on the frontlines against a common terrorist enemy.

The current plan could have been decisive 2 years ago. Two years ago it could have been decisive. It is not now. We are talking about 5,000 whom we are going to train over a period of a year or more. They are going to be fighting against an estimated 31,500 fighters.

There are many seminal events that have taken place in this conflict. One of the main ones was when 2 years ago the President overruled the major players in his national security team when he overruled their unanimous and passionate argument to arm and train the Free Syrian Army.

The administration says that U.S. forces will not have a combat role. Why does the President insist on continuing to tell the enemy what he will not do? Why is it that the President of the United States keeps telling the people who are slaughtering thousands: Don't worry, we won't commit ground troops. Why does he have to keep saying that? Obviously—at least one would draw the conclusion—because of political reasons.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates had this to say. I do not know of a man who is more respected than former Secretary of Defense Gates under both Republican and Democratic Presidents. He said:

> The reality is, they're not going to be able to be successful against ISIS strictly from the air or strictly depending on the Iraqi forces or the Peshmerga or the Sunni tribes acting on their own.

Gates continued:

> So there will be boots on the ground if there is going to be any hope of success in the strategy. I think that by continuing to repeat that—

That the United States will not put boots on the ground—

> the President, in effect, traps himself.

That is the opinion not of JOHN MCCAIN and LINDSEY GRAHAM, it is the opinion of Robert Gates and every military expert I have talked to, ranging from the architects of the surge, to former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and, confidentially, leaders in uniform today.

The President said he will expand airstrikes in Syria, but they have testified that the President will not have

forward air controllers on the ground to direct airstrikes, which makes them obviously effective.

As we read today in the Wall Street Journal—this is remarkable, my friends—President Obama will be personally signing off on every airstrike in Syria. I say to my colleagues: I saw that movie before—it was called Vietnam—many years ago when President Lyndon Johnson used to select the targets in the Oval Office or the Situation Room. Now we have a President of the United States who is selecting targets of which he has no fundamental knowledge whatsoever. It is really remarkable.

We are going to train and equip these people to fight. Yet we are not going to take out the assets Bashar Assad uses to kill them—the air attacks, the barrel bombs; the indiscriminate killing of innocent women, men, and children; 192,000 dead in Syria; 150,000 languishing in his prisons. We are not going to take out or even give these people, the Free Syrian Army, the weapons with which to counter these air attacks which are so brutal and outrageous.

I would like to yield for my friend from South Carolina to make a couple of comments. One, the argument I have heard made here is that there are no moderates in Syria. Well, I think arguably one of the most important and impressive individuals I have run into is Ambassador Ford, who has really been a hero in this whole exercise. He says there are moderates in Syria. They can fight. They have been fighting. They have been doing incredible work with incredible sacrifice. I am trying to find his quote from when he testified before the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday. He did a magnificent job in doing so, as usual, in my view.

I cannot seem to find it, but I would point out that he says not only can they fight, but they have been fighting, and they have been doing a heroic job in doing so. That is also the opinion of people who know. So there are moderates. If we train and equip them, they can be effective. The problem is that we have not done too little, it is we have done too much. We have weakened Assad and hurt his ability to fight ISIS. ISIS is a problem for the Middle East.

If ISIS is a problem for the Middle East, I wonder what the Australians think today? Australian police detained 15 people Thursday in a major counterterrorism operation, saying the intelligence indicated that a random violent attack was being planned in Australia. We know what their object is. It is to strike the United States of America.

I say in response to these uninformed colleagues of mine who say the Free Syrian Army cannot fight: Syrian forces are seen stepping up attacks on rebels as U.S. sets site on ISIS.

Time after time there have been places ISIS has controlled and the Free Syrian Army has come in and then Bashar Assad attacks because they want to defeat them.

The fact is I see the critics come here on the floor of the Senate and talk about why everything is wrong, why nobody will fight, why we cannot arm the right people. Well, what is their solution? Do they reject the premise articulated by ISIS that they want to attack the United States? Do they contradict Mr. Baghdadi, who, when he left our prison camp, Bucca, said: I will see you in New York. Is that what this is all about? Of course it is a threat to the United States of America. For us to do nothing obviously will be a serious mistake.

I yield 5 minutes for my colleague from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Do we have time remaining?

Mr. MCCAIN. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republicans currently have 67 minutes remaining.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will be very quick.

I will vote for the continuing resolution because I do not want to shut the government down. I agree with Senator MCCAIN that this is not the right process, but we are where we are. I think the issue people are focusing on about the continuing resolution is the changing of the training of the Free Syrian Army from title 50, a covert program, to title 10, the Department of Defense, where it will be out in the open.

The reason I support the appropriation and the change in title 10—I think this is a long-overdue effort on our part to build up Syrian forces that can confront both Assad and ISIL, enemies of the United States.

To my colleagues who worry about the people we train and the arms we give falling into the wrong hands, I would say that there is nothing we can do in this area without some risk. But when you tell me there are no Syrians that you believe exist who would fight against Assad and ISIL, I do not believe you quite understand what is going on in Syria. I would say that the vast majority of Syrians have two things in common: They want to overthrow Assad and they want to get ISIL out of their country.

ISIL is mostly non-Syrians. They came from the vacuum created by a lack of security. When Hezbollah and Russia doubled down to protect Assad, who was just about knocked out several years ago, the Free Syrian Army was abandoned by us and the rest of the world and ISIL was able to fill in that vacuum. These are foreign fighters.

So to my colleagues who talk about how they worry, I worry too. I worry about doing nothing. I worry about finding an excuse not to do anything. It bothered me when Republicans embraced the position of President Obama just a few weeks ago that it was a fantasy to train the Syrians to fight for Syria. I do not think it is a fantasy to train Syrians to fight for Syria because they want to. This whole revolution against Assad was not to overthrow him and replace Assad with ISIL.

The people who think the average Syrian wants to be dominated by ISIL instead of Assad, really, I do not think they appreciate what is going on in Syria. That is selling the Syrian people short.

Having said that, the limitations of what the Free Syrian Army can do at this point are real, but training as many as possible makes sense to me. My goal is to keep the war over there so it does not come here. From an American point of view, I think it would be a huge mistake not to provide training and resources to those people in the region—in Syria—to do the fighting because we have common enemies.

Those who say this is too risky, what is your alternative? If we do nothing, ISIL will continue to grow and the threat to our homeland will continue to increase.

It is long past time to blunt the momentum of this vicious terrorist organization. A Free Syrian Army component makes perfect sense to me. Whatever risk is associated with that concept is well worth it at this point.

When we talk about Iraq, I hope the Iraqi Government can reconstitute itself. Their military is in shambles. The Kurds are hanging on in the north with our help. But to dislodge ISIL from Iraq and take back Fallujah and Mosul and other cities, as General Dempsey indicated, would be a very difficult military endeavor. From my point of view, the last thing America wants to do is take ISIL on in Iraq and Syria and fail.

If you do believe that it is about our homeland and that it is not just about the Mideast, allowing ISIL to defeat any force we throw at it makes them larger and more lethal over time. So the worst possible outcome is to form a coalition in Syria of Arab countries and they are defeated by ISIL because we do not provide them the capabilities they lack.

President Obama's insistence of no boots on the ground is the Achilles' heel to his strategy. This is a military strategy, I believe, designed around political promises. This is not the military strategy you would create to destroy or devastate ISIL. President Bush made many mistakes in Iraq, but to his credit he changed the strategy in a fashion that allowed us to succeed.

One thing I have learned over the past 13 years, you can have a lot of troops doing the wrong thing and it will not matter. When you leave no troops behind, that is a mistake. And if you have too few troops doing the right thing, it will not matter.

The President is right about this. We don't need to reinvade Iraq or Syria. We don't need the 82nd Airborne to go in with 100,000 troops behind it, but we do need to provide capacity to the Iraqis and any future coalition to deal with Syria that is lacking in that part of the world.

Like it or not the American military is second to none. The special forces capability we have can really be decisive in this fight. To every American, this is not only about them over there, this is about us here.

The better and the sooner that ISIL is defeated, the more decisive ISIL is defeated, and the sooner that day comes about, the safer we are at home.

I urge the President to not take options off the table.

I am voting for this change in strategy regarding the Free Syrian Army because I think it is long overdue. When the President does the right thing, I want to be his partner. Mr. President, if you will come up with a strategy to destroy and defeat ISIL that makes sense, I will be your best ally and try to help you on this side of the aisle. This is a first step in the right direction, but when you play out this strategy, which you are trying to do, I think it will not work unless you embrace American assistance in a greater level to the Iraqi military and to any coalition you could create in Syria.

The last thing I want this body to understand, this is the last best chance we will have to put ISIL back in a box so they can't wreak havoc in the Mideast and grow in strength. The stronger they are over there, the more endangered we are over here.

It is in our interests to help our Arab allies and our Iraqi allies destroy ISIL. It is not just about those people over there. Lines of defenses in the war on terror make perfect sense to me.

The best way to keep this fight off our shores is to engage the people who will help us carry the fight to the common enemy. ISIL is not only an enemy of Islam, it is an enemy of mankind, and failing to defeat these people will resonate here very quickly.

We have a chance. Let's take advantage of it. There is nothing we can do in a war on terror without risk, but now we are fighting an Army, not an organization. If we defeat ISIS, the war is not over. This is a generational struggle. But if you do defeat ISIL, as a turning point in our favor—if they survive our best attempt to defeat them—God help us all.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. I wish to add, again I found a quote from the testimony of Robert Ford, an unusual man, our Ambassador to Syria and a man who literally risked his own life. In his report he said: Many Americans questioned whether there are any moderates left in the Syrian armed opposition. There are. They are fighting the Islamic State and the Assad regime both. They are, not surprisingly, hard pressed, and they could very much use our help.

I assure my colleagues, from my many visits there and knowing these people, there are moderates in Syria today who will fight and are fighting. Unfortunately, they are being attacked both from ISIS and from Bashar Assad. This brings me to we need to negate Bashar Assad's air attacks and capabilities. Otherwise, we are going to train and equip these young people and send them into death, which would be needless.

There are several articles, one in the New Republic entitled ''We Can't Destroy ISIS Without Destroying Bashar al Assad First;'' another one, ''Assad Policies Aided Rise of Islamic State Militant Group;'' another one, ''Blame Assad First for ISIS' Rise.''

What was most disturbing yesterday about the Secretary of State's statements was when he said: Well, ISIL first. You cannot sequence them. They are too closely tied, and we cannot defeat ISIL in Syria if we leave Bashar Assad with his air capabilities.

There are no good options. A series of decisions have been made which led us to the point we are today, all based on the fundamental belief that the United States could leave the area and everything would take care of itself. What happened was that we left a vacuum that was filled by bad people. Now there is a threat to the United States of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, but I also believe it is an act of cowardice that we didn't take up the bill separately, debate, amend, and vote on an issue of this utmost seriousness where, in one way or another—whether the President wants to admit it—we are again sending Americans into harm's way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. I wasn't planning to speak on the floor. I will speak for a couple of minutes, but I appreciate my colleagues who have just spoken and their conversation, as well as many others who have spoken on the floor.

Let me make it very clear. This conversation I am having right now is not about the CR. It is going to pass. It is going to move forward. We have to keep operating. The artificial threat that it might be shut down if we don't vote in a certain way with regard to the government is not factual.

The CR is going to pass. The House passed it. People don't want to see a problem as they had a year and a half ago, so I feel very confident with where we are going with the CR. But I agree with the comment that this issue, regarding what is going on with Syria, should be a separate issue, should be debated separately. It shouldn't just be shoved into a continuing resolution for the purpose of getting all of this done because we all think we have to leave by Thursday night or Friday morning. It is a very significant issue, one I have already made my statement very clear after the President spoke that despite my colleagues on the other side—two of them who were just on the floor—I want to make sure I correct what they said—we just have differences of opinion and views.

We hear statements that people aren't informed or they don't want to do anything, that is not the factual basis here. We have different views when it comes to the issues of conflict in this world, where America should sit, what we should be doing, how we should be acting, who our partners should be and what they should be doing. It has nothing to do with the government being shut down, the CR or being uninformed. I think this body is well informed. We have had many briefings, many discussions.

The question is just our view of where we stand on the issue of do we arm the rebels in Syria to do something we hope they will do. That is the question, and that is the debate we are in right now. I appreciate at least the limited time we have on it.

Let me make my position very clear. I have made it clear before, but I want to say it again. I do not support the arming of rebels in Syria.

In the Appropriations Committee we had an amendment on this, which I voted for—not to make sure the funding didn't pass, but I think it was a statement that was important. This is not a newfound belief. I support the airstrikes. This is an institutional effort, strategy, and things are moving in the right direction.

As a matter of fact, yesterday or the day before Baghdad was being moved on by ISIL. Let me make it clear, ISIL, ISIS, whatever you want to call them, they are a terrorist group.

To say they are called the Islamic State, they are not a state. They are a bunch of terrorist thugs. Let's be honest about it. When they made a move on Baghdad, we came in at the request of the Government of Iraq to give air support. We did and then we pushed them back and continued to follow up. That seemed to work in that situation.

Here we are in a situation of do we arm the rebels, do we believe in combat troops, humanitarian aid? What is our role in this endeavor?

Again, I disagree with my President, and when I say that, the President of the Democratic Party. It doesn't mean I agree with him that often. There are times when we disagree quite a bit on many issues, but on this one I disagree. Arming the rebels and who they are today and who they might be 12 months from now—I don't know.

The bigger issue to me is also the Arab countries. I understand we have seen in the past few days they are starting to have conversations and wanting to participate, but this is their country, their region. What do they do? Where are they stepping up to the plate more?

Here we are, once again, going to have to solve some civil war issues in the Middle East. Instead, the countries in the region are saying, well, maybe we will help a little here, help a little there. They need to put troops on the ground. They need to step up to the plate, as well as the faith and religious leaders in that region because these

terrorists are a threat to the region and to our country.

The photos we have seen of the beheadings are horrific, outlandish, and outrageous. Don't get me wrong. This is a bad organization and should be dealt with in such a way, but we need the countries there to assist us in a much more aggressive way.

Today we heard from the President of Ukraine. He came to a joint session of Congress. Why did he come? Because he believes in his country. He is fighting for his country. He needs our help and he is asking for our help. He is not hiding behind closed-door meetings and trying to negotiate ways that they can't be seen asking us for help. He is asking because he wants to believe in democracy, what is right for his country. He is fighting for his homeland. His line—and I remember in his speech that he gave today, this morning—was you don't have to create the democracy, you just have to defend it.

But here we are in the Middle East with unusual allies because it is a convoluted situation. In some ways, we participated, but we also have to have the Iraqi Government be more sustainable. That means inclusion, which they haven't done. They are trying, but we have had to put pressure on them because now ISIL has moved into their country. As we know, some of those Arab countries, through some of those well-funded people, funded ISIL. But now the beast has grown so big it is out of control, and now they say: Whoops. We might have made a mistake. Now we need the United States to come in again.

What is the long-term plan for sustainability in the Middle East, to get rid of these terrorist organizations that every single one of those countries knows is bad for them? They know it.

But they don't step up to the plate enough. Every time we have to step up, and America—my wife and I have been to I don't know how many funerals, how many hospitals.

Are we asking—I heard some of my colleagues here now talking about combat troops. Absolutely not—absolutely not.

It is time for the Arab countries to step up, get over their regional differences, and know this is one organization, this terrorist organization, ISIS, ISIL—whatever you want to call them today—it is bad for them, bad for this world, and they need to stand and be more aggressive. That means combat troops on the ground for them, for them to do it, for them to step up to the plate.

ISIS is this terrorist organization, and they are making money off of oil, oil wells they have captured, shipping it out through one of our ''allies.'' Why don't we just dismantle these oil wells through airstrikes—stop their cash flow like that.

Probably we are not going to do it because I am sure we are hearing from people: Well, that is not really their oil. We will take them out, and then we will get our oil back. They own the oil right now because they are using it to fund their $3 million-a-day operation. Take out their oil wells, take out their cash flow. Then get the Arab countries to step up and do not arm with U.S. dollars and weapons the rebels of today who may not be the rebels of tomorrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me come to the floor and say my piece. It is going to be an interesting vote. I know the CR will pass. I will be in the minority, but I think it is important we put on the record where we stand on this issue.

Don't get me wrong. I believe they are a threat to the United States, and when they threaten our assets, our people, we will be on it and we will deal with them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I know the distinguished Senator from Illinois is scheduled to speak.

I just want to make clear that the threat of a shutdown is not an idle threat. I respect the views of the Senator from Alaska, a member of my own committee, who now says he is going to vote against the CR because he is saying: Oh, it will pass. It is an artificial threat.

The Senator is entitled to his views and certainly his vote on what he thinks is in the best interests of the Nation, but we have to pass the CR, and I would note it is not an artificial threat.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. There are moments when Members of the Senate have to reflect on the responsibility we are given—extraordinary moments, unlike other votes that we cast—because at least part of this important spending bill relates to U.S. military involvement in the Middle East. Reality tells us people will die if there is conflict. Of course we hope it will be the enemy, but we know better. Even some of our people are at risk to die in any military undertaking. So every Member of the Senate should take this vote seriously, and I am sure they do.

I remember October 11, 2002, as if it were yesterday. I was here in the Senate, weeks away from an election, and we were asked to vote on the invasion of Iraq. The buildup to this vote was overwhelming. The President and others—the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the head of the CIA, and a long list—had made the case to the American people that there were weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Saddam Hussein; and that if we didn't move in, strike, and stop him, they could threaten our allies, friends, and even the United States. We debated that and voted on it. It was late at night on October 11, 2002.

I remember that vote as if it were yesterday. At the end of that vote, 23 of us had voted no against the invasion of Iraq—one Republican, Senator Chafee of Rhode Island, and 22 Democrats.

I went down to the well of this Chamber and there were two of my colleagues there, Paul Wellstone of Minnesota and Kent Conrad of North Dakota. I said to Paul Wellstone, who was up for reelection: I hope this doesn't cost you your seat—because he had voted no as well.

He said: It is all right if it does. This is what I believe, and this is how I am going to vote. I thought to myself: He may not return to the Senate. Tragically, he did not. He was involved in a plane crash just days later that took his life and the life of his wife and a staffer. But it is an indication of the gravity and the importance of this job, of this Chamber, and of this vote.

What we are being asked to do by the President is much different than what we were asked to do in 2002, when it came to the invasion of Iraq. The President has identified a threat to the United States. It is called the Islamic State, ISIL. It is an emerging group that has broken out of extremist groups in the Middle East, and it is on a rampage. It is marching through Syria and Iraq in a way we have not seen extremist groups act. It is capturing territory which extremist groups seldom do, and in capturing territory it is doing several other things. It is taking all of the tangible assets of cities such as Mosul, raiding their banks, breaking into the vaults, taking their money, taking over oil fields and gas fields—producing a small economy and budget which is growing by the day. This is not the typical terrorist group which we have seen in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, and, in the process, in their wake, they are killing people right and left.

The butchery, the savagery of this group is really unheard of in modern times. It hearkens back to the barbarism of centuries ago. To behead two innocent Americans—can we imagine to do it with a camera running? It is just unthinkable what those poor families are going through even today as they think about this. That is part of their tactics, to intimidate the United States. Now they have done it to a British captive, and they promise to do even more. They are serious. They want to take over Syria and Iraq. Should we care? Of course we should.

But what did we learn from the invasion of Iraq? What did we learn after spending 8 years there that would bring us back in any way? Well, here is what we learned.

We learned that putting American military on the ground—the best military in the world—is no guarantee of victory. We lost 4,476 American lives in Iraq; over 30,000 came home with serious injuries that still need to be cared for to this day. We added $1 trillion to our national debt because under the previous administration wars weren't paid for, they were just added to the debt. And we have chaos in Iraq today.

Here is what the President is suggesting, and I think he is on the right

track. We are not going to put in ground forces and combat troops. Instead, we will rely on the Iraqi Army to fight for the future of Iraq. We will help them, we will support them with logistics, equipment, direction, air support, but they have to be on the frontline risking their lives.

Secondly, he said we are going to put together a coalition.

The United States ought to think twice in this century about how many more Muslim countries we want to be involved in invading, and what the President has said that is my starting point; we will be part of a coalition that includes Arab and Muslim countries that believe, as we do, that ISIL is reprehensible and needs to be fought back.

I think the President's premise is sound. Not putting in combat troops is essential. Putting the burden on the Iraqis is absolutely critical, and I support him in those three efforts.

Then comes our vote today. It is not about Iraq; it is about Syria. What are we going to do in Syria? Syria has just been a free-for-all of violence, terrorism, deceit, and carnage for 3 years. Three million people have been displaced, 300,000 have been killed, and the fighting is so intense it is hard to tell who is on what side. Oh, we know Assad the leader has his army, and he is fighting off all the resistance to his government. We have no use for him, but he has some military power, obviously. He is still there. We also know that, in addition to ISIL, this terrorist group, there are up to 1,500 other militia groups. They have neighborhood militias protecting families and neighborhoods.

What the President has called for is a challenge: Find moderate opposition forces who do not align with Assad that are willing to fight ISIL and stop them in Syria. That is our vote. That is what the title 10 authorization does. It allows the United States to train and equip moderate opposition in Syria to fight these forces. We have some pretty strict language in here—I just took a look at it again and I have read through it a couple of times now—about reporting back to committees: Let us know your progress.

So this is where we are. This continuing resolution will be the law of the land, if it passes, until December 11, if I am not mistaken—the Appropriations Committee chair, Senator MIKULSKI, nods in the affirmative—until December 11.

So what we are doing now is setting up a course of action in Syria to work with the moderate opposition to train and equip them to fight off this ISIL group. We will be back. After the elections we will back. We will be able to measure the progress that has been made.

Then, come December 11, we have a much larger question to ask: What do we do from that point forward? Will we continue the strategy? Assuming we do, I believe—and many of my colleagues share the belief—we have a special responsibility given to us by the Constitution that says the American people declare war—not the President—and the American people do it through Members of Congress.

So we will come back and start the debate on what is known as an authorization for the use of military force—a modern version, a new version applying to this situation—and it will be through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Armed Services Committee.

It is a debate that is long overdue. The President has invited us to do this. He believes he has the authority to go forward, but he said to Congress: If you want to be part of this, I welcome your participation.

Well, let's accept that challenge. So I will be supporting this continuing resolution. I will be supporting the title 10 authorization until December 11 to start seeing if we can form a force of moderate opposition groups in Syria to fight back on ISIL while we are working in Iraq to do the same. I think we have no choice but to do this—but to do it thoughtfully, without combat troops, with clear accountability and reports, and behind a coalition that has many Arab and Muslim nations that agree with us that ISIL is reprehensible.

Secretary of State John Kerry told us yesterday they have had meetings with the Russians, with the Chinese, and with the Iranians who have spoken up and said: We have to stop this group. They are going to destroy the Middle East. I think we have to take that seriously, and that is why I will be supporting this effort.

I know some of my colleagues disagree. I remember my thinking on that October night in 2002, that we should hold back and not get involved in Iraq, and I think I was right. I think history proved me right. That is why I have looked at this with a critical eye and with the understanding that this is not the end of the debate, this is not the end of the conversation. This is our step forward in ridding the world of this savage group that is killing so many innocent people, and we are going to do it as part of a coalition and alliance. That to me is the thoughtful and sensible way to address this.

We will have time to review our decision on a regular basis, as we should, to hold this President and any President accountable as we move forward. But this is something we absolutely must do as a Nation at this moment in time.

So I will be supporting this resolution, H.J. Res. 124, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

How much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 4 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. I also wish to say a word about Secretary Kerry, who has been working night and day since he left the Senate, as Secretary of State, and he testified yesterday. I know what he is trying to achieve. I salute him for that and of course the President as well.

Let me hope that one thing emerges from this. I remember serving in the House of Representatives, and we voted on the invasion of Kuwait under President George H.W. Bush. I had my questions about that. I voted no. The House voted yes to go forward with that foreign policy. The Speaker of the House, Tom Foley, if I am not mistaken, followed that vote, where we decided to go forward with the invasion of Kuwait, with a resolution saying that now the foreign policy had been decided by this country, we should stand together in a bipartisan fashion to support our men and women in uniform who were engaged in this conflict. That happened, and we all voted for it—even those of us who disagreed with the policy.

Even after this vote on Iraq where 23 of us had voted no, virtually all of us voted for the resources that our military needed. My thinking was: DURBIN, even if you disagree with the Iraqi invasion, what if that were your son over there? Wouldn't you want him to have everything he needs to come home safe? You bet.

What I hope will emerge, even after the heat of debate over this whole question of ISIL and how we deal with them, is this coming together—a bipartisan coming together behind our troops, behind our pilots, behind those advisers on the ground. Let us show them solidarity behind their effort if we decide to vote to go forward. There is too much partisan division, and it certainly ought to stop at the water's edge when it involves support for our men and women in uniform.

So at the end of this vote today, I hope we will see emerging a bipartisan consensus that we are going to work as a Nation to accomplish our goal to end this terrorism as best we can or slow it down in this part of the world and stand behind the men and women of our Nation who are willing to risk their lives in service to that cause.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, in a few moments Senators in this Chamber will cast one of the most important votes they will ever cast in the Senate.

With this vote, Senators will make a simple but vital decision. It is a decision that will steer the future course of our country and our Congress—and particularly the Senate.

With this vote, Senators will decide whether their allegiance is to President Obama and his agenda, Majority Leader REID and the open borders lobby, or whether their allegiance is to the American worker, the constitutional order, the American people, and this Nation's sovereign laws.

The choice could not be more clear. Do we as a Nation have the right to control our borders? Do we? That is the question every Senator will be answering today.

President Obama has announced to the entire world that he will implement a sweeping unilateral Executive amnesty—only after the midterm elections, not before, as he promised, because there is concern among his Members that it wouldn't be politically popular. This amnesty by Executive order will give work permits—contrary to law—and Social Security numbers—contrary to law—to as many as 5 to 6 million people, the White House tells us, to people who are here illegally, illegally entered the United States, illegally overstayed their visas or defrauded U.S. immigration authorities.

With a casual stroke of a pen, the President is preparing to nullify the immigration laws of the United States. He is preparing to wipe away the lawful protections which every American worker in this country is entitled to. He is preparing to assume for himself—himself alone—the absolute power to decide who can enter our country, who can work in our country, who can live in our country by the millions, regardless of what the law says, what the citizenry says, and what the Constitution says. These immigration rules—who can come, work, and live in the country—are the bedrock of any Nation's immigration laws and sovereignty. The President has already erased much of these rules—erased them. And his planned Executive action would remove much of what remains of them. It would establish for people all over the world the principle that if you can get into America, you can stay in America, and work in America.

Let's consider the current state of immigration enforcement. Immigration officers already tell us—people who do this every day—that they have been barred from fulfilling their oaths to follow the law. They filed a lawsuit claiming they were required to violate their oath. The president of the ICE officers' council warned: ''ICE agents''—Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers—''are now prohibited from arresting illegal aliens solely on the charges of illegal entry or visa overstay—the two most frequently violated sections of immigration law.''

The policies of this administration represent an open invitation to millions who enter the United States on visas each year. People come lawfully on visas for certain periods of time. It encourages them to unlawfully overstay. And why not? If no one is going to deport you, why would you return if you choose not to return to your home country?

And what about the border? We know from the substantial influx of illegal immigrants from Central America that all you have to do is show up at the border, demand entry, and you will likely be released into the United States. You may be asked to return for some sort of hearing in the future. But people are not tracked as to where they will go and not one of those people will be looked for if they fail to show up. That is not happening anywhere in the system.

Consider this recent report from the Associated Press: ''As of early September, only 319 of the more than 59,000 immigrants who were caught traveling with their families have been returned to Central America.'' That means that more than 99 percent of those apprehended with their families have so far been allowed to stay. That is in addition to the tens of thousands who have entered without their families and who have been promptly released also into the United States on some sort of bond or promise to show up for court, and many adults from Central America who have been released as well.

As President Obama's former ICE Director, John Sandweg, explained: ''If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are near zero.''

And who picks up the tab? Local school districts, local police departments, local taxpayers.

No nation can have a policy where people can simply show up at the border and demand to be released into the country, especially since the policy is never to seek to apprehend persons who don't show up so they can be deported. But that is what is happening right now under the policies of this administration. It simply is. The American people need to understand that. They need to know more fully how serious this situation is.

The American people are beginning to understand that these policies represent in truth a collapse of immigration enforcement.

What about our asylum system? Here is what the House Judiciary Committee reports on asylum, which is when we accept people from around the globe who are subjected to serious oppression.

> Asylum approval rates overall have increased dramatically in recent years. The vast majority of aliens who affirmatively seek asylum are now successful in their claims. At the same time, an internal Department of Homeland Security report shows that at least 70 percent of asylum cases contain proven or possible fraud.

Seventy percent contain proven or possible fraud. Still they are being approved overwhelmingly for entry, and once approved for asylum, they are entitled to all social welfare benefits.

What about our visa screening process, the people who come on visas? Here is what Kenneth Palinkas had to say on that. Mr. Palinkas is the president of the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council, representing 12,000 immigration caseworkers and adjudications officers at the USCIS. Here is just a fraction of his dramatic report delineating and detailing the problems they are facing today.

> USCIS adjudications officers are pressured to rubber stamp applications instead of conducting diligent case reviews and investigations. The culture at USCIS encourages all applications to be approved, discouraging proper investigation into red flags and discouraging the denial of any application. USCIS has been turned into an ''approval machine.''

This is the man who represents the officers doing this everyday, and what he says is true.

He goes on to say in this letter: ''The attitude of USCIS management is not that the Agency serves the American public or the laws of the United States, or public safety and national security, but instead that the Agency serves the illegal aliens and the attorneys which represent them.''

Surely this cannot be what is happening in our legal system.

He goes on to say this:

> Large swaths of the Immigration and Nationality Act are not effectively enforced for illegal immigrants and visa holders, including laws regarding public charges as well as many other provisions, as USCIS lacks the resources to adequately screen and scrutinize legal immigrants and non-immigrants seeking status adjustment. There is also insufficient screening and monitoring of student visas.

So the contention that this administration is deporting record numbers of illegal aliens is plainly false. Removals have dropped dramatically.

Now consider what will happen to our system if the President goes through with his plan that he has announced after the election to provide unilateral Executive amnesty by Executive order to illegal workers and visa violators here today. What immigration law will be left after that?

The government is not enforcing the law with respect to visa overstays, illegal entry, illegal work, asylum fraud, document fraud, workplace fraud, and on and on and on. We ignore immigration law for young people, for older people who came with younger people, for the parents of older people who came as younger people, for people with relatives, for people traveling alone, for people traveling with families, for people who entered before a certain date, for people who entered after a certain date, people who entered through an airport or seaport, for people who do show up in court, for people who don't show up in court. We have made a million excuses for not enforcing the law.

And when millions more enter illegally asking for their amnesty in the future, asking for their amnesty now that others got before them, will the President print work permits for them, too? What moral basis will remain to deny future unlawful immigrants work authorizations, jobs, and amnesty in the future?

I am sure this will make the activists, the politicians and certain billionaire executives who enjoy dinner parties at the White House, very happy that the President is doing these things. But what about what is good for America? What about what is in the interest of the American people? America is not an oligarchy. The masters of the universe don't get to meet at the White House and decide how to run this country.

When the American people learned what was in the Senate amnesty and guest worker bill that doubled the number of guest workers for which every single Senate Democrat voted, the people said no, no, no, and the House stopped the plan. But now the same groups that wrote this bill are working with the White House to extract the same benefits by Executive fiat, by Executive order. They had at least 20 secret meetings in July and August alone with the White House to plan this strategy. These measures, we are informed, would include a massive expansion in the admission of new foreign workers, including more workers for information technology giants who are laying off Americans, in fact, more than they are hiring. We learned from Rutgers Professor Hal Salzman that two-thirds of all new IT jobs are now already being filled by foreign guest workers. Can you imagine that? We are turning out thousands of IT graduates, but two-thirds of the jobs are being filled by foreign workers, and wages are falling.

Americans wish to see record immigration levels—these high lawful levels of immigration that we have—reduced, not increased, by actually a 3-to-1 margin. But the proposal they are pushing and advocating would double the number of lawful workers while not dealing effectively with the unlawful flow.

Yet Senate Democrats are colluding with the White House to support the surge of these numbers. Studies show wage declines among all wage earners since 2009. There is a wage decline among all American workers. Wages have fallen since 2009, but the declines on a percentage basis are the greatest for our lower income workers. The people having the hardest time getting by have received the biggest percentage drop. Does this not concern our leaders? Has no one paid any attention to this fact?

So far our Senate Democratic Caucus has enabled the administration's lawless scheme every step of the way. Not one Senate Democrat has supported the House plan that would stop this Executive amnesty.

The House-passed legislation would stop it. It is waiting on the floor of the Senate to be called up for a vote. Not one Member of the Democratic leadership has even demanded that Mr. REID bring it up for a vote. Not one has pledged to stay here in Washington every day until this Executive amnesty is stopped.

But it is not too late. We are going to have a vote soon.

Where is the courage? Where is the independence that Senators should show? Where is the willingness to stand up to the political class, the lobbyists, the party bosses, the elite set in the Nation's Capital, and to stand by the side of the American people—indeed, to defend the institutional powers of Congress which alone has the power to make law, not the President. He cannot make law. He cannot give someone the right to work in America when the law says they are not able to work if they entered the country unlawfully. Until that happens, I have to say that every Senate Democrat is the President's partner in this scheme as surely as if they wrote the Executive orders themselves and as surely as if they were sitting right next to the interest groups huddling with White House aides to craft these orders.

So I have a message today for all the special interests, the globalist elites, the activists, and the cynical, vote-counting political plotters who are meeting in secret at the White House, and the message is this: You don't get to sit in a room and rewrite the laws of the United States of America. No, sir. Congress writes the laws. You may not be used to people telling you no, but I am telling you no today.

It is critical that our Senate Democrats be willing to say no today when we vote.

I also have a message for the American people: You have been right from the beginning. You have justly demanded that our borders be controlled, our laws enforced, and that at long last immigration policy serve the needs of our own people first. For this virtuous and legitimate demand, you have been demeaned, even scorned by the governing class, the cosmopolitan elites. They know so much. They want you to believe that your concerns are somehow illegitimate, that you are wrong for being worried about your jobs or your schools or your hospitals or your communities or your national security.

These elite citizens of the world speak often of their concern about people living in poverty overseas. Yet they turn a blind eye to the poverty and suffering in their own country. They don't want you to speak up either. They don't want you to be heard. They don't want you to feel you have a voice. But you do have a voice, American people, and your message is being heard. I am delivering that message to the Senate today.

This is a moment of choosing for every Senator. Where will history record that you stood in the face of the President's promise to unlawfully nullify immigration law in America?

There will be a motion made soon that will allow the Senate to block the President's planned Executive amnesty. This is simply to pass the legislation the House has already passed. This is a commonsense Senate action.

If you believe we are a sovereign nation with a right to control our borders—and don't we have that right?—then you must vote yes. Let's bring it up before this unlawful Executive order for amnesty occurs.

If you go along with the idea that America is an oligarchy run by a group of special interests meeting at the White House to rewrite the immigration laws of America, then vote no.

The Nation is watching today. This is an issue of extreme importance for the American people and for the rule of law. Will you at long last break from your majority leader, Democratic colleagues, or will you once again surrender your vote to Mr. REID and the groups meeting in secret at the White House to thereby enable their lawless actions?

In its almost 2 years of existence—this Congress that has been in existence here going on 2 years now has failed to pass a single appropriations bill on time, and now we are facing another CR. Pass everything—one vote to fund the entire government and not a single amendment is being allowed.

This Senate has violated the laws that limited spending that we voted for and spent more than allowed. It has blocked amendments to such a degree that the entire heritage of free debate and free rights to amend laws has been violated and damaged substantially in this Senate.

If we leave town without having passed a bill to block this Executive amnesty, then it will be a permanent stain on the Senate, the constitutional order, and this entire Democratic caucus.

I know the pressure is to stay hitched and stay in line, but Senate Democrats do have the power to vote differently. Senator MANCHIN voted differently last time, and others can also. It is time to stand up and be counted for the working people in this country and enact legislation in their interest.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Does the Senator from Texas wish to speak?

Mr. CRUZ. I intend to, yes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. The Senator from Alabama finished his speech and didn't suggest the absence of a quorum, so I was going to speak. But since the Senator from Texas has been waiting, please go ahead and proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, we have a crisis in this country. We have a crisis at our southern border that is producing some 90,000 unaccompanied children coming into this country. These kids are being victimized. These kids are being physically and sexually abused by violent coyotes and drug cartels.

The American people understand we have a crisis, and the American people want action. The House of Representatives understands we have a crisis. The House of Representatives has acted. Yet I am sorry to say the majority leader and the Democrats in this body refuse to allow any action to address this crisis.

The crisis at the border is the direct consequence of President Obama's lawlessness. Just 3 years ago, in 2011, there were roughly 6,000 unaccompanied kids coming into this country, and then in 2012, a few months before the election, President Obama unilaterally granted amnesty to some 800,000 people who entered the country illegally as children. The predicted consequence is that if

you grant amnesty to those who enter illegally as children, it creates an enormous incentive for more and more children to enter illegally. As a result, we have seen the numbers go from 6,000 unaccompanied kids 3 years ago to approximately 90,000 this year, and next year, the Department of Homeland Security predicts, there will be 145,000 little boys and little girls illegally smuggled, victimized, and brutalized.

This needs to stop. We need leadership in Washington. We need leadership in both Houses of Congress. We need leadership from both Republicans and Democrats. Yet not only do President Obama and the Senate Democrats refuse to do anything to solve this problem, but, I am sorry to say, it is even worse.

In recent weeks President Obama told the American people he intends to grant even more amnesty. The first illegal amnesty of some 800,000 people was not enough, so in his view we need more. He intends to illegally grant amnesty to 5 or 6 million more people. Mark my words: The President of the United States intends to illegally grant amnesty. Amnesty is coming. Yet we heard in recent days that the President has decided to delay that action until just after the election.

There are a lot of cynical policies in Washington, DC. Yet this has to rank very near the top. For the President of the United States to say he understands the American people don't want amnesty, but since there is an election coming up, he intends to pass the policy which they don't want, don't believe in, and which subverts the rule of law just after the election so that the Senate Democrats can campaign and say they had nothing to do with it—what does that say about what the President thinks about the American people? That he thinks they are not paying close enough attention to understand that this election is a referendum on amnesty? That he thinks they won't remember by the time the next election happens?

Well, here is the bottom line: Amnesty is the wrong approach that created the crisis. The only way to solve this crisis and protect and prevent those little boys and little girls from being physically and sexually abused is to end President Obama's amnesty and prospectively stop the promise of amnesty that is causing these kids to come here illegally.

I introduced legislation in the Senate to do exactly that, and the House of Representatives, to their credit, stood up and led. They stayed in session an extra day before the August recess to come together and pass the legislation I had introduced in the Senate. They passed it by a vote of 216 to 192, with 4 Democrats joining the Republicans to stop President Obama's amnesty in order to actually solve the crisis at the border. Yet what happened in the Senate? In the Senate the majority leader refused to allow a vote on the provision and sent the Senators home for August while doing nothing to address the problem.

The reason is simple: Although President Obama and Senate Democrats are afraid of the voters holding them accountable for amnesty, it should be lost on nobody watching that what is happening in the Senate is that the 55 Senate Democrats serving in this body affirmatively want amnesty.

If only this body would just do its job. If we would simply pass the legislation the House has already passed, prospectively taking amnesty off the table—and by the way, this bill does nothing, zero, to the so-called DREAMers who are already here. It doesn't address that issue. This issue addresses the promise of amnesty in the future. As long as these children believe they will get amnesty, they will keep coming here illegally. They will keep being victimized and abused.

Unfortunately, the majority leader has employed a procedural trick called filling the tree. It is a trick this body is now quite familiar with because it is what the majority leader has done over and over to shut down every single amendment from every Member of this body.

To be fair, majority leaders in both parties have used this trick in the past. The previous six majority leaders used the procedural trick of filling the tree a total of 40 times. The current Democratic majority leader has used it almost 90 times since 2006. The current majority leader has used it more than double what his six previous predecessors did. Roughly two-thirds of the time this procedural trick has been employed, it has been by the majority leader of this body.

What does that do? What that does is it says legislation in this body will shut down the right of amendments for every Senator. What it says to the 26 million Texans is that their views don't matter because neither Senator CORNYN nor I will be allowed to offer any amendments. It says to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Maryland, the States of New York and California: Your views don't matter. Why? Because the majority leader has stripped your Senators of the right to offer any amendment on any topic whatsoever.

The majority leader has done that nearly 90 times—including on this continuing resolution, including on the basic bill that funds the government because the Senate has failed to appropriate the funds that we should be doing otherwise.

This is wrong. It is fundamentally wrong. The American people deserve a vote. If Senate Democrats want to embrace amnesty, let them do so openly and in daylight. Stop hiding. People are frustrated with Washington because they recognize politicians say one thing here and one thing at home. How many Senate Democrats, particularly in red States, go home to their States and say amnesty is a terrible thing and then come back here and facilitate the President illegally granting amnesty. How about we have some honesty. How about we have elected Members of this body say and do the same in Washington that they say and do back home. Don't hide. How about we all tell the truth. And the truth is the 55 Senate Democrats want amnesty, but they don't want the voters to know. They are celebrating that President Obama has said: Fear not, the amnesty is coming, but we will wait until after the election. That cynicism is fundamentally inconsistent with the obligation every Member of this body owes to our constituents.

So I am pleased we will get a vote—despite the majority leader's best efforts—on amnesty, because momentarily this body is going to have the opportunity to vote, and I predict most, if not all, Senate Democrats will vote in favor of President Obama's amnesty.

I have a lot higher opinion of the American people, of the voters, than it seems the President does. I think the American people understand what is going on and I don't think they are going to be fooled by the President delaying his illegal amnesty until after the election. So we are going to get a vote on this matter.

AMENDMENT NO. 3852

For that reason, I move to table Reid amendment No. 3852 for the purposes of offering the Cruz-Sessions amendment No. 3859, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the solution to this immediate crisis along our Nation's border and our longer term immigration needs necessarily need to begin with the President finally enforcing the law—that set of laws already on the books. There is no amount of money Congress can spend, there is no new law that could solve this crisis, if the President and the leadership of his party continue down their lawless path.

There are several steps the President can take—and he can take those steps immediately—that do not require any action by Congress or another dime from the American people. The most important action he could take would be to stop abusing his ''prosecutorial discretion'' and end the DACA Program which provides administrative amnesty and work permits to those who have

entered the United States illegally as minors. He also needs to resist the temptation to further expand DACA to millions of additional adults and send a strong message to respond quickly by returning those who enter the United States illegally back to their home countries.

By announcing to the world that he will not enforce our Nation's laws by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to process and return those who have already come here unlawfully, the President of the United States is encouraging hundreds of thousands of children and adults to make a very dangerous journey to the United States illegally. He is encouraging families to pay coyotes controlled by drug cartels thousands of dollars to smuggle their children into this country. That is truly the humanitarian crisis we now face.

This continuing resolution—the continuing resolution now before the Senate—provides funds for the DACA Program and any other Executive amnesty the President may choose to implement illegally.

I, along with my friends and colleagues from Alabama and from Texas, wish to offer an amendment prohibiting funding to process prospective applications, but the majority has objected, so we will attempt to table the Reid amendment in order to allow that vote.

The President's threat to widen the scope of DACA is only going to make matters worse—matters in this pronounced humanitarian crisis we are facing along our border—which is why I agree with my friends, Senators SESSIONS and CRUZ, that, at the very least, we must take steps to prevent the President from providing any more executive amnesty.

ISIS

Now I wish to speak about some other issues related to the continuing resolution and, in so doing, I wish to point out that one of the most important and solemn duties we have as Members of the Senate is to authorize the use of military force and ask the brave men and women in our armed services to put their lives in harm's way. It is, I believe, a gross dereliction of that duty, and an insult to those same men and women, to tack on a military authorization to this must-pass spending bill just so Members of Congress can hurry back to their home States. If the United States is going to escalate our involvement in a brutal conflict overseas, if we are going to send American troops to harm and train Syrian rebels for their fight against ISIS, we need to debate that decision on its own merits and not take this up simply as a condition of providing ongoing funding for the Federal Government as a whole. That is the only way for this issue to receive the kind of careful attention and robust debate it truly deserves. We owe it to our men and women in uniform to separate any military authorization from this must-pass spending bill to keep the government funded. If that means we do not get home early, so be it. The lives of our troops, the lives of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and those who support them, and the security of the United States are simply far too important.

I believe, as does the President of the United States, that ISIS is a threat to the Middle East and will take any opportunity it gets to kill Americans. Many of its fighters carry European and even American passports which will offer them easier access to the United States. Tracking and stopping these foreign fighters must be a high priority for the President and for the Congress, and our allies must work to stop the flow of these fighters into and out of the conflict zone half a world away. We must attack their finances, their abilities to communicate and coordinate and access weapons and supplies. The United States can and should act to protect ourselves from this threat.

There is a clearly defined constitutional process for doing that—a process which involves the participation of the President as the Commander in Chief and Members of Congress as representatives of the American people invested with the power to declare war. But are we following that clearly defined process? Are we adhering to this prudent set of procedures we are supposed to follow under our now 227-year-old governing document? No. Instead, we are openly flouting it. Instead, we are considering an authorization of military force almost as an afterthought. We are doing so by attaching it to a continuing resolution which itself reduces, in a very shameless and disgraceful way, Congress's spending authority to another afterthought. Why? Well, because, as far as I can tell, some in Congress want to go home early. They are so anxious to get to their next recess, to get back to their home State, that they are willing to give inadequate attention to this very serious problem that affects every American, that has implications not only for national security but for the security of 300 million Americans. It has especially grave implications for the brave men and women who wear our uniforms, whose lives would be on the line as a result of decisions made in connection with this effort.

This is shameful and it is unconscionable. It is an insult to the men and women we serve, and it is an insult to the men and women who wear uniforms and serve us well.

We should strike this section to arm and train Syrian rebels from the continuing resolution and instead have full debate and a separate vote on authorizing the President's strategy to address the ISIS threat. Forcing an authorization for our military to act in any manner through a continuing resolution up against a government shutdown does not meet the standards for this process and it does not afford the American people, many of whom are servicemembers, a voice regarding our Nation's most important affairs. We have ample reason to take the needed time to consider this decision on its own merits and not on the merits of a continuing resolution to keep the government funded.

The idea of arming Syrian rebels has drawn serious concern from Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle but, so far, only Members from certain key committees have been able to debate and discuss openly and in an official Senate forum the specifics of the President's plan. And even those of us who sit on those committees are still in need of much more information. I have had concerns for the past year as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee with the proposed tactic of arming the Syrian rebels after hearing testimony from our own intelligence and defense leaders that what we refer to as the ''moderate rebels'' are, in fact, fragmented and decentralized. Their memberships are fluid and often lacking in common goals, leadership, and levels of moderation.

This is borne out in press reports from the region almost weekly. In fact, a few months ago I asked General Austin, the commander of CENTCOM, if the United States would guarantee that the assistance we are supplying to moderates in Syria—the then-nonlethal aid—is not being used by or to the benefit of extremist groups that want to attack the United States.

His answer was:

> No, we cannot guarantee the assistance we provide doesn't fall into the wrong hands. Undoubtedly, some weapons and funds flowing into Syria wind up in the hands of extremists . . . . The extremists work closely with all factions of the opposition and is often aware of the logistics and humanitarian shipments into Syria. At times, they even acquire and disseminate these shipments to the local populace. This, in turn, benefits in the propaganda war.

That is probably why hardly a month ago—just a little over a month ago—President Obama called the idea of arming Syrian rebels a ''fantasy''—a fantasy that was, as he put it, ''never in the cards.'' Now he is seeking authorization for it. In less than a month, what was once a fantasy is now apparently the strategy. What was never in the cards is now not only in the cards but is a card that he is actually playing—and doing so as an afterthought, thrown on to a must-pass bill with an entirely different purpose and function.

On Tuesday in the Armed Services Committee hearing, when I asked Secretary Hagel why the President changed his mind on arming and training Syrian rebels, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel could not provide an explanation. This is troubling, to say the least. If there has been some change over the last month in national security threats or the capabilities and composition of a Syrian opposition group, why has the President not shared this with our Secretary of Defense? Or if there hasn't been a change,

then is there some reason other than American national security that may have caused the President to reverse course. The American people deserve answers to these and other related questions.

Another important issue that deserves full and open debate is that this is about more than just arming rebels to fight terrorists. It became clear through answers from administration officials in our Senate Armed Services hearing Tuesday that the Administration believes that a new government and political structure in Syria is needed for these rebel groups to be successful.

No one doubts that President Assad is a tyrant, one who has exacted terrible measures on his very own citizens, but our constituents need to understand—I want to be very clear here—that the idea of arming Syrian rebels to fight ISIS and Assad, while also standing up and supporting a new government in Syria, is more like a long-term nation-building mission than a counterterrorism mission.

The administration has not been clear on this point. If we are indeed taking steps towards a nation-building exercise in Syria, we must also debate both the financial and the tremendous human costs of such an endeavor.

The ISIS threat to the United States is serious. Our response should be given equally serious consideration here in the Senate. When my colleague on the Armed Services Committee, Senator FISCHER from Nebraska, mentioned how important she thought it was that this authorization be separate from the CR, Secretary Hagel stated that he agreed that it should have a ''more thorough airing with the American people,'' but that it couldn't receive such an airing because Congress was rushing home for a recess. This is not good enough for the Senate.

This is not good enough for the United States or for the American people. It is shameful. Our constituents expect us to do our jobs. If that means staying here a few more weeks, so be it. If that means staying here for a month or two months—however long it takes—then so be it.

If this plan is the right one, fine; if we need to adjust it or reject it, fine; but there is no such thing as a must-pass vote of conscience—not here, not on this topic. The American people deserve to have a debate about how and why we are sending their sons and daughters into danger. We should not set this precedent of sending Americans into harm's way as an afterthought, on our way out of town, like some kind of political out-of-office reply email. Congress used to be better than this, and I submit the American people still are.

I respectfully and strongly urge my colleagues to pull this section from the CR and have a full debate to give authorization for the President's actions in the Middle East. To this end, I am proposing we remove this language from the continuing resolution so that it may be considered separately and adequately.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Accordingly, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer my amendment No. 3845.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. MIKULSKI: I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I have heard a good part of the afternoon: Why can't we stay and debate this, and so on? I don't minimize the seriousness of the issues, whether they are about arming Syrian rebels, the potential for new kinds of military action, certainly the ongoing saga in Ukraine or also what is going on in our own country. Students are not being able to afford college, families are not being able to afford to buy a home, and work is not worth it because wages are frozen. We are pushing people to a standard of living less than what they had.

The people of the middle class are fighting hand-to-hand to stay middle class. Those who might want to get there are seeing the opportunity ladder sawed down. When we wanted to bring bills to the floor in a regular order and bring up regular appropriations that had both money and policy where people could have debated them in an orderly way, we had cluster bombs of parliamentary procedure thrown on where people hid behind votes on motions to proceed.

Some of the biggest critics today saying, why don't we stay here and debate, have been some of the biggest obstacles in insisting on bringing bills up in regular order. So here we are today in the closing hours of the CR. We have had much enlightened conversation that was actually to hear leaders talk about this and differences of opinions in the most civil way, with intellectual rigor and firmness of conviction.

That is what we should be doing. I would like to do more of it. This is why we need to reform ourselves. We like to talk a lot about reforming the country, changing Barack Obama, but we need to reform ourselves. We need to stop hiding behind cloture votes and motions to proceed, where you need 60 votes to just barely come up and salute the flag. So I am not going to go into this today, but I think we need to go into this. We need to take a look at ourselves and examine ourselves—how we can keep the traditions the same, protect the rights of the minority. But when all is said and done, the American people are fed up that more gets said than done and more gets said about saying things, and so on.

I am telling you, as I travel in Maryland, my constituents feel Washington means less and less relevance to them. They are also wondering: What is it that you do to get things done? They are asking these questions. You know what, they ought to ask these questions.

I am not going to take up the time. I know that other colleagues are coming to speak on the floor.

This whole thing about we have to stay and we have to do it—we have to do our business during the whole year. We can't do it in the last 3 hours, coming up on the crunch of the end of the fiscal year. All year long we have an opportunity to debate. All year long we have the opportunity to debate issues in our committee process and on the floor. I feel pretty strongly about this.

I hope that others who feel strongly, too, join a reform effort so we can honor the traditions of the Senate and protect the rights of the minority. But, hey, let's get back to the majority rules, regular order, and a debate that occurs all year long on issues and not just in a crisis environment.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Executive Calendar consent agreed to Wednesday, September 17, 2014, be modified to include Executive Calendar No. 925 following 1031, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

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

Ms. MIKULSKI: Mr. President, what that means is that we have now confirmed Alfonso E. Lenhardt to be the Deputy Administrator of USAID.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come first to support the distinguished chair of the Appropriations Committee in her endeavor to pass a continuing resolution. I, specifically, want to speak to support the President's request for authorization to stand up a title 10 overt, train and equip mission for vetted moderate Syrian opposition. The hearing I held yesterday in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee laid out specifics of how the President is moving forward in building the anti-ISIL coalition.

We will undertake targeted airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria. We will train and equip a Syrian opposition force committed to a pluralistic, free Syria.

This is a multifaceted plan, and we heard both from Secretary Kerry and a second panel of regional experts that coalition partners are ready to contribute in real terms and not just empty words.

The ISIL threat is grave and it is urgent. We must stand with our partners in the region to confront this barbarism in the interests of all of the individuals being brutalized by ISIL but also because regional stability and U.S. Security demand it.

Training and equipping a fighting Syrian force is one urgent element in the broader plan.

We in the Senate must provide this authority, as our colleagues in the House did yesterday. In Iraq we have the Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga forces committed to combating ISIL and partnering with us to do so. At this point in time we do not have such a force to partner with inside of Syria.

Let's be clear-eyed about what this challenge is. It is messy and complicated and not at all easy. There is no silver bullet. But without a trained, equipped, and capable moderate opposition force to fill the void, as we conduct airstrikes against ISIL, we would essentially be opening the door to Assad and his Russian- and Iranian-backed regime forces to regain lost territory.

Imagine how our adversaries will celebrate if we fail to build a force that is equipped, trained, and committed to defeating the barbarism of ISIL and Assad.

The administration was posed with the question yesterday: Why now? Why train these forces now, 4 years into this civil war?

There are several answers:

First, we have been working with these moderate armed groups for over 2 years now. We know them.

Second, there is no real alternative to building a local opposition force to take the fight on in Syria unless you are talking about American boots on the ground. That is not in play here.

Third, the region is standing with us in training and creating the ability to assist these Syrian rebels. It is truly a remarkable development that Saudi Arabia, for example, is willing to publicly discuss its support and publicly disclose that it will host and contribute to our train-and-equip mission. Other gulf countries are willing to fund this mission and help with recruiting efforts. No longer are our partners willing to quietly support from the shadows. They view the threat coming from Iraq and Syria with ISIL with such urgency that they are going public loudly and assertively.

I am clear-eyed about the enormity of the challenge. There is risk. But at this point, given the rapidity of ISIL's advance and the savagery of its actions, we must be willing to take some risk to degrade this brutal, barbaric organization. The fact is that Sunni neighbors across the region are lining up to join this mission.

The moderate Syrian forces we will train can pressure ISIL in Syria, the Iraqis from Iraq, and we pressure ISIL from the air. The question is, Why now? The response to the question is this: Yesterday I held—as the Presiding Officer knows, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed legislation last year to increase lethal assistance to the moderate rebels battling Assad in a bipartisan way. We do not get do-overs, so we cannot change what was not done. We cannot change what has already happened. But we can change what exists on the ground in Syria today. We can influence what happens going forward and work together to set conditions for how it ends.

Yesterday Robert Ford—our exceptional former U.S. Ambassador to Syria, probably our greatest expert on Syria and the rebels particularly, and until recently our senior State Department official working with the moderate opposition—could not have had more compelling testimony. In response to questions I posed to him about whether a moderate armed opposition still exists for us to train and arm, he said: Yes, they exist. Yes, they are already fighting ISIL. Yes, they share our view that a radical, extremist Islamic State should not be imposed on Syria. That conflict will only end with a political deal or negotiated settlement.

In response to questions about whether there is recruitment potential, whether we can find enough fighters who are moderate who will pass our vetting standards to receive our training, he said: Yes. We know them. We have provided them with nonlethal assistance, which they have used responsibly.

By the way, he described them as being pretty resilient in the face of being outgunned, that they are still engaged and fighting for their own future.

He also said: We have talked politics with them, meaning understanding where their mindset is as it relates to the future.

In fact, Mr. Ford said that the problem has always been that there were more willing fighters than there were guns and ammunition.

In response to whether the moderate armed Syrian opposition shares our goal of degrading ISIL, the answer was also affirmatively yes.

The force we train and arm will fight ISIL because ISIL is threatening their supply lines and has butchered hundreds of members of the moderate Syrian opposition. In Syria, the moderate opposition has been mired in a two-front war—one against ISIL and the other against Assad and his regime backers—for years. The language in the amendment to the CR reflects this reality. We are training and arming a force that will defend the Syrian people from ISIL attacks and also promote conditions for a negotiated settlement to end the conflict in Syria—in other words, going after Assad's security forces.

Finally, Ambassador Ford lamented that if we do not go forward with this proposal to train and equip the moderate armed opposition, Assad will likely become even more convinced that his strategy all along has worked. His strategy is to convince the world that he is the only viable alternative to ISIL and radical extremists and that we will eventually resolve ourselves to working with him.

Let me conclude by saying that the only course of action at this point in time is for us to commit to the grinding work of building a viable alternative, which is the moderate armed Syrian opposition.

Again, this is not going to happen overnight, but it certainly will not happen if there is not a moderate, capable alternative to Assad, a group that is neither radical nor has the barbarism of ISIL, nor the nihilistic, barrel bomb-dropping of Assad.

We must be realistic if we are going to degrade and destroy ISIL. Frankly, I still have many questions about the way forward beyond this issue. I intend to work with the administration to ensure that the plan is sound and the strategy is effective. We will continue to vet that through a series of both hearings and intelligence briefings. But I have no question that this particular action is needed now.

I fully intend for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to explore, vet, and ultimately craft what a possible authorization for use of military force should look like. In that regard, we need to get it right, not just do it fast. I do not want an AUMF that ultimately—as of September 2001—finds us 13 years later in a host of different countries that were never envisioned as being the authorization for it, to send the sons and daughters of America without the authorization of the Congress.

We will work on all of that in a determined, studious, and detailed way to make sure that we understand the strategy and all of its dimensions, that we can provide for that, and at the end of the day that we can defeat ISIL, but without an open-ended check.

With that, I urge support for the CR.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to express my disappointment about a matter of great importance to Wyoming and many other Western States. The continuing resolution before us does not include critical funding that nearly 1,900 counties in 49 States rely on.

Local governments are responsible for providing fire protection, law enforcement, sanitation, public health, and education, to our constituents. They provide these services largely by raising local revenue, including property taxes. In States where there is little federally owned land, local communities have a large number of private homeowners to help provide these services. But in States such as my home State of Wyoming, the Federal Government owns much of the land. The problem is that these Federal lands cannot be taxed. The Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, or PILT, has been in place for decades and is, essentially, the Federal Government's property taxes.

Last year's omnibus appropriations package did not fund PILT. Instead, the Farm bill provided 1 year of PILT funding. And since Congress has not

passed appropriations bills through regular order this year but is leaving fiscal year 2014 funding on autopilot, PILT isn't addressed in the legislation we are considering today. Yet local governments must still provide critical fire, law enforcement, and health services in these areas and for the people who work on them. What are we supposed to tell our communities that rely on this money for 40 to 80 percent of their budgets?

This body cannot fail to address this issue this year. To do so would break a promise we have made and would force communities to reduce or even eliminate the vital resources upon which their citizens rely. But we should not just address the issue for this year. We need to stop playing games with PILT and find a way to ensure it is adequately and fairly funded for years to come in a way that does not rob Peter to pay Paul.

Yes, the Federal Government is out of money. We are going to have to prioritize. But I would submit that PILT needs to be one of those priorities. PILT represents a promise the Federal Government made to counties and local governments all across the Nation, and they are looking to us to see how we will keep that promise. If we fail to do so, it will have an impact on almost every one of our States.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to express support for the continuing resolution which funds the government through December 11.

One provision in the bill I would like to focus on relates to our fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL.

I believe there is an urgent need to confront this terrorist group, and Congress can help this effort by supporting President Obama's plan and voting for the continuing resolution.

The CR includes a provision to provide the Defense Department with the authority for the U.S. Armed Forces to train and equip an opposition force capable of confronting ISIL.

I believe we must come together in large numbers—Democrats and Republicans—to pass this provision as quickly as possible. A strong bipartisan majority would give the Obama administration and the American people a strong sense of unity and purpose as we all grapple with the threat of ISIL. We must give the President the tools he needs to succeed. Providing the Defense Department with this authority is just one part of the comprehensive strategy, but it is an important one.

The President has said he has the legal authority to conduct airstrikes in Iraq and Syria and has laid out his strategy. After the election there will be ample time to debate the strategy further and potentially vote on a new authorization of military force, but in the short-term we must pass this authorization—at this time the only authority the administration has asked Congress to approve. If ever there were a time to unite behind President Obama, that time is now.

ISIL is like no other terrorist organization we have seen. It has become a ruthless terrorist army that occupies territory and controls civilian populations through fear, intimidation, and brutality.

It controls large swaths of land in two nations. In Syria it controls nearly one-third of the country, and in Iraq it effectively controls as many as 14 cities.

According to a recent CIA estimate, ISIL may have as many as 30,000 fighters—and separately there may be up to 25,000 Sunni tribesmen who have associated themselves with ISIL forces.

ISIL has looted heavy weaponry—including artillery, tanks and armored vehicles—from the battlefield. Much of that equipment is now being used against innocent civilians and our partners on the ground. ISIL has killed tens of thousands of people. They kill with abandon, including the brutal massacre of hundreds of Iraqi and Syrian soldiers, stripped, bound and buried in shallow graves. ISIL is also well-funded through criminality, ransom payments, extortion and the sale of oil. Its control of territory and resources is topped only by its level of brutality.

Over the past few weeks, I have personally reviewed photos, videos and personal stories of ISIL's countless victims. I have seen the beheading of American and British hostages and pictures of the crucifixion of many innocent civilians, including a girl as young as 6 years of age. I have seen photos of heads staked on fence posts and films of the mass-execution of Iraqi and Syrian army units. In one gory report, after ISIL took control of two oilfields in eastern Syria from the al-Sheitaat tribe, they summarily executed 700 tribesmen. I have read stories of women bound to trees and forced to be sexual prizes for ISIL fighters who performed well in battle. There are reports that thousands of Yazidi women have been taken as slaves and I have read the testimonials of the few who were lucky enough to escape. They describe being confined, eating only once a day, being given away as wives, raped and abused at the hands of ISIL fighters. I have seen devastating footage of Yazidis and Christians literally running for their lives from approaching ISIL forces, faced with the choice of converting to Islam or death. When one Yazidi girl was surrounded by ISIL fighters, she said, ''I've never felt so helpless in my 14 years. They had blocked our path to safety, and there was nothing we could do.''

The lack of humanity is shocking and despicable. It is pure evil and it should haunt the world. And while ISIL is now limited to Syria and Iraq, it has made clear its intentions are to bring the fight to the United States and our allies.

In Iraq, a major concern of mine is that their next attack will be our Embassy in Baghdad. I have no doubt that ISIL leaders also intend to hit us here in our homeland.

In July 2012, ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi said: ''The mujahidin have also sworn they will make you suffer more pain than that caused by Usama [bin Laden]. You will see them in your own country, God willing.''

In January of this year, during his radio address, Baghdadi added: ''Our last message is to the Americans. Soon we'll be in direct confrontation, and the sons of Islam have prepared for such a day. So watch out for us, for we are with you, watching.''

Finally, in a video posted on August 19, 2014, the executioner of James Foley stated: ''So any attempt by you, Obama, to deny the Muslims their rights of living in safety under the Islamic Caliphate will result in the bloodshed of your people.''

We have no specific information that ISIL is planning an attack against the United States, but we also had no clear understanding of al-Qaeda's specific plotting in the days before 9/11 an attack that would claim nearly 3,000 American lives.

ISIL's territorial control, resources, brutality and intention to broaden their attacks make it clear that we must act. I support the President's actions to confront and ultimately destroy ISIL.

As he has said, we will expand airstrikes against ISIL targets, including in Syria; maintain a united international coalition—with Arab countries—that will contribute to the fight in meaningful ways; encourage continued political reconciliation in Baghdad to diminish ISIL's support from Sunni tribes; halt the flow of foreign fighters and resources to ISIL; and provide weapons to the Kurdish peshmerga, Iraqi security forces and moderate forces inside Syria.

Action is currently underway in many of those areas. Air strikes have helped defend key infrastructure such as the Mosul Dam and protected civilians in Amirli and Mt. Sinjar. More recently, the President has expanded the air campaign by going on the offensive and attacking ISIL on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Secretaries Kerry and Hagel have been building a coalition with international partners, including much of Europe and at least 10 Arab nations. New Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is in the process of finalizing the Cabinet and has made sincere efforts to bridge the sectarian divide. These are all steps in the right direction. Today, the necessary action before us is to pass this CR, which provides limited authority to train and equip a military force to fight ISIL on the ground. The President has ruled out putting U.S. ground forces in combat roles for now, so we must have partners that can take the fight to ISIL. Without such a force, ISIL will continue to enjoy a safe haven in eastern Syria and once ISIL is pushed out of territory, the Assad regime or other extremists could fill the vacuum.

Bolstering this fighting force is critical to our goal of degrading and destroying ISIL. While it is just one part of the President's plan, it will work in conjunction with our ongoing diplomatic, intelligence, military and economic efforts.

The continuing resolution includes the authority the Defense Department needs to begin training such a force. The provision also requires the administration to produce a plan to explain how arming the moderate opposition fits within the President's larger regional strategy to defeat ISIL. It also requires regular reports to Congress to keep us informed of the training activities.

We already know Saudi Arabia is prepared to host a training program, and I suspect other Arab states will help fund it. But without this authority in this CR, U.S. troops and trainers will not be able to participate in this essential program.

Regardless of whether we waited too long to confront ISIL, we now have a strategy that we need to support to turn the tide. U.S. airstrikes in Iraq have protected our people and prevented a humanitarian catastrophe. As we now take the fight directly to ISIL, Congress needs to give the President the tools he needs to ramp up the battle.

This is a matter of national security and I hope members of both parties will come together to support the President's request.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Senate is about to vote on a continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government from October 1 to December 11. This vote should not be necessary. There is no good reason why we are not voting on fiscal year 2015 appropriations bills to fund the government the way we used to rather than a continuing resolution that keeps the government on autopilot despite many new and compelling needs.

Chairwoman MIKULSKI of the Appropriations Committee and her counterpart in the House, Chairman ROGERS, have made this argument as well as any two people could. It is unacceptable that the Congress, which has the power of the purse, fails to use that power in a responsible manner. Passing annual appropriations bills should be a priority for both parties, and I hope that between now and when this short-term CR expires, we can do our job and finish work on those bills which were reported by the Appropriations Committee months ago—and send them to the President.

Nine months ago, when the fiscal year 2014 omnibus was enacted, no one anticipated the Ebola epidemic which has infected thousands of people and today threatens all of Africa, thus, there is little funding available to combat it. The Defense Department, USAID, CDC, and others are scrambling to reprogram funds from other important programs.

Nine months ago, no one envisioned the surge in young migrants from Central America, and so the Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Agency for International Development are reprogramming funds. But it is not nearly enough to address the horrific gang violence and endemic poverty in those countries that are contributing to the flood of refugees across our border.

Nine months ago, did anyone here predict that ISIS would be routing units of the Iraqi army, beheading Americans, and seizing control of territory? Did anyone foresee Russia's intervention in Ukraine? Did anyone foresee that we would be sending U.S. military advisors to Nigeria to help track down hundreds of school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram? There is no money in the budget for any of this, so we are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bills have been reported out of committee with strong bipartisan support. Let's debate them. Senators can offer amendments. We can vote. That is what we should be doing instead of kicking the ball down the road for another 2½ months.

Obviously, we all recognize the need to keep the Federal Government operating. As much as I disagree with this approach, I would vote for the continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown. But this vote does far more than that. It authorizes the President under title 10 of the U.S. Code to provide training and weapons to Syrian rebel forces. In other words, we are authorizing U.S. military intervention in Syria's civil war which for the past 2 years the administration has strongly advised against and doing so by tacking that authority onto a short-term spending bill to keep the government operating.

As much as I believe the United States should support the fight against ISIS and as much as I commend the President and Secretary KERRY for their efforts to build a coalition to that end, I am not convinced that the President's plan to intervene in Syria can succeed. There are too many unanswered questions about the composition, intentions, allegiances, and capabilities of the so-called ''moderate'' Syrian rebels who, like the Iraqi militias that openly admit to atrocities, are accountable to no one.

There is too little clarity about the White House's intentions, particularly when there is talk of unilateral air attacks against ISIS by U.S. forces inside Syrian territory. There has been too little discussion of the potential consequences of this strategy for the brutal Assad regime which also opposes ISIS, for the anti-ISIS coalition, or for Iran's or Russia's ability to expand their influence in that region.

We have been assured that recipients of U.S. military equipment are vetted and that the use of the equipment is monitored. Yet we have seen U.S. military vehicles and weapons worth millions of dollars in the hands of ISIS and other anti-American groups in Iraq and Libya. Who can say who else has gotten their hands on them, or that the weapons we provide the Syrian rebels will not be used against innocent civilians or end up in the hands of our enemies?

The House resolution we are voting on addresses this issue narrowly, requiring vetting only as it relates to association with terrorists or Iran. It says nothing about vetting for gross violations of human rights, as would be required for assistance for foreign security forces under the Leahy Amendment.

The administration says we need to defeat ISIS. I don't disagree. ISIS is a barbaric enterprise that has no respect for human life and poses a grave threat to anyone it encounters, including Americans. Yet that is what the previous White House said about Al Qaeda. A dozen years and hundreds of billions of dollars and many American lives later, Al Qaeda is a shadow of what it once was but is far from defeated.

Since 9/11, numerous offshoots of Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups have proliferated not only in South Asia but throughout the Middle East and into east and north Africa. And one of those groups, formerly affiliated with Al Qaeda, is ISIS. Some say ISIS is worse than Al Qaeda. If ISIS is defeated, who comes next?

Not long ago the President said the sweeping 2001 authorization for the use of military force against those responsible for the 9/11 attacks should be repealed. Yet the White House recently cited it as a basis for attacking ISIS. Alternatively, the White House says the President has the authority he needs under the 2002 authorization for the use of military force to defeat Saddam Hussein. No objective reading of those resolutions supports that conclusion. Yet here we are about to embark on another open ended war against terrorism, albeit, thankfully, without U.S. ground troops.

We can help combat ISIS, and we must, but the Governments of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and others in that region—some of which have vast wealth—need to show they share that goal at least as much as we do, not just by their statements but by their actions.

They should take the lead. We can support them, although Saudi Arabia, besides being a major oil supplier, has one of the world's most repressive governments and Saudi charities have been a steady source of revenue for extremist groups. One has to wonder whether such alliances help or hurt us in the long run.

I have thought hard about this. It is far from black and white. I deeply respect the President. In the end, he may be right. But I worry about the slippery slope we may be starting down in the thick of a sectarian civil war. I am not prepared—on a stop-gap, short-term spending bill containing authority drafted by the House of Representatives, in the waning hours of the day of

adjournment, and with no opportunity for amendments—to endorse a policy that will involve spending hundreds of millions and almost certainly billions of dollars over multiple years to train and arm Syrian fighters who may or may not share our goals or values, not in a part of the world where past U.S. military interventions with similarly vague goals involving similarly questionable allies have consistently turned out very differently from the Pollyannaish predictions of former Pentagon and White House officials. Time and again we have been assured of relatively quick and easy success, only to pay dearly over the course of protracted, costly wars that fell far short of their lofty goals and unleashed forces of hatred that no one predicted.

Year after year, the administration asked Congress for billions of dollars to support former Iraqi President Malaki's government. Yet the White House now concedes that his sectarian policies and the widely reported abuses of the Iraqi army that the U.S. trained and equipped were a cause of the resentment and divisions that contributed to the rise of ISIS and threaten to break Iraq apart.

The Iraq war was a disaster for this country. The families of Americans who gave their lives or were grievously injured will suffer the consequences for many years to come. It caused lasting damage to our national reputation and to the image and readiness of our armed forces. Yet I worry that other than trying to avoid another costly deployment of U.S. ground troops, we have learned little from that fiasco. The Middle East is no place to intervene militarily without a thorough understanding of the history and the centuries-old tribal, religious, and ethnic rivalries that have far more relevance than anything we might think we can achieve.

Does that mean there is no role for the United States in that part of the world? Of course not. But rather than set goals that may or may not be realistic but will almost certainly have profound and potentially dangerous unintended and unanticipated consequences, let's have a real debate that thoroughly considers all the options, all the costs, all the pros and cons. This is far too important a decision to be dealt with in such a cursory manner.

So I will vote no, with the hope that in November or December we will revisit this issue and have the real debate we are avoiding today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I know that the hour is late and that my colleague from Oklahoma wishes to speak as well. I know Senators are eager to vote. I will not be long, but I will try to be concise in what I am about to say.

I came to the Senate primarily motivated by many different things, but one of the things that truly motivated me was the fiscal state of our country, the fear that our current spending patterns are not just unsustainable but threaten our future and impede our ability to achieve what I believe is our destiny—another American century.

That is why each time I have been here and I have had an opportunity placed before me to vote on a short-term spending matter, I have voted against it—because I felt they ignored our long-term problems of spending in this country and did not deal with them in a responsible way.

Once again, today we are confronted with a short-term spending bill that we are asked to approve; otherwise, the government will shut down and the world will stop spinning. But today's question is a little different from the ones that have been posed to us in the past. The one before us today has deeply imbedded in it an issue of national security.

For the better part of 3 years, I have argued that what is happening in Syria is in our national interest. Many, quite frankly, in my own party but also in the White House disagreed with my view. They felt that it was a regional conflict or one that could be handled by leading from behind. So from that time until today we have largely watched as events have unfolded in Syria without carefully explaining to the American people why we should care.

But I believed then—and I think I have been proven right by recent events—that what happened in Syria and what was happening in Syria was in our national interests because if we failed to influence the direction of that situation, it would leave open a space for radical jihadists from all over the world to establish an operation space from which they could carry out their plots not just against us but all free and freedom-loving people and peace-loving people in the world.

Sadly, that is what has happened in Syria. A protracted conflict has left open spaces, and foreign radical jihadists from everywhere on this planet have flowed to the deserts of Syria, where they set up organizations not just designed to topple Assad but to establish an Islamic caliphate that oversees multiple countries in the Middle East and ultimately will target us. I say ''target us'' because that caliphate cannot exist unless they drive America from the region. The way they intend to drive us from that region is by terrorizing us. Those efforts began recently when we saw the brutal murder of two brave young Americans—including one from my home State—for doing nothing other than being present and being from America.

Now we find ourselves in this situation. I feel the President and, as I said, people in both parties have taken too long to realize what a threat this is. I recognize that the options before us now are not as good as they would have been had we dealt with this 2 years ago, 3 years ago, or even 6 or 9 months ago. We have plenty of time in the weeks and months and years to come to debate what should have been done. I anticipate I will be involved in that debate because there are lessons to be learned from that. But today, as leaders of this country, we are called on to decide what we do now. What do we do now when confronted with a very real threat that, left unconfronted, will become a very real danger for the people we represent here in this country?

The President has come forward with a plan—a plan that I wish he had come forward with 6 months ago, that I called for 3 months ago. But I suppose, as in most things, better late than never. Even if late means our chances of success have been minimized, even if it will cost more money, and even if it will now take longer, better late than never.

That is the question before us now. I wish we had a separate debate on this issue. I wish we had a separate debate on this issue with regard to arming moderate rebel elements in Syria because there are real reasons to be concerned not just about whom we are arming but whether it will work.

I wish we had more time to debate the broader plan and come before this body and ask for an authorization for the use of force, although I think there is a compelling argument to be made that for immediate action, the President, as the Commander in Chief, does not need that authorization. We were not given that opportunity. What they are cheating is not just the political process, for in that debate we would have been able to inform the American people so they too would have learned more about this, but as a nation we could have come to a consensus about what the right thing to do is. But in the end, that is not the opportunity before us now. We are asked to decide things in this Chamber that are in the best interests of our country even if they did not work out the way we wanted them to or did not develop the way we wanted them to. That is what is before us here today.

I say this to you without a shadow of a doubt, as I said weeks ago: If we do not confront and defeat ISIL now, we will have to do so later. It will take a lot longer. It will be much costlier and even more painful. We will confront ISIL one way or the other—I believe the sooner, the better.

What we are asked to do now is approve funding to arm moderate rebel elements in Syria. There is no guarantee of success. There is none. But there is a guarantee of failure if we do not even try. Try we must for one fundamental reason: If we fail to approve this, the nations of that region will say that America is not truly engaged, that Americans are willing to talk about this but are not willing to do anything about it.

So despite my concerns about the underlying bill and the budgeting it entails, I will support this resolution because I think it is in the best interests of our national security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time for the minority has expired.

Mr. COBURN. I have an inquiry of the Chair. It was my understanding that I had 4 minutes remaining on our side and that Senator RUBIO had time granted to him by the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Is that not correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is unaware of that arrangement.

Mr. COBURN. What I would simply do is ask unanimous consent that I have 7 minutes to make a statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. MIKULSKI. If the Senator can stick to 7 minutes, we have no objection.

Mr. COBURN. I can stick to 7 minutes. I will hear the gavel come down and I will quit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the motion of the Senator from Oklahoma is accepted and the Senator is recognized.

Mr. COBURN. First, I give praise to the chair and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee for the cooperative nature of the committee this year in terms of inserting good government amendments into appropriations bills. It was a real pleasure to be able to work with them and to put some of the oversight results that we have done over the past few years into appropriations bills.

The bill we have on the floor, even though the chair is supporting the bill, is not her bill. It is a bill that came to her from House Republicans. So any criticism I might have of the bill is certainly not directed toward the chair of the Appropriations Committee. But it is important to be reminded of what the Congress told the American people less than 2 years ago, that we were going to go on a diet, and then 1 year ago when we had the Ryan-Murray agreement.

I will outline where we are with what we are getting ready to vote on, because we are about $47 billion above what we agreed to in the Ryan-Murray budget, and that doesn't include emergency funding.

Appropriators didn't write this bill. This bill came out of the House. We understand the timing of it, we understand the process. But this bill doesn't keep our word to the American public that we said we were going to keep. That is No. 1.

No. 2 is the chair of the Appropriations Committee attempted to put bills on the floor, and she was open to an amendment process. One bill was pulled because there was no agreement to allow any amendments to $3.6 trillion worth of spending—none, zero. That wasn't her desire. She is a fair broker in this body for what needs to be done when it comes to spending.

So I would make the point on the fiscal aspect of this bill.

When criminals in this country hurt other people, judges throughout the country—and Federal judges—impose a penalty, and criminals who are convicted end up paying into a Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund isn't Federal tax dollars, it is individual payments by felons to make amens for damage and injury to people upon whom their crime was cast.

In this bill is $20 billion worth of false savings, but the way we calculate it is since we are not going to spend the money that is due to the crime victims, we are going to say that is going to save us money and, so, therefore, we can spend that money somewhere else.

If you did that on your income taxes or if you were a corporation and filed that with the SEC, it wouldn't take long for you to be in jail. But that is what the appropriators in the House did and we just got through doing this last December, the same amount of money on the same fund.

What I want the American people to see is regardless of whether you think we ought to pass this bill, shouldn't there be some clarity about the integrity of our numbers? Shouldn't we, if we can't meet the guidelines, just admit it and say we can't meet it rather than saying we are meeting it and create a false set of numbers? Shouldn't we at least do that? Aren't the American people worth that?

But instead, we have $11.8 billion from the Crime Victims Fund and $6.3 billion from the Children's Health Fund, which are false savings. They are not real savings.

So we are not going to be honest.

Well, I am going to be honest. The American public, the Senate, and the authors of this bill in the House will be lying to you if you believe the numbers in this bill. They are not true.

That is not the chair of the Appropriations Committee who made that decision, it was the House appropriators who made that decision to use false numbers to create a false set of achievements.

Finally, and I think I am about out of time, I would say there is one other aspect that disturbs me about this bill.

We have a mess in the Middle East today. Sitting on the Intelligence Committee and sitting on Homeland Security, I don't disagree we ought to be involved in terms of going after ISIS, but I think we ought to recognize that we created the problem in the first place. We created the vacuum that allowed that to flourish.

I will state my assessment of where we are. We now have recognized this threat and we have a political plan but no real policy plan to confront ISIS.

Having just heard from both the head of the CIA and also the Defense Department in response to the President's plan, what I can tell you is we know that something needs to be done, but your government doesn't yet know what to do.

I know there is authorization for monies in here. We need it. We are going to have to fight it. But let's be very clear, as Members of this body, to ask the important questions so that we don't go down a road that is made even worse. We have the brain power in the Senate, the experience, and the gray hair to do that.

I ask my colleagues to be very careful—not with this; this is going to happen. This CR is going to happen. It is a terrible way to run the government. The appropriations chair doesn't want to run it this way, but let's be very careful on the questions we ask in the future.

I thank the chair of the Appropriations Committee for her kindness in yielding me the time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I hope to say a few words to the Senator from Oklahoma before he leaves the floor. We are in the closing hours of not only this debate but of this session of Congress. I say to the Senator from Oklahoma on the brink of his retirement from the Senate how much I have enjoyed serving with him. Although we have different views from time to time, he has played a very important role in this institution relating in terms of focusing on so many aspects of folly, fraud, stupidity, and duplication. I could go on.

I thank you. I know how we joined shoulder to shoulder on no more lavish spending at some of those conferences where it was $4 for a Swedish meatball. But seriously, as we worked on this year's appropriations, he and I actually met on how we could improve government and keep a careful eye, with some of us saying just get rid of some of the things that cost money and add no value to the government or its compelling needs.

I thank the Senator for his service in the Senate.

Also, hopefully, when we return, we can work on an omnibus to incorporate the very reforms around waste, duplication, and folly that we worked together on on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. COBURN. I thank my colleague.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, we are in the closing hours of debate. There are two other Senators who will be coming to speak. I hope they will be here sooner. There is a lot going on, and I want to encourage colleagues, as we get ready, to urge a vote on passage of the continuing resolution.

This measure will keep government going through December 11. But make no mistake, this is government on auto pilot.

I hope to be back in December, shoulder to shoulder with Senator SHELBY, where we will work on a comprehensive funding legislation—in other words, an omnibus.

This is Washington speak. I mean, really, we use words nobody understands: continuing resolutions, omnibus, motions to proceed. But in plain English, it would mean taking all 12 subcommittees that are in charge of funding the government through due

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.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hagan	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Pryor
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Corker	Kirk	Shelby
Cornyn	Landrieu	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NAYS—50

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Levin	Udall (CO)
Casey	Markey	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskill	Walsh
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, on the remaining three votes, I ask unanimous consent that they be 10 minutes in duration.

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 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.J. Res. 124, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., John E. Walsh, Mazie K. Hirono, Cory A. Booker, Heidi Heitkamp, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Carl Levin.

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 H.J. Res. 124, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 73, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Ayotte	Hatch	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blunt	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Hoeven	Reid
Boozman	Isakson	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johanns	Rubio
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kirk	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCain	Vitter
Feinstein	McCaskill	Walsh
Flake	McConnell	Warner
Franken	Menendez	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Merkley	Wicker
Graham	Mikulski	Wyden
Hagan	Murkowski	
Harkin	Murray	

NAYS—27

Alexander	Crapo	Moran
Baldwin	Cruz	Murphy
Barrasso	Enzi	Paul
Begich	Fischer	Risch
Brown	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Manchin	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). On this vote, the yeas are 73, the nays are 27. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back and the pending amendments are withdrawn.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

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

Mr. ENZI. 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 assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Donnelly	Kaine
Ayotte	Durbin	King
Bennet	Feinstein	Kirk
Blumenthal	Fischer	Klobuchar
Blunt	Flake	Landrieu
Booker	Franken	Levin
Boozman	Graham	McCain
Boxer	Grassley	McCaskill
Burr	Hagan	McConnell
Cantwell	Harkin	Menendez
Cardin	Hatch	Merkley
Carper	Heinrich	Mikulski
Casey	Heitkamp	Murkowski
Chambliss	Hirono	Murray
Coats	Hoeven	Nelson
Cochran	Inhofe	Portman
Collins	Isakson	Pryor
Coons	Johanns	Reed
Corker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Rockefeller
Rubio	Stabenow	Vitter
Schatz	Tester	Walsh
Schumer	Thune	Warner
Scott	Toomey	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Udall (CO)	Wicker
Shelby	Udall (NM)	Wyden

NAYS—22

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Risch
Begich	Leahy	Roberts
Brown	Lee	Sanders
Coburn	Manchin	Sessions
Crapo	Markey	Warren
Cruz	Moran	
Enzi	Murphy	

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 124) was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK WILLIAM LIPPERT, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

NOMINATION OF ADAM M. SCHEINMAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF KEVIN F. O'MALLEY TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND

NOMINATION OF BATHSHEBA NELL CROCKER TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS)

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH SHERWOOD-RANDALL TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY

NOMINATION OF ROBERT W. HOLLEYMAN II TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF ERIC ROSENBACH TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

NOMINATION OF D. NATHAN SHEETS TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NOMINATION OF CHARLES H. FULGHUM TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF ALFONSO E. LENHARDT TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider

the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea; Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador; Kevin F. O'Malley, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland; Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs); Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy; Robert W. Holleyman II, of Louisiana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador; Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury; Charles H. Fulghum, of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security; and Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. REID. On these nominations, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Executive Calendar consent agreed to Wednesday, September 17, 2014, be modified to include Executive Calendar No. 1053 following Executive Calendar No. 925, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect, including yielding back time for debate.

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

NOMINATION OF THOMAS FRIEDEN TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

VOTE ON LIPPERT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SCHEINMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Adam M. Scheinman, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON O'MALLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Kevin F. O'Malley, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CROCKER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs)?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SHERWOOD-RANDALL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HOLLEYMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert W. Holleyman II, of Louisiana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ROSENBACH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SHEETS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON FULGHUM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Charles H. Fulghum, of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LENHARDT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON FRIEDEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be notified of the action of the Senate.

NOMINATION OF LIZ SHERWOOD-RANDALL

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, whose nomination to be Deputy Secretary at the Department of Energy was confirmed today.

Throughout her career, Dr. Sherwood-Randall has been an exemplary public servant and academic. She has mastered the domain of nuclear issues, arms control, European affairs and has served her country at the highest of levels. I am confident she will continue her impressive record of service and will be an excellent Deputy Secretary of Energy.

At the outset of her career she was a foreign policy advisor to then-Senator JOE BIDEN.

In the Clinton administration she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia.

In the Obama administration she was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council and later White House Coordinator for Defense Policy, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction and Arms Control.

When not serving in government, she held a variety of academic roles affiliated with Harvard and Stanford Universities and the Council on Foreign Relations.

The mission of the Energy Department is ''to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.''

As the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Energy and Water Development, I know the complexities of the issues facing the new Deputy Secretary. I also know that it will be invaluable to the Energy Department to have a well-rounded leadership team.

The current Secretary of Energy is well-steeped in energy issues. Dr. Sherwood-Randall brings expertise in the national security realm, which is becoming more and more important and related to energy issues. This leadership model has been proven to work and I trust this combination of skills will result in smart energy policy and strong management.

For example, a key part of the Department's mission—and one which is a high priority for me—is the responsibility to secure and dispose of nuclear and radiological material. For this, I am encouraged by Dr. Sherwood-Randall's long history of experience working on non-proliferation issues.

It remains a priority of mine to enact a national policy to store our nuclear waste. Nuclear waste is piling up all around the country and we are losing millions of dollars every year in the absence of a coherent policy. This is why I have introduced, and will continue to push, legislation which establishes an interim national policy to safely store our nuclear waste.

It should be obvious that this is precisely the type of issue that Dr. Sherwood-Randall will be adept at navigating, and I look forward to working with her on this and many other issues.

In sum, the nominee before us today is a skilled policy advisor, an accomplished academic and a dedicated American public servant.

It is with great pleasure that I support her nomination today and I thank my colleagues for their vote to confirm her.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA SCOTT POINDEXTER

Mr. CHAMBLISS. It is with great pride and a touch of sadness that I stand here today to pay a special tribute to Martha Scott Poindexter, my dear friend and trusted confidant. Martha Scott is leaving the staff of the Senate after a long and distinguished career in public service.

Martha Scott has dedicated most of her professional life to the Congress, serving over 20 years in both the House of Representatives as well as the Senate. She was with me in my first agricultural hearing in the House, and as I prepare to retire from the Senate this year, she was with me today in one of my last hearings as the vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

I owe much of my success as a legislator to Martha Scott. She has served as my legislative assistant in the House, legislative director when I first entered the Senate, and later as my staff director for both the agriculture and intelligence committees.

It is no exaggeration to say that Martha Scott is one of the brightest, most talented, and well-connected individuals on Capitol Hill. She is a natural leader and manager who exemplifies a tremendous character and dedication that traditionally defines the term a public servant.

Martha Scott is an enthusiastic team player with a special talent for finding solutions to complex problems and rallying support behind her. Those are enormously helpful traits on the Hill, especially in recent years when it seems as though finding solutions has taken a back seat to partisanship.

But those are not the characteristics that define Martha Scott. Rather, those who work with her and who have known her professionally and personally are most often struck by her tremendous heart and kindness. Her infectious laugh always brings a smile to the faces of friends nearby. This place just won't be the same without it.

Above all, she is a good person, loyal to the core, and committed to always doing what is right. All she asks in return is that people say her first name correctly, Martha Scott. It is not Martha. We Southerners can be very particular that way, and we like double names.

What began in the junior position in the office of Senator COCHRAN nearly 24 years ago blossomed into a distinguished public service career that is nearly unmatched by our peers. Martha Scott has seen and been involved in so many historic events and helped author legislation that has touched and impacted the lives of all our citizens, but don't expect Martha Scott to tell anybody that. That is just not her style.

Whether it is her work on the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Agriculture, the Select Committee on Intelligence, or as a member of my personal legislative staff, Martha Scott has selflessly committed herself to the people we represent, whether it is the cotton farmer from the Mississippi Delta, the soldier in Afghanistan, or the thousands of intelligence professionals who serve our country every day.

Martha Scott has always kept our Nation's best interests at heart.

Finding a natural love of politics and policy drove Martha Scott to be a key player in the legislative process that touched every farm bill for the last 25 years, as well as the recent controversial debates on cyber security and intelligence collection.

My colleagues and I trust Martha Scott's judgment impeccably. Her exceptional performance has earned our respect and admiration, and it has inspired a generation of staff members who have had the privilege to work with her and learn from her. Her legacy will remain a part of the Senate for many years to come.

Martha Scott has a profound commitment to family and her roots in the delta define her. Growing up on the family farm provided a strong foundation and work ethic that one only gets in rural Mississippi.

Guided by her loving parents and the constant support of her sisters, Martha Scott has not only won the admiration of those for whom she has worked, but for those who have worked for her.

To her husband, Robert, we thank you for allowing us to take up so much of her time, especially in this very special year. My colleagues and I owe a deep debt of gratitude to each and every member of Martha Scott's family.

Martha Scott has been a part of my staff for 20 years, which means she has been a part of my family for 20 years. She has watched my children mature and my grandchildren grow up, and they have all come to know and love her. She has been an inspiration to so many people, but most importantly she has been an inspiration to me. While everybody is going to miss her, I am the one who is going to miss her the most.

So Martha Scott, to you we say: Congratulations on a life after the Senate. Just know how much, No. 1, we are going to miss you, but secondly and most importantly, your country is going to miss you. We appreciate your tremendous commitment and service to our country.

God bless you and God bless your family.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, as we finished the last series of votes we were talking about the range of difficult issues we face in this Congress and also in our country—a series of issues including what to do about ISIS and how to confront this latest threat, whether or not to provide aid to the moderate rebels in Syria and what form should that aid take, continued concerns that flow from Ukraine, and the areas there along the border with Russia, cyber attacks, data breaches, Ebola outbreaks, folks trying to get into our country from all different directions, especially from Central America. These are hard issues to deal with. Try though we may, it is hard to fix them.

As my colleague who serves with us on homeland security knows, it is a busy neighborhood where we have jurisdiction. It is not that the problems are intractable. They are just hard issues, and some of them may take years to fully resolve.

But I might say as well, the economic recovery has continued now for 5 years and it has been stop and go. Every now and then we have some great encouraging news, and sometimes it is less so. But today we have encouraging news.

I wish to talk a little bit about this as we talk about the economy and lead into a discussion of where the postal system of our country actually has played a role in strengthening our economic recovery.

Every Thursday, as my colleague knows, the Department of Labor puts out information. Among the things they promulgate on Thursdays is how many people filed for unemployment insurance in the last week. They do this every Thursday, except maybe on Thanksgiving or maybe on a Christmas.

On the Thursday of the week that Barack Obama and JOE BIDEN were sworn in as President and Vice President, they put out a number that said 628,000 people filed for unemployment insurance. Any time that number is above 400,000 people, we are losing jobs in this country, and any time it is under 400,000 people, we are adding jobs in this country. It was 628,000 that week 5½ years ago.

Slowly but surely, that number has dropped and has continued to drop. It bounces up and down a little bit. Since it may go up and down from week to week, we do a 4-week running average and that kind of balances out the blips.

Well, the number has dropped from 628,000 people 5½ ago to 400,000 people and to 300,000 people. We got the new report today from the Department of

Labor, and 280,000 people filed last week for unemployment insurance.

Why should we feel so good about that? Because that number is the lowest we have been below 400,000 since the year the recession actually began—certainly in the last 5½ years. That would suggest as kind of a forerunner what will come in for the job numbers for the month of September, which we will get at the beginning of October. I am encouraged by that.

There are a number of things we can do and ought to do to continue to strengthen the economic recovery. I won't go into all those, but one I want to mention deals with the U.S. Postal Service. Not everybody says the Postal Service has much to do with the economy, but it does. There are about 7 million or 8 million jobs in the United States that depend to one extent or the other on having an efficient, vibrant Postal Service.

For a number of years, the Postal Service has been struggling in some cases to survive. The Postal Service has cut, cut, cut in order to try to right-size their enterprise. In the last 10 or so years they have reduced their headcount from almost 900,000 to about 500,000—so almost in half. They have reduced the number of processing centers across the country from about 600 or 700 mail processing centers to actually less than half that, a little over 300. We have close to 35,000 to 40,000 post offices across the country, and over 10,000 of those today—they haven't really closed post offices, but what they did is a bunch of offices that didn't do much business, those post offices are still open in many cases, but they are open 2 hours, 4 hours, 6 hours a day rather than 8 hours a day with a fully paid postmaster. So they have found a way to not close a lot of post offices but to reduce their costs there, and they are still struggling. Every 3 months they put out their financial reports, and the financial reports indicate they are either losing money or may be close to breaking even.

As the Presiding Officer knows, this is an issue I think about a whole lot. He does, too. The Senator from Alaska cares a lot about the needs of the Postal Service. The need for a strong and vibrant Postal Service in Alaska is probably greater than in any State in the country. He has done a great job, along with his colleague from Alaska, to try to make sure that we are mindful in the Senate of the importance of the Postal Service to Alaska.

I have a glass of water here which one of our pages was good enough to bring to me. Look at this glass of water. It is not really clear. Is this glass half full or half empty? Most people thinking about the Postal Service in the last several years would say this glass of water is half empty. As time goes by, I am starting to think maybe that is the wrong approach, that is the wrong opinion. I think this glass of water might actually be half full. The more I learn about the Postal Service's operations and the opportunities they face, I am even more convinced the opportunity here is a glass-half-full situation.

We have had over the years probably a dozen or more hearings in the Senate on the Postal Service. The real challenge is: How do we take a 200-plus-year-old legacy organization, legacy distribution network that takes the Postal Service to every mailbox in the country 5 or 6 days a week? How do we take that legacy distribution network and enable the Postal Service, empower the Postal Service to make money and be profitable in the 21st century?

As we know, we don't communicate like we used to in this country. We have the Internet, we have Skype, we have Twitter, we have cell phones. There are a lot of different ways to communicate that we didn't have even 12 or 15 years ago. Folks used to send birthday cards, Christmas cards, that sort of thing. Now they send email cards, if they send anything at all. People used to write letters and notes. My parents during World War II wrote to each other almost every day. Folks in Afghanistan have email, they have Skype, and they have cell phones. They still send some mail, but it is not like it used to be. A lot of businesses that used the mail to do billings for people to send in remittances don't do that anymore.

First-class mail in this country is where the Postal Service has made their money for many years. That is where the most profitable source of income is—first-class mail. Since the great recession started in 2007, we have seen first-class mail drop by almost half, and that has caused huge problems for the Postal Service going forward.

While the Internet and the digital age has taken away a lot of the Postal Service's business, as it has turned out, it has also given them some pretty good opportunities. As we know, not everybody goes to a department store these days to buy things, to a hardware store or to a bookstore. Not every day, but a lot of times we will buy things over the Internet. Those items, whether gifts or things we might want for ourselves, they have somehow to get from the manufacturer's or retailer's distribution center to the customer. Somebody has to deliver it. As it turns out, that somebody could be FedEx, it could be UPS or in many cases it could be the Postal Service.

So I wish to take a few minutes and speak this evening about how I really do think the Postal Service could be a glass-half-full situation. Part of our responsibility here in the Senate is to make sure they are able to seize this opportunity and not let it pass by.

The Postal Service has been calling for us to do a number of things to help them—not to give them money but to do a number of things to help them. I will mention a few of them.

The Postal Service has overpaid by $2.5 billion what they owe into the Federal Employee Retirement System. Given the formula used, which is not taking into account that postal employees are older and die sooner than other Federal employees, the Postal Service is going to continue to overpay monies. So they are owed a $2.5 billion refund, and if we don't do something, they are going to continue to overpay. We should first get them the $2.5 billion refund. The second thing we should do is change the formula so it reflects the demographics of the Postal Service versus the rest of the Federal workforce.

Among the other things we ought to do is to integrate, if you will, Medicare—better integrate Medicare with the cost of health care for postal employees.

My wife turned 65 early this summer. When she did, the company where she worked for 27 years, DuPont, mailed her something and said: We still love you. You are retired, you are 65, and we want you to sign up for Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B, and Medicare Part D. We will in turn provide wrap-around or fill-the-gap health care coverage for you. They do that for all the retirees when they reach 65. And it is not just DuPont. It is thousands of companies all over the country. When their retirees reach the age of 65, for the most part they say to the retirees: You are eligible for Medicare Part A, Part B, Part D. We want you to sign up, and we will provide wrap-around coverage for you.

FedEx, I believe, does that. UPS, I believe, does that. The Postal Service—which competes in the same business as both FedEx, UPS, and some of these other companies—doesn't do that. As it turns out, the Postal Service pays more money into Medicare than any employer in the country. They do not get the full value for the dollars they have invested.

One of the things the Postal Service has asked us to do as simply a matter of equity is to allow them to do what so many other companies do, including some of the companies they compete directly with—FedEx and UPS. We ought to do that. That is one of the things they are asking us to do.

Another thing, under the current law, from time to time, if there is something that happens in the economy or there is a disaster and the Postal Service needs to raise rates on kind of an emergency basis, called an exigent basis, they can apply to the Postal Regulatory Commission and ask to do that. The Postal Regulatory Commission can say yes or they can say no.

Last year, the Postal Service went to the Postal Regulatory Commission and said: We suffered terribly because of the loss of first-class mail that flowed from the worst recession since the Great Depression. We would like to have something above and beyond a CPI increase, a cost of living increase, for our rates. What did the Postal Regulatory Commission do? They agreed to raise the rates and let the post office raise the rates.

So what did the Postal Regulatory Commission do? They agreed to let the Postal Service raise the rates, which works out to a 4.3-percent increase. It is not permanent, but it is for a period of maybe a year. The Postal Service is asking us to make that 4.3-percent increase their new permanent revenue baseline.

What does that mean for mailers if we make it permanent? For folks who are nonprofit—we always get mail from nonprofit organizations. That is part of the way they provide services to all kinds of folks. But the cost of a nonprofit letter under this action—the 4.3-percent increase—has gone up from 10 cents a letter to 11 cents. It has gone up by one penny. I believe the cost of mailing a magazine has also gone up by one or two pennies, from approximately 25 to 27 cents. The cost of mailing a catalog has gone up by one or two cents, from approximately 45 cents to 47 cents, and that is with the 4.3-percent increase.

The Postal Service has said to the Congress: Allow that temporary 4.3-percent increase to remain and to become part of our revenue baseline.

I think we should do that. I know a number of my colleagues do as well.

That is one of the things they are asking us to do. Among the other things they are asking us to do is they want to actually deliver items they haven't been able to deliver before, including wine, beer, and spirits. FedEx and UPS can do that, and postal services in many other countries can do that. Our Postal Service cannot do that. It is not to balance their budget for them, but it would make a big difference. I believe it could be worth a couple million dollars a year in profitability. That is something they would like to be able to do.

FedEx is not interested in being Google or Apple or any company like that—part of the digital economy—but there are a couple things they can do and would like to do that would work into the digital economy. They are not big deals, but they make sense with respect to the Postal Service and their capabilities and would actually enable them over time to make some revenues as well.

The Postal Service delivers ballots, initially in Oregon, later in Washington State, and this year in Colorado. People can file their vote—get absentee ballots and vote by mail in Oregon. They do it in Washington State. This year they are starting to do it in Colorado.

What we have learned from experience is that folks who vote by mail vote more often, more frequently, and what we hear from States that do this is that it is actually a cost-effective way to run elections. The Postal Service would like to do more of that, and we should encourage that as well.

Another area where the Postal Service might have some opportunities is they would like to collocate more operations with State and local governments in small communities where they have space at the post office and get State and local folks to locate some activities there.

One great idea they had in some of the bigger, more densely populated places around the country is that the Postal Service has opened up large facilities—not like a regular post office—where people can go get passports. There is a facility on the outskirts of L.A. where over the course of the day hundreds—maybe even 1,000 people or more—can come and get their passports. It is a service that is provided. The Postal Service makes some revenue from doing that.

If we ever pass comprehensive immigration reform and we have 10 million or so people in this country who are here undocumented—and immigration reform doesn't give them the right to citizenship, it doesn't make them a citizen, but I think if the Senate passed an immigration reform bill, it would offer an opportunity for people to have some kind of legal status. How are they going to get that? Where are they going to get that?

If we passed immigration reform, there would be an opportunity for the Postal Service, which is in every community in our Nation and which already does a passport business for a lot of people, to help meet that need, and my hope is they will have that opportunity.

Those are some things they are asking us to do. In short, what they are asking us to do is to give them the ability to generate revenues and to be able to meet their capital needs.

The Postal Service needs to be capitalized. They need new vehicles. They have 190,000 vehicles.

We have this chart. This is 2014, and down here is about 10 years down the road. What we are looking for is to provide money over this 10-year period of time. The Postal Service is saying they need about $30 billion to recapitalize the Postal Service to make them competitive. One of the ways to make them competitive is with respect to vehicles. They have 190,000 vehicles. The average age is 22 years.

I have a 13-year-old Chrysler Town and Country minivan. Yesterday I drove it down here from Wilmington, DE. I usually take the train. The train was down 2 days ago. I drove home last night, and it just went over 377,000 miles. Most Postal Service vehicles are not 13 years old like my minivan; they are almost twice as old and easily have twice as much mileage as my minivan. My wife thinks I ought to trade in my minivan, and some day I will.

We should give the Postal Service the wherewithal to trade up—not just to get new, more energy-efficient vehicles that may have twice the fuel economy and reduce emissions but also vehicles that are sized for the products the Postal Service is delivering. In this digital economy, it is an opportunity for the Postal Service to deliver a lot more packages and parcels of all kinds. They are delivering groceries in a number of places around the country, and they need vehicles that are sized differently and that are more ergonomically appropriate for the folks who are driving the vehicles.

There is new technology. Anybody buying a new car lately knows the technologies that are in vehicles. It is amazing what we can do. I wouldn't know that, given the age of my vehicle, but my friends tell me about the amazing things they can do with theirs. When you have a vehicle that is 22 years old, there are not many gee-whiz technology items on those vehicles, but there could be. As an example, let's say my desk here defines a rural area for delivery for a letter carrier someplace around the country. It could be Alaska; it could be Delaware. As the rural letter carrier covers this area, the technology is available so that the residents somewhere along there could pick up a package here or leave a package at the general store. They could communicate with their customers in any number of ways and provide better customer service.

Additionally, when you walk into a post office these days, for the most part they look similar today to what they did 5, 10, 15, 20 years ago almost without exception. There are so many things we can do in terms of technology to provide better services at post offices that we are not doing.

We can provide better, more efficient services and friendlier services as well. We have 25 mail-processing centers in the country. I visited one of them with Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP in North Dakota about 3 or 4 months ago. We visited this small mail-processing center in her beautiful State. We went into the back operating area of the mail-processing center, and there was a fellow there who was about 50 years old. He was lugging around these big boxes that somebody was mailing. He was carrying them around and trying to get them over to a barcode reader, and he was putting them in a huge pouch so they could be mailed.

There is equipment that could readily process big boxes like that, smaller packages, and parcels. We don't have equipment like that in most of our mail-processing centers. If we did, we could offer better, faster, timelier, more cost-effective service.

So if we were to capitalize the Postal Service, among the things the Postal Service could do if they had $30 billion over the next 10 years is replace their fleet of 190,000 vehicles with more energy-efficient vehicles that are appropriately sized for the kinds of packages they deliver. The approximately 300 mail-processing centers could be retooled with mail-processing equipment that actually reflects what the mail service delivers in the 21st century. The post offices themselves could have the kinds of upgrades and technology investments that would enable better service as well. That is what the Postal Service could do if they had the money.

Sometimes when people think of the Postal Service they think the Postal Service is not really innovative; they don't come up with a bunch of ideas. It turns out that they are even more innovative than I and a lot of other people thought they were.

I want to mention a couple of things they have begun doing that I think are noteworthy. They ought to be able to do more. If they could, they actually could make money and have the money to make capital investments and not be a burden to taxpayers of this country.

This morning in San Francisco, CA, at around 3 a.m., in 32 ZIP Codes, the U.S. Postal Service delivered groceries to people. They delivered them to homes, in some cases to businesses, to apartments, to high-rises. They delivered groceries. They also delivered the mail later in the day, but from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. the Postal Service in 32 ZIP Codes delivered groceries. They have been doing it for over a month, and I understand they are doing it for Amazon. I understand Amazon is pleased and the Postal Service is pleased with it. Amazon customers like it, and the Postal Service can do this and make money. They are not doing anything else with the trucks from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m., and it just works. It just works.

The Postal Service is doing this for Amazon, but they are reaching out to 100 grocery chains across the country and saying: This is what we do for Amazon in San Francisco. How would you like us to do this for you?

My guess is this will turn into a good piece of business, but they need the vehicles to enable them to do this, and they need money for capital investment.

Some people think the only thing the Postal Service has done creatively in years is flat-rate boxes. You know, if it fits, it ships. It is a great product. It is still growing. It has grown by around 4 or 5 percent a year. But there are a bunch of other things they can do and want to do. They need money for capital investment.

About a year ago they started delivering for Amazon—not everywhere but in a couple hundred ZIP Codes—on Sundays. It worked pretty well. And this past Sunday they delivered packages and parcels through Amazon—not to 200 ZIP Codes but I think to over 5,000 across the country. It enables them to do next-day delivery that includes Sunday. It is a nice piece of business and it is growing, but in order to continue to grow it, the Postal Service needs vehicles that are right-sized for that sort of business and a lot of them—potentially a lot of them.

Another thing the Postal Service is doing—and this is a product which I have used and a product which I think is going to have growing utilization across the country. It is called Priority Mail Express.

I went to a post office in Delaware not long ago. I wanted to send my sister a Mother's Day gift.

I said: I want this to get there in 2 days.

They asked: Do you want it insured?

I said: Not really.

They said: Well, if you send it by Priority Mail Express, we can guarantee delivery in 2 days, we can guarantee delivery in 1 day, or we can guarantee delivery in 3 days. We can track it for you for free.

And I think they said the first $100 of insurance is free.

I said: This is great. I will take 2 days. The insurance is fine.

As it turns out, I am not the only person who is using Priority Mail Express. It is available not just 2 or 3 days a week, it is available for delivery 7 days a week. If somebody has something they want to mail this Saturday and have it delivered on Sunday, they can do so with Priority Mail Express. They can do it and get next-day delivery. They can do it and get free tracking. They can do it and get insurance up to $50 or $100 on whatever is being mailed. That is going to be a great product. I think it is going to make flat-rate boxes—well, not look like a second-class citizen, but it is going to make flat-rate boxes look modest by comparison.

These are the sorts of things our folks at the Postal Service would like to do—to deliver not only mail but to deliver groceries, to be able to deliver tomorrow, deliver on Sunday. And it is ironic that in a day and age that we worry about postal service going from 6 days a week to 5, that right now they are a 7-day-a-week operation. I think there is reason to believe they will grow even more.

There are some who say that rather than passing the sort of legislation the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee reported out on a bipartisan vote earlier this year, there is some alternative legislation. We should simply say to the Postal Service: You cannot close any more mail-processing centers for another year.

As it turns out, that is not going to give the Postal Service the money to do this, or, frankly, the money to invest in any other number of new products that have the great potential of generating revenues and enabling them not just to be open or remain alive but to actually become vibrant and to be part of our growing economy in this country.

I wish to close by saying that I am more hopeful about the Postal Service than I have been in all the years I have worked on this as an issue. As I talked to my colleagues, I am encouraged to hear from Democrats and Republicans that they want to be part of the solution, and they realize the idea of just leaving the Postal Service twisting in the wind for another year is not a good thing.

If the Postal Service has a choice to say don't close these 60 or 70 or 80 mail processing centers, that is not what they need. They need to not necessarily unleash them—better ensure that they have the resources they need to not just right-size the organization but to modernize and recapitalize the organization and enable them to do things in the 21st century that will actually build off their age-old delivery network and find new ways to make money doing so.

As we close here today—a lot of people are scattering to head back to their home States in anticipation of elections and that sort of thing, and to do other things—I wanted to mention on a more hopeful note, and I say to the members of our committee, and especially to the Presiding Officer, thanks for trying to make sure the Postal Service continues to be a linchpin within our economy, whether it happens to be Alaska, Delaware, or even South Dakota.

Senator THUNE is waiting for me to stop talking.

They have the opportunity to be a big, important part of our economy going forward, and my hope and prayer is that is exactly what we will enable them to do.

With that, I will yield the floor. I don't know if the Senator from South Dakota would like to take the floor, but if he wants to, it is his.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleague from South Dakota, Senator JOHNSON, to commemorate South Dakota's 125th anniversary of Statehood. One hundred twenty-five years ago, on November 2, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison shuffled the Act of Admission Papers for North and South Dakota to ensure that no one knew which State entered the Union first. To this day, we still don't know which act President Harrison signed first.

South Dakota is perhaps best known as the home of the Shrine of Democracy at Mount Rushmore, which opened to the public just 50 years after South Dakota attained statehood. This monument captures the way of life and governance structure that we have in South Dakota. Our elected officials take the concerns of their constituents to Pierre and ensure that our State is bettering the lives of its citizens in a fiscally responsible manner.

We believe in limited government which provides room for individuals and businesses to grow and thrive. Our model of free enterprise has allowed businesses to flourish in South Dakota, and as a result, is one of the best States in the country to start a business.

We consistently have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, which is currently at 3.7 percent. Our labor force and our economy are driven by our State's top industries of tourism and agriculture. The 28,000

South Dakotans who work in our tourism industry ensure that people from all over the world enjoy our great places. Tourists enjoy visiting Mount Rushmore, of course, but also seeing the sights throughout the Black Hills and the Badlands, the Corn Palace in Mitchell, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and the falls in Sioux Falls.

In addition to welcoming Americans from coast to coast, South Dakota is feeding our Nation and our world. Each year, one South Dakota farmer produces enough food to feed 155 people. South Dakota ranks in the top 10 States for wheat, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and sunflowers. We are also in the top 10 States of bison, honey, sheep, and beef. In all, South Dakota's agriculture industry contributes $26 billion annually to our economy.

While the productivity of our farmers and ranchers is unmatched, all hardworking South Dakota families contribute to our State's success. Whether they are educating our children, serving in our growing health care and financial services sectors, conducting research in our college laboratories, hard work is what binds South Dakotans together and has made our State's experiment in democracy one of the most successful in our Nation's history.

I am proud to call the great State of South Dakota home, and I am honored to have the privilege of serving all South Dakotans here in the Senate.

Today I wish to honor the spirit that has endured in our State for the last 125 years by celebrating this special anniversary.

CELEBRATING SOUTH DAKOTA'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today, I join with my colleague, the junior Senator from South Dakota, in celebrating the birth of our home State, which entered the union 125 years ago on November 2. I'm a fourth generation South Dakotan, and my great-grandfather was a homesteader in what was then known as the Dakota Territory. As I have learned growing up in Canton and from the generations of my family that came before me, being a South Dakotan instills in oneself a unique kind of work ethic and a drive to do good unto others.

South Dakotans know how to deal with adversity and they know how to help each other when disaster strikes. Last year, a devastating blizzard hit much of western South Dakota, causing millions of dollars in damage and killing tens of thousands of head of livestock. Without blinking an eye, neighbors were out helping neighbors who lost power. They donated their time and money to help ranchers who lost their livelihoods. Recovery would not have been possible without the inherent attitude that South Dakotans have to help one another.

South Dakotans also have a lot to celebrate this year. The ag industry has driven our economy, creating jobs and spurring economic development in rural communities. Our State also boasts some of the Nation's most popular tourist destinations including the Badlands, the Black Hills National Forest, the world's only Corn Palace, and some of the best pheasant hunting in the country. Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills also symbolizes democracy and enables all Americans to remember and celebrate our history. The Crazy Horse monument, which is still a work in progress, honors the legendary Lakota warrior. South Dakota is also home to nine Native American tribes, each having its own distinct cultures and traditions.

There is an awful lot to be proud of in our State, from the attitude we have as individuals to what we have built during our 125 year history. Throughout this past year, South Dakotans have taken part in a number of activities to celebrate our State's history, heritage, and culture, and those celebrations will continue in the weeks ahead. I am honored to play just a small role in this celebration by joining with my colleague in offering this resolution, and I urge all of our colleagues to join us in celebrating the birth of our State.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 566) celebrating the 125th anniversary of the State of South Dakota.

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I also wish to speak in support of S. 1507, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2013. I am a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation which passed the House of Representatives earlier this week.

This bill would codify that general welfare benefits provided to tribal members by Indian tribes—often in areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment where these benefits are much needed—are exempt from Federal taxation.

The bill would ensure parity between the tax treatment of benefits provided by Indian tribes and those provided by State and local governments.

While the Internal Revenue Service has issued guidance on this issue, further action is needed to ensure that our tribal citizens are treated fairly with regard to taxation of certain tribal welfare benefits.

This bill establishes a tribal advisory committee to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on the taxation of tribal members.

This is a bipartisan amendment with support from the National Congress of American Indians and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Tribes and tribal organizations across the country, including the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Association and the Coalition of Large Tribes representing the nine tribes in my home State of South Dakota, are urging us to move forward with this legislation.

The Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that this legislation would have a negligible impact on Federal revenue.

I hope before we adjourn that the Senate can pass by unanimous consent this legislation that was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this week under suspension and that we will reaffirm our commitment to Indian Country.

I hope we move this legislation and move it quickly and clarify once and for all this important issue.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. 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. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, October—next month—is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is not expected that the Senate will be in session next month and I would like to use this opportunity to visit just a moment about domestic violence in an effort to create a greater awareness and to work to eliminate this plight among many families and many individuals across the country.

Domestic violence is an issue that impacts way too many Americans. In fact, it affects so many homes, and yet it is something that is rarely spoken about publicly. Right now, because of actions of professional athletes, domestic violence is in the news and it is on our minds. But this attention needs to continue when the sports writers quit writing and when the news reporters and camera crews quit covering and they move on to the next story.

Many Americans assume domestic violence doesn't occur in their neighborhood, it doesn't occur among their friends, but unfortunately that is not the case. Domestic violence does not discriminate by race, gender, age group, education or social status. We can't stereotype, the way we often do, about domestic violence. In fact, it is not just a problem for women; it is also a problem for children and men who are often victims.

In large communities, in small communities across the country and across, unfortunately, my State of Kansas, too many Americans, too many Kansans find themselves placed in danger by the very people who are supposed to love and care for and protect them. Each year, more than 2 million women are victims of domestic violence across the country. In Kansas alone, it is estimated that 1 in 10 adult women will suffer from domestic abuse this year. These are damning statistics that make clear, whether we realize it, someone we know is enduring physical and psychological abuse today, tomorrow, this week. We have a responsibility to help the hopeless—those who are often too afraid to speak out for themselves. I rise tonight to try to give voice to those who are victims and to acknowledge professionals and volunteers who provide care and the services those victims need.

On a single day last year, shelters and organizations in Kansas served more than 720 victims, and similar organizations around the country served more than 66,000 victims each day.

I visited one of those organizations last year, the Kansas SAFEHOME. It is a tremendous organization that serves the greater Kansas City area. SAFEHOME provides more than just a shelter for those needing a place to live or to escape from abuse. They provide no-cost advocacy, counseling, an inhouse attorney, and assistance in finding employment. The agency also provides education in the community to prevent abuse.

Each year SAFEHOME helps thousands of women and children reestablish their lives without violence. The employees and volunteers there are making huge differences in the lives of many. I have often said on the Senate floor that what happens in Washington, DC, matters, but I know we change the world one person, one soul at a time, and in this setting and in settings similar to it across Kansas and around the country, lives are being changed and improved.

Despite the important and the honorable and noble work that organizations such as SAFEHOME are performing, they are often faced with uncertainty regarding the Federal support they will receive. The good news is that last year Congress was able to move past politics and pass legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

I sponsored and voted for that legislation and in my view it provides crucial, critical resources for victims of domestic violence and empowers our justice system to act on their behalf. Just as crucial, it works to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place.

This legislation is having a real impact on the lives of Kansans because survivors now have access, for example, to legal services, through the Legal Assistance to Victims grant project, established in 2012 by the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

One survivor expressed how grateful she was for the program because, as she said, ''I didn't know what I would have done without it.'' Without the assistance of this program, she may have had to go to court without legal representation, knowing that her perpetrator already had an attorney representing him. With that legal representation, her perpetrator was held accountable for his actions.

Throughout our country, more than one in three women still suffer from abuse during their lifetime, and domestic violence brings fear and hopelessness and depression into the lives of every victim. We should work not only to end this violent crime, but we must also care for those who are victims. By volunteering at a local shelter, speaking out when we become aware of domestic violence or making a donation to an organization that helps in those circumstances, every citizen—as I said, we could change the world one person at a time, and every citizen can find a way to get involved and make a difference.

Now and throughout the year—not just now, not just next month, October is Domestic Violence Month—let us be mindful of the victims of domestic violence and each of us do our part to break the cycle and bring hope to those who suffer and are in despair. Let us also use the conversations taking place now in the print in the papers and on the view of the television as an opportunity to speak out against any and all types of domestic abuse. Let's raise the awareness of this silent and devastating crime and bring about an end to all domestic violence.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RANDOLPH D. MOSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 853.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion that has been filed and is at the desk.

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

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Martin Heinrich.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LEIGH MARTIN MAY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 855.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, that on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 853 and 855; further, that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, that on Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 2:15 p.m., all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, that with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to S. 1086.

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

Resolved, that the bill from the Senate (S. 1086) entitled ''An act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes'', do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

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

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an Act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Leahy, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3923

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086 with an amendment numbered 3923.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3924 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3923

Mr. REID. I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3924 to amendment No. 3923.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3925

Mr. REID. I have a motion to refer the House message with respect to S. 1086 with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to refer the House message on S. 1086 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 3925.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3926

Mr. REID. I have an amendment to the instructions that has been filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3926 to the instructions of the motion to refer (Amendment No. 3925).

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3927 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3926

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree agreement at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3927 to amendment No. 3926.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''4'' and insert ''5''.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 476. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park Commission.

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

H.R. 24. An act 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.

H.R. 5462. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 106(b)(5)(B) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110–315), the Speaker's appointments of May 25, 2010, and December 22, 2010, of individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity expired on May 25, 2014, and that pursuant to section 106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110–315), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for a term of six years: Upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader: Mr. Arthur E. Keiser, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Mr. William Pepicello of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Mr. Arthur J. Rothkopf of Washington, DC.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 1:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 5:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 476. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission.

H.R. 4751. An act to make technical corrections to Public Law 110–229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4809. An act to reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5462. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 18, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 2154. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2258. An act to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

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–7042. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Species: Critical Habitat for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean Loggerhead Sea Turtle Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and Determination Regarding Critical Habitat for the North Pacific Ocean Loggerhead DPS'' (RIN0648–BD27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7043. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Evart and Ludington, Michigan)'' ((MB Docket No. 13–284) (DA 14–1058)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7044. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Custer, Michigan)'' ((MB Docket No. 14–66) (DA 14–1222)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7045. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Caseville and Pigeon, Michigan) (Harbor Beach and Lexington, Michigan)'' ((MM Docket No. 01–229 and MM Docket No. 01–231) (DA 14–1215)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7046. A communication from the Census Bureau Federal Register Liaison Officer, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR): Clarification on Uses of Electronic Export Information'' (RIN0607–AA52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7047. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings and the Office of Economics, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2014 Update'' (Docket No. 542) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7048. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Jurisdictional Separations and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board'' ((RIN3060–AJ06) (FCC 14–91)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7049. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries'' ((RIN3060–AF85) (FCC 14–99)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7050. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Annual Events on the Maumee River, Toledo, OH'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2012–0714)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7051. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Gay Games 9 Triathlon, North Coast Harbor, Cleveland, OH'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0427)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7052. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Raccoon Creek, Bridgeport, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0711)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office

of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7053. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Gay Games 9 Open Water Swim, Lake Erie, Edgewater Park, Cleveland, OH'' (Docket No. USCG–2014–0635) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7054. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, Patapsco River; Baltimore, MD'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0201)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7055. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, St. Petersburg Beach, FL'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0437)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7056. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, James River; Newport News, VA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0376)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7057. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, Elizabeth River; Norfolk, VA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0619)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7058. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone'' ((RIN1625–AA08 and RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0446)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7059. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mantua Creek, Paulsboro, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0710)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7060. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Treasure Island, FL'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2013–0319)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7061. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile Marker 49.0 to 50.0, West of Harvey Locks, Bank to Bank, Bayou Blue Pontoon Bridge, Lafourche Parish, LA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0411)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7062. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Offshore Supply Vessels of at Least 6,000 GT ITC'' ((RIN1625–AB62) (Docket No. USCG–2012–0208)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 14, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7063. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; TAKE MARU 55 Vessel Salvage; Cocos Island, Merizo, Guam'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0721)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7064. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, Aquarium Wedding, Delaware River; Camden, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0704)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7065. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, New Jersey'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0702)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7066. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Vessel Documentation Renewal Fees'' ((RIN1625–AB56) (Docket No. USCG–2010–0990)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7067. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Zone'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0329)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7068. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Cumberland River, Mile 127.0 to 128.0; Clarksville, TN'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0489)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7069. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Sunset Lake; Wildwood Crest, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0701)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7070. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, Labor Day Long Neck Style Fireworks, Indian River Bay; Long Neck, DE'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0696)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7071. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Ocean City, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0705)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7072. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Atlantic City, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0703)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7073. A communication from the Attorney, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7074. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class B Airspace; Salt Lake City, UT'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0859)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7075. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Memphis, MO'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0224)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7076. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Steele, MO'' ((RIN2120–AA66)

(Docket No. FAA–2014–0154)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7077. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Phoenix, AZ'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0956)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7078. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Needles, CA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0987)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7079. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. 2013–0709)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7080. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Revocation of Jet Routes; Northeast United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0104)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7081. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, MI'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0501)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7082. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification and Establishment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Huntingburg, IN'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0990)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7083. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Nabb, IN'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0368)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7084. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Tuskegee, AL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0082)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7085. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Hartford, CT'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0384)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7086. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Truth or Consequences, NM'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0995)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7087. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Airbus Helicopters) (Previously Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0394)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7088. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Columbia Helicopters, Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held By Boeing Defense and Space Group) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0385)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7089. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0862)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7090. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0236)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7091. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0973)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7092. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; EADS CASA (Type Certificate Previously Held by Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0980)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7093. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0010)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7094. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0953)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7095. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0341)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7096. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; AERMACCHI S.p.A. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0939)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7097. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. (Type Certificate previously held by AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Turbine Engine Company) Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0386)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7098. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1059)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7099. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives;

Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1090)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7100. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Time of Designation for Restricted Area R–3002G; Fort Benning, GA'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0389)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7101. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters) (AHD)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0440)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7102. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Airbus Helicopters) (Type Certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0395)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7103. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0009)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7104. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1027)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7105. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–0863)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7106. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0432)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7107. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0206)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7108. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7109. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0004)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7110. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2006–23809)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7111. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0241)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7112. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0226)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7113. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; GROB–WEKE GmbH and Co KG Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0292)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7114. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0308)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7115. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Canada Corporation Turboprop Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0159)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7116. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0055)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7117. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1024)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7118. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0007)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7119. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0177)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7120. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0253)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7121. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1009)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7122. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives;

Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1070)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7123. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1025)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7124. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0296)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7125. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0867)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7126. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0122)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7127. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–1327)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7128. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0129)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7129. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0120)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7130. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0250)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7131. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–1158)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7132. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0219)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7133. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0468)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7134. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0531)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7135. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1068)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7136. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0121)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7137. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0077)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7138. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0511)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7139. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1065)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7140. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0616)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7141. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0175)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7142. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0176)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7143. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0258)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7144. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0234)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7145. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0060)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7146. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0124)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7147. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0251)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7148. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell ASCa Inc. Emergency Locator Transmitters Installed on Various Transport Category Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0573)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7149. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Previously Eurocopter Deutschland GbmH) (Airbus Helicopters) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0034)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7150. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0252)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7151. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0544)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7152. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0490)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7153. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Mooney International Corporation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0513)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7154. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0056)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7155. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0790)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7156. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–0268)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7157. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–0145)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7158. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–0807)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7159. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; AgustaWestland S.p.A. Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0478)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7160. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2009–1088)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7161. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0196)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7162. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0187)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7163. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Beechcraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Hawker Beechcraft Corporation; Raytheon Aircraft Company) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0254)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7164. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0228)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7165. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0486)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7166. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0311)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7167. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc., Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0514)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7168. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France)'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0515)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7169. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives;

Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2014–0488)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7170. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Annual Eligibility Redeterminations for Exchange Participation and Insurance Affordability Programs; Health Insurance Issuer Standards under the Affordable Care Act, Including Standards Related to Exchanges'' ((RIN0938–AS32) (CMS–9941–F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

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–338. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, urging the United States Congress to enact a comprehensive surface transportation program that provides long term funding for local transportation projects; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM–339. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Garden Grove, California, expressing support for H.R. 4254, the Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act, and urging the United States Congress to pass this legislation in protection of human rights in Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM–340. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to implement its proposed rule to extend the agency's tobacco authority to cover additional tobacco products including e-cigarettes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM–341. A resolution adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Delevan, New York, opposing the NY SAFE Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Special Report entitled ''Inquiry Into Cyber Intrusions Affecting U.S. Transportation Command Contractors'' (Rept. No. 113–258).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1898, a bill to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–259).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1474, a bill to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–260).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2651, a bill to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (Rept. No. 113–261).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 1232. A bill to amend titles 40, 41, and 44, United States Code, to eliminate duplication and waste in information technology acquisition and management (Rept. No. 113–262).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4007. A bill to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program (Rept. No. 113–263).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 530. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the terrorist group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 540. A resolution recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 541. A resolution recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

By Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1217. A bill to provide secondary mortgage market reform, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2581. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2778. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to $10,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. 2828. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

*Carolyn Watts Colvin, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Benjamin L. Cardin, of Maryland, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Ronald H. Johnson, of Wisconsin, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

*Earl Robert Miller, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Botswana.

Nominee: Earl Robert Miller.

Post: Republic of Botswana.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Ana Gladys Miller, None.

3. Children and Spouses: Andrew Robert Miller, None; Alexander James Miller, None; Kendra Elaine Dexter, None/Unable to locate.

4. Parents: Robert James Miller, None; Wanda Morgan Miller, None.

5. Grandparents: Earl Miller, None; Elsie Miller, None; Walter Lee Morgan, None; Mertie Alberta Morgan, None.

6. Brothers and Spouses: David Gene Keltner, None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Kara Maria Miller, None; Dena Diane Garrison, None; Donald Garrison (spouse), None; Aimery Liseli Trynt, None; Tara Tene Gilles, None; Patrick John Gilles (spouse), None.

---

* Judith Beth Cefkin, of Colorado, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Nominee: Judith Beth Cefkin.

Post: Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kirabati, Republic of Nauru, Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: $200.00, 10/18/2012, Obama Victory Fund.

2. Spouse: none.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: John Leo Cefkin—deceased; Rose Cefkin, none.

5. Grandparents: Misha and Bluma Cefkin—deceased; Benjamin and Bella Machanick—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Jonathan and Piangjai Cefkin, none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Barbara and Perry Springer, none; Melissa Cefkin and Mazyar Lotfalian, $200.00, 2012, Obama for America.

*Stafford Fitzgerald Haney, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Nominee: Stafford Fitzgerald Haney.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: $2,600, 2014, Menendez for New Jersey; $49,000, 2013, Presidential Inaugural Committee 2013; $2,000, 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; $1,104, 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; $644, 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; $1,380, 2012, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; $920, 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; $920, 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; $276, 2012, New Hampshire Democratic Party; $2,208, 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; $276, 2012, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; $40,000, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012, $30,800, 2012, Democratic National Committee; $644, 2012, North Carolina Democratic Party; $2,500, 2012, Menendez for Senate; $5,000, 2011, Obama for America; $35,800, 2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $30,800, 2011, Democratic National Committee; $5,000, 2011, Gillibrand for Senate; $5,000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; $2,500, 2011, Menendez for Senate; $30,400, 2010, Democratic National Committee; $500, 2010, Ben Chandler for Congress.

2. Spouse: Andrea R. Haney: $5,000, 2011, Kaine for Virginia; $30,400, 2010, Democratic National Committee.

3. Children and Spouses: Asher D. Haney—none; Nava S. Haney—none; Eden N. Haney—none; Shaia A. Haney—none.

4. Parents: Sandra Haney Hogan—deceased; William Chester Haney—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Della Mae Scott—deceased; James D. Brabson—deceased; Oliver Joseph Haney—deceased; Grace Tuggelle—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Joseph M. Haney—deceased.

Sisters and Spouses: None.

---

*James Peter Zumwalt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Nominee: James Peter Zumwalt.

Post: Senegal and Guinea Bissau

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions and amount:

Self: none; Spouse: none; Children and Spouses: none; Parents: none; Grandparents: none; Brothers and Spouses: none; Sisters and Spouses: none.

---

*Craig B. Allen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Nominee: Craig B. Allen.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Brunei.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: $300, June 2011, Obama Campaign; $100, July 2012, Friends of Pat Fahy (NY Assemblywoman).

2. Spouse: Micheline R. Tusenius: $100, June 2011, Obama Campaign; $35, May 29 2012, Obama Campaign; $15, June 17, 2012, Obama Campaign; $50, July 16, 2012, Obama Campaign; $100, August 9, 2012, Friends of Pat Fahy; $55, Oct. 10, 2012, Obama Campaign; $55, Oct 28, 2012, Obama Campaign; $25, March 30, 2014, Democratic National Committee.

3. Children: Christopher R. Allen, None; Caroline L. Allen, None.

4. Parents: Chester B. Allen, Deceased; Elizabeth R. Allen, None.

5. Grandparents: Chester Allen, Deceased; Miriam Allen, Deceased; Raymond Leonard, Deceased; Marion Leonard, Deceased.

6. Brother: Scott A. Allen: $500, February 24, 2010, Trivedi for Congress; $1,000, March 3, 2010, Ben Cardin for Senate; $1,000, March 9, 2010, Veterans for Security & Democracy (Vetpac); $1,000, March 17, 2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; $250, May 4, 2010, Trivedi for Congress; $1,000, May 11, 2010, Vetpac; $1,000, June 9, 2010, Vetpac; $1,000, June 30, 2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; $2,000, Sept. 14, 2010, Trivedi for Congress; $1,000, October 7, 2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; $30,800, February 24, 2011, DNC Services Corp./Democratic National Comm.; $3,000, March 4, 2011, Vetpac; $2,500, June 3, 2011, Obama for America; $5,000, June 3, 2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $1,000, Dec. 6, 2011, Trivedi for Congress; $220, Dec. 16, 2011, Colorado Democratic Party; $340, Dec. 16, 2011, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; $220, Dec. 16, 2011, North Carolina Democratic Party-Federal; $320, Dec. 16, 2011, Ohio Democratic Party; $260, Dec. 16, 2011, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; $2,000, Dec. 16, 2011, Swing State Victory Fund; $220, Dec. 30, 2011, Democratic Party of Virginia; $2,000, February 4, 2012, Vetpac; $1,000,February 22, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; $550, March 6, 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; $250,March 6, 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; $300, March 6, 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; $200, March 6, 2012, New Hampshire Democratic Party; $550,March 6, 2012,North Carolina Democratic Party-Federal; $35,800, March 6, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $800, March 6, 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; $650, March 6, 2012, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; $30,800, March 31, 2012, DNC Services Corp/Dem Natl Comm; $500, April 24, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; $500, June 29, 2012, Kaine for Virginia; $500, June 29, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; $500, August 31, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; $300, Sept. 30, 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; $500, Sept. 30, 2012, Trivedi for Congress; $550, Sept. 30, 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; $5,000, 2013,Council for a Livable World; $250, 2013, Organizing for America; $250, 2014, Marquez for Arizona; $1,000, 2014, 4DPAC; $1,000, 2014, Don Beyer for Virginia.

Brother's Spouse: Kanako Y. Allen: $2,500, June 21, 2011, Obama for America; $2,500, June 21, 2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $388, Sept. 13, 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; $833, Sept. 13, 2012, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; $666, Sept. 13, 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; $555, Sept 13, 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; $555, Sept. 13, 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; $5,000, Sept. 13, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $1,333, Sept. 13, 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; $500, October 17, 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; $2,500, October 29, 2012, DNC Services Corporation/Dem Nati Comm; $2,500, October 29, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $2,000, November 1, 2012, DNC Services Corporation/Dem Natl Comm; $2,000, November 1, 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012.

7. Sister: Sara R. Bowden: $500.00,2012, Obama Campaign; $500.00, 2012, Tim Kaine's U.S. Senate Campaign.

Sister's Spouse: Dennis Bowden: None.

Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Nominee: Charles C. Adams, Jr.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Finland.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: $30,400.00, Democratic National Committee; $1,000.00, Bennet for Colorado; $2,400.00, 10/15/2010, Friends for Harry Reid; $240, 10/15/2010, ACTBLUE; $9,200.00, 12/30/2011, Swing State Victory Fund; $2,500.00, 6/29/2011, Kaine for Virginia; $2,500.00, 9/7/2011, Kaine for Virginia; $35,800.00, 9/19/2011, Obama Victory Fund; $2,500.00, Akin Gump Civic Action Committee; $200.00, 12/14/2011; ACTBLUE; $30,800.00, 1/31/2012, Obama Victory Fund; $1,000.00, 1/12/2012, Gillibrand for Senate; $500.00, 2/21/2012, Andrei Cherney for Arizona; $500.00, 8/8/2012, Andrei Cherney for Arizona; $600.00, 5/30/2012, Clyde Williams for Congress; $1,000.00, DSCC; $5,000.00, 4/25/2012, Akin Gump Civic Action Committee; $1,000.00, 3/16/2012, ACTBLUE; $1,000.00, 3/31/2014, Mark Warner for Virginia; $2,000.00, Common Ground PAC; $500.00, 4/1/2014, Nunn for Senate, Inc.; $2,600.00, 2/6/2014, Friends of Don Beyer; $1,000.00, 4/2/2014, Democrats Abroad; $300.00, 5/9/2014, ACTBLUE; $3,000.00, 5/9/2014, Ready for Hillary PAC; $200.00, 5/13/2014, ACTBLUE; $5,200.00, 5/13/2014, Kaine for Virginia.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Matthew Andrew Adams: $5,000.00, 12/3/2011, Kaine for Virginia; $1,000.00, 9/28/2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $1,000.00, 2/21/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $5,000.00, 5/17/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $1,000.00, 6/8/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $5,000.00, 8/20/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; $1,000.00, 10/13/2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012. Maya Adrian Adams: None.

4. Parents: Charles C. Adams—deceased; Florence Adams—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Charles C. Adams—deceased; Nellie M. Adams—deceased; David Schneider—deceased; Mary Schneider—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Andrew M. Adams—deceased; Kenneth A. Adams, None; Joanne K. Adams, None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Adrian Adams Sow—Deceased; Diabé Sow, None; Christiane Adams, None; Peter De Bolla, None.

---

*Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Nominee: Barbara Anne Leaf.

Post: Abu Dhabi.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Chris Querin, None.
3. Children: Maro Querin, None; Asja Querin, None.
4. Parents: Madonna Anne Leaf: $50, 2012; Rick Santorum; Howard W. Leaf—deceased.
5. Grandparents: None. John and Anna Ronan—deceased; Joseph and Hilda Leaf—deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Timothy Leaf, None; Tom and Christina Leaf, None; Dan and Jennifer Leaf, None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Anne Marie and Tom Moore, None; Mary Beth Leaf, None.

---

*Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malawi.

Nominee: Virginia Evelyn Palmer.

Post: Ambassador to Malawi.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Rebecca A. Asmal: Nadr K. Asmal: none.
4. Parents: Rebecca L. Palmer: Richard H. Hudson: $50 from 2008-2012 Obama for President.
5. Grandparents: deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: S. Zachery Palmer: none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Katherine Palmer Kaup: John Kaup. none.

---

*William V. Roebuck, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Nominee: William V. Roebuck.

Post: Bahrain.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: $50.00, 12/10/2011, Obama for America (OFA).
2. Spouse: Ann Roebuck: $50.00, 09/2012 (approximate date), OfA.
3. Children and Spouses: Son William Roebuck: None.

---

*Thomas Frieden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

*Pamela Leora Spratlen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Nominee: Pamela L. Spratlen.

Post: Uzbekistan.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: N/A.
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
4. Parents: Lois Price Spratlen (deceased): $500, 2/08, Obama for America; $1000, 10/08, Obama for America. Thaddeus H. Spratlen: $400, 1/08, Obama for America; $500, 3/08, Obama for America; $1000, 8/08, Obama for America; $1000, 10/08, Obama for America; $1000, 10/08, Obama Victory Fund; $1000, 10/08, Obama Victory Fund; $50.00, 1/25/10, Adam Kline for State Senate (Dem); $200.00, 5/6/10, Randy Gordon for State Senate (Dem); $50.00, 6/30/10, Scott White for State Senate (Dem); $250.00, 8/8/10, Patty Murray for U.S. Senate (Dem); $500.00, 2/16/11, Larry Gossett for King County Council; $100.00, 2/23/11, Bruce Harrell for Seattle City Council; $50.00, 3/2/11, MoveOn.org (political action); $200.00, 5/23/11, People for Patty Murray; $100.00, 7/28/11, Frank Irigon for Bellevue City Council; $700.00, 7/18/11, Larry Gossett for King County Council; $200.00, 10/07/11, Jay Inslee for Governor (WA); $100.00, 1/27/12, WA State Democratic Party; $100.00, 2/22/12, Dem. Congressional Campaign Comm.; $50.00, 5/15/12, Judy Ramseyer for Superior Court (KC); $150.00, 5/21/12, Dem. Congressional Campaign Comm.; $75.00, 7/27/12, WA State Democratic Party; $1,000.00, 11/05/12, Obama Victory Fund (Dem); $500.00, 6/12/13, Bruce Harrell for Mayor (Seattle).
5. Grandparents: Paternal: John and Lela Spratlen (both deceased); Maternal: Ora Ferguson Price, James Madison Price (both deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: Khalfani Mwamba & Anita Koyier-Mwamba: None; Townsand Price-Spratlen (no spouse): None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Patricia Etem: $250, 2/08, Obama for America; Paula Mitchell and James Mitchell (deceased): None.

*David Nathan Saperstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

*Robert T. Yamate, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of the Comoros.

Nominee: Robert T. Yamate

Post Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the Information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: none.
3. Parents (both deceased): Thomas & Hideko Yamate, n/a.
4. Grandparents (all deceased): Gohei and Tome Yamate, n/a; Toworu and Michiko Ozasa, n/a.
5. Sisters and Spouses: Carol Yamate Borders, none; Wayne Borders, none.

---

*Donald L. Heflin, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cabo Verde.

Nominee: Donald L. Heflin.

Post: Ambassador to Cabo Verde.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions and amount: Self: Zero; Children and Spouses: Sara G. Heflin: Zero; Parents: Deceased; Grandparents: Deceased; Brothers and Spouses: N/A; Sisters and Spouses: Dawn G. Burson and James Burson: Zero.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Leslie Meredith Tsou and ending with Lon C. Fairchild, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 30, 2014. (minus 194 nominees beginning with Gerald Michael Feierstein)

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Madeline Cox Arleo, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Wendy Beetlestone, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Victor Allen Bolden, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Armando Ormar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Stephen R. Bough, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

*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.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2851. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the programs and activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to Tourette syndrome; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2852. A bill to clarify membership requirements for the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2853. A bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2854. A bill to establish pilot programs to encourage the use of shared equity mortgage modifications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2855. A bill to amend the nondiscrimination provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect older, longer, service participants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2856. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production of electricity from renewable resources for certain open-loop biomass and trash facilities placed in service before the date of the enactment of this Act; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2857. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Naugatuck River Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2858. A bill to enhance rail safety and provide for the safe transport of hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2859. A bill to promote apprenticeships for credentials and employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. 2860. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual or concurrent enrollment programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2861. A bill to authorize the Central Everglades Planning Project, Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2862. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2863. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to complete a data analysis on the impact of the proposed rule on gainful employment prior to issuing a final rule on gainful employment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2864. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2865. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for voter registration through the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2866. A bill to authorize grants for the support of caregivers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2867. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2868. A bill to establish a statute of limitations for certain actions of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 2869. A bill to enhance the homeland security of the United States , and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2870. A bill to amend certain provisions of the Social Security Act relating to demonstration projects designed to provide unemployed workers with the information, skills, and relationships they need for reemployment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2871. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to safeguard data stored abroad from improper government access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2872. A bill to protect individuals by strengthening the Nation's mental health infrastructure, improving the understanding of violence, strengthening firearm prohibitions and protections for at-risk individuals, and improving and expanding the reporting of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2873. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acknowledge contributions at units of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2874. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2875. A bill to codify in law the establishment and duties of the Office of Complex Administrative Investigations in the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2876. A bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2877. A bill to appropriately manage the debt of the United States by limiting the use of extraordinary measures; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2878. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from income for student loan forgiveness for students in certain income-based or income-contingent repayment programs who have completed payment obligations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2879. A bill to provide for the implementation of a Sustainable Chemistry Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2880. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive to individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in rural or high unemployment areas and to individuals who achieve certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 2881. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the treatment of seasonal positions for purposes of the employer shared responsibility requirement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain individuals a credit against income tax for contributions to 529 plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2883. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on the entrepreneurial impact of technology transfer at the National Laboratories; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. REID, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. 2884. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit tax-exempt status to professional sports leagues that promote the use of the term redskins; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2885. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rulemaking, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2886. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in an effort to bring justice and equality to Americans in Mississippi during Freedom Summer; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2887. A bill to expand access to transportation services for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2888. A bill to promote the provision of exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2889. A bill to require compliance with established universal home design guidelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. REED):

S. 2890. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program that develops an information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices, and coordinates the collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2891. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an innovation in surface transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2892. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and expand Coverdell education savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2893. A bill to authorize the use of multifamily housing subject to a mortgage insured under section 207 of the National Housing Act as short-term residential housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. 2894. A bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2895. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to include in income the unrepatriated earnings of groups that include an inverted corporation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2896. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to adjust for inflation the amount that is exempt from administrative offsets by the Department of Education for defaulted student loans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2897. A bill to establish a program that promotes reforms in workforce education and skill training for manufacturing in States and metropolitan areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2898. A bill to provide consumer protections for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2899. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2900. A bill to create livable communities through coordinated public investment and streamlined requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2901. A bill to increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 photovoltaic systems by 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2902. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of certain cosmetics containing synthetic plastic microbeads; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2903. A bill to reform the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 2904. A bill to prevent the militarization of Federal, State, and local law enforcement by Federal excess property transfers and grant programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2905. A bill to require the Director of the Congressional Budget Office to calculate a carbon score for each bill or resolution; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2906. A bill to provide for the treatment and extension of temporary financing of short-time compensation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2907. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a comprehensive program to improve education and training for energy-related jobs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2908. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2909. A bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to end extreme global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote endurable, long-term, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilient, adaptive, local capacity of vulnerable populations, and for other related purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2910. A bill to prohibit States from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a decennial census and apportionment, to require States to conduct such redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2911. A bill to establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2912. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 561. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that recently proposed measures that will reduce transparency and public participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) should be disapproved by United States representatives to the IAIS; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. Res. 562. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that performance-based contracts for energy savings are a budget-neutral means to support the Federal Government in reducing its energy consumption without increasing spending while simultaneously supporting United States based jobs and economic development; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 563. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should pursue extradition authority for international cybercriminals committing credit card theft targeting United States citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 564. A resolution honoring conservation on the centennial of the passenger pigeon extinction; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 565. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President and the Secretary of State should ensure that the Canadian Government does not permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. Res. 566. A resolution celebrating the 125th anniversary of the State of North Dakota; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 567. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the possible easing of restrictions on the sale of lethal military equipment to the Government of Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 568. A resolution designating the month of September 2014 as ''National Sepsis Awareness Month'' ; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 569. A resolution designating September 23, 2014, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 570. A resolution designating October 17, 2014, as ''National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day'' ; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 571. A resolution designating September 30, 2014, as ''United States and India Partnership Day'' ; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 572. A resolution congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 4,000 ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. HAGAN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 573. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. Res. 574. A resolution designating the week of September 20 through September 27, 2014, as ''National Estuaries Week'' ; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 575. A resolution designating September 2014 as ''National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID:

S. Con. Res. 44. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 209

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill 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.

S. 326

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to reauthorize 21st century community learning centers, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 631, a bill to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, supra.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 820

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, and for other purposes.

S. 1009

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1009, a bill to reauthorize and modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1088

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1323

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1323, a bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances

Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1407, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen elementary and secondary computer science education, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1654

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations.

S. 1702

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1702, a bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1756, a bill to amend section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants, similar retail food establishments, and vending machines.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2164

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2164, a bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2210

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2210, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2241

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2241, a bill to enhance the safety of drug-free playgrounds.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period, with an offset.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2298

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2319

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2319, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524(g) of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2515, a bill to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have the opportunity to receive care in a home and community-based setting.

S. 2527

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2527, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 2529

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2529, a bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act.

S. 2552

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2552, a bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes.

S. 2556

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2556, a bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an assessment of cultural and historic resources in the waters of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

S. 2622

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2622, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 2642

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2642, a bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation, and to ensure that employers consider these requests; and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain growing low-wage occupations, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2655

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2655, a bill to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their services, and for other purposes.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2686, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the extension of the tax collection period merely because the taxpayer is a member of the Armed Forces who is hospitalized as a result of combat zone injuries.

S. 2687

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2687, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that women members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2689

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2689, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2699

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2699, a bill to require the National Credit Union Administration to provide pass-through share insurance for the deposits or shares of any interest on lawyers trust accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2714, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2714, supra.

S. 2743

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2743, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, for border security, law enforcement, humanitarian assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2746

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2762, a bill to prevent future propane shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2777, a bill to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment, and for other purposes.

S. 2779

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2779, a bill to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2781, a bill to improve student and exchange visitor visa programs.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2782, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to improve the Federal charter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2789

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2789, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 2795

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of eligible program.

S. 2796

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2796, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the income protection allowances.

S. 2811

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2811, a bill to prohibit the distribution in commerce of children's products and upholstered furniture containing certain flame retardants, and for other purposes.

S. 2814

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2814, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to reform the National Labor Relations Board, the Office of the General Counsel, and the process for appellate review, and for other purposes.

S. 2827

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2827, a bill to amend section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude Federal student aid from taxable gross income.

S. 2833

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2833, a bill to improve the establishment of any lower ground-level ozone standards, and for other purposes.

S. 2848

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2848, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights.

S. RES. 420

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 420, a resolution designating the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as ''Naturopathic Medicine Week'' to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care.

S. RES. 540

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 540, a resolution recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

S. RES. 541

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 541, a resolution recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

AMENDMENT NO. 3733

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3733 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3788

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3788 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3819

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3819 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2867. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the preparation of career and technical education teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, school districts across the nation are facing serious shortages in high-quality career and technical education, CTE, teachers. When CTE teachers have real-world experience in a related industry before entering the classroom, students not only benefit from their hands-on knowledge, but also look to them as career role models. Through grant in the Higher Education and Opportunity Act of 2008, many teacher residency partnerships already exist between postsecondary institutions and local schools to train prospective educators, but none are CTE focused.

This is why I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues, Senator BALDWIN and Senator PORTMAN, the Creating Quality Technical Educators Act, which would create a CTE teacher-training grant partnership to give aspiring CTE teachers the preparation necessary to mirror their success in the business world with that in the classroom. The Creating Technical Education Act will foster CTE teacher training partnerships between high-needs secondary schools and postsecondary institutions to create a 1-year residency initiative for prospective teachers and includes teacher mentorship for a minimum of 2 years.

This bipartisan bill amends the Higher Education Act and would give aspiring CTE teachers the experience necessary to succeed in the classroom,

where students can benefit from their work experience and credibility. The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would take a robust proactive approach to recruit and train high-quality CTE teachers. In addition to midcareer professionals in related technical fields, CTE teacher residencies would target candidates who are recent college graduates or veterans or currently licensed teachers with a desire to transition to a CTE focus.

I am pleased we are beginning to see a renaissance of interest in career and technical education, but we have to recruit and train talented teachers to meet this rising demand for CTE. The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act will take an important step to ensure students in communities of all sizes have access to high-quality CTE teachers and career-training programs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2868. A bill to establish a statute of limitations for certain actions of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that extends the time period the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, would have to seek civil monetary penalties for securities law violations.

This legislation is necessary in light of the Supreme Court's decision in Gabelli v. SEC in which the Court held that the 5 year clock to take action aginst wrongdoing starts when the fraud occurs, not when it is discovered. In effect, Gabelli has made the SEC's job of protecting investors even tougher by shortening the amount of time that the SEC has to investigate and pursue securities law violations.

Financial fraud has evolved significantly over the years and now involves multiple parties, complex financial products, and elaborate transactions that are executed in a variety of securities markets, both domestic and foreign. As a result, many of the critical facts necessary to initiate an action may go undetected for years. Securities law violators may simply run out the clock, now with greater ease in the aftermath of Gabelli.

Couple this with the fact that while we have given the SEC even greater responsibilities, Congress, despite my ongoing efforts to urge otherwise, has not provided the agency with all the resources necessary to carry out its duties. SEC Chair White recently testified before the Banking Committee that ''if the SEC does not receive sufficient additional resources, the agency will be unable to fully build out its technology and hire the industry experts and other staff needed to oversee and police our areas of responsibility, especially in light of the expanding size and complexity of our overall regulatory space.''

To give just one example of the impact of this resource shortfall, Chair White also testified that ''in 2004, the SEC had 19 examiners per trillion dollars in investment adviser assets under management. Today, we have only 8.''

This legislation would address these challenges by giving the SEC the breathing room it needs to better police our markets and protect investors. Specifically, this bill extends the time period the SEC has to seek civil monetary penalties from five years to ten years, thereby strengthening the integrity of our markets, better protecting public investors, and empowering the SEC to investigate and pursue more securities law violators, particularly those most sophisticated at evading detection.

In so doing, the bill would align the SEC's statute of limitations with the limitations period applicable to complex civil financial fraud actions initiated pursuant to the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, FIRREA. For over 2 decades, the Department of Justice has benefited from FIRREA, which allows the DOJ to seek civil penalties within a 10-year time period against persons who have committed fraud against financial institutions. The SEC, which pursues similarly complex financial fraud cases, should have the same time necessary to bring wrongdoers that violate the securities laws to justice.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2880. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive to individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in rural or high unemployment areas and to individuals who achieve certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today, I rise to reintroduce the Incentives to Educate American Children, or I TEACH, Act of 2014. With teacher retention rates on a steady decline nationwide, it is my hope that this legislation will encourage our best and brightest teachers to remain in the classroom.

In the past two decades, the number of years of experience for the average teacher has decreased from 15 years to 5 years. Almost half of our education workforce today has less than ten years of experience. This is partly because teachers continue to be paid less than those employed in other fields, earning approximately 79 percent of the average wage of other workers with a bachelor's degree. In addition, their salaries have remained static since 2009, with the average starting salary for a new teacher estimated at just $36,141. At the same time, college debt levels continue to increase. The average student graduating in 2014 had $33,000 worth of student debt, making it difficult for young, eager graduates to pursue a career in teaching while paying down student loans and other living expenses.

No dedicated young person should have to decide that they simply cannot ''afford'' to be a teacher, but this happens. If passed, the I TEACH Act would invest in our most critical educators by providing a $1,000 refundable tax credit to teachers serving in rural or high poverty schools. It would also provide every teacher, regardless of school or district, the chance to earn a $1,000 refundable tax credit if they receive accreditation from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This means that a National Board Teacher in a rural or high poverty school would be eligible to receive $2,000 in refundable tax credits.

In doing so, the I TEACH Act will provide meaningful incentives to teachers willing to serve in rural or high poverty schools, as well as rewarding quality teachers for staying in the classroom and continuing their professional development by earning National Board certification. Today, the majority of States see the value in this effort, providing some type of financial incentive to National Board certified teachers, and this refundable tax credit will work in tandem with those efforts. My home State of West Virginia, for example, offers a $3,500 bonus for National Board teachers. If I TEACH is enacted, a National Board teacher in my State would receive a nearly 12 percent bonus. That is a clear sign of appreciation for their hard work and a meaningful incentive to continue teaching.

Our teachers are among the most important members of our society. They inspire and educate our children, preparing the next generation for success. They deserve our respect and full support, and that is why I urge my colleagues to work with me to enact I TEACH and invest in our children's education.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain individuals a credit against income tax for contributions to 529 plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I am proud to offer legislation that will make it easier for American families to pay for their child's higher education. This legislation is the Enhanced 529–Setting Aside for a Valuable Education, or Enhanced 529–SAVE, Act. This measure will make the 529 college savings plans more accessible to lower and middle-income families.

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan that is designed to encourage Americans to save for future college costs. 529 plans can be sponsored by states, state agencies, or educational institutions and they are authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue

Code. I championed efforts to ensure that 529 plans would be 100 percent tax-free at the Federal level. In 2001, I authored the Setting Aside for Valuable Education, or SAVE, Act, which was included in a tax package that became law. In 2006, I helped make the tax benefits under these accounts permanent.

The Enhanced 529–SAVE Act will make 529 plans more accessible by encouraging employers to contribute to an employee's 529 plan. My bill would exclude up to $600 of an employer's contribution from an employee's gross income. This will help families and individuals save more for higher education expenses.

The Enhanced 529–SAVE Act will also create an incentive for lower-income families and individuals to save money for college by allowing the individual that contributes to the 529 plan to qualify for the Saver's Credit, which is an income-based, non-refundable tax credit up to $4,000.

The Enhanced 529–SAVE Act is similar to H.R. 529, introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS of Kansas. I want to commend her for her leadership on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to consider and pass the Enhanced 529–SAVE Act, and I look forward to its eventual passage.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2882

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 ''Enhanced 529 - Setting Aside for a Valuable Education Act'' or the ''Enhanced 529 - S.A.V.E. Act''.

SEC. 2. CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO 529 PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 25B(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting '', and'', and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) the amount of the contributions to qualified tuition programs described in paragraph (2) made by the eligible individual.''.

(b) CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d) of section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3) and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'contributions to qualified tuition programs' means any purchase or contribution described in paragraph (1)(A) of section 529(b) to a qualified tuition program (as defined in such section) if—

''(i) the eligible individual has the power to authorize distributions and otherwise administer the account, and

''(ii) the designated beneficiary of such purchase or contribution is the eligible individual, the eligible individual's spouse, or an individual with respect to whom the eligible individual is allowed a deduction under section 151.

''(B) LIMITATION BASED ON COMPENSATION.—The amount treated as a qualified savings contribution by reason of subparagraph (A) for any taxable year shall not exceed the sum of—

''(i) the compensation (as defined in section 219(f)(1)) includible in the eligible individual's gross income for the taxable year, and

''(ii) the amount excluded from the eligible individual's gross income under section 112 (relating to combat pay) for such year.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—Solely for purposes of determining the applicable percentage under subsection (b) which applies with respect to the amount treated as contributions to qualified tuition programs, adjusted gross income (determined without regard to this subparagraph) shall be increased by the excess (if any) of—

''(i) the social security benefits received during the taxable year (within the meaning of section 86), over

''(ii) the amount included in gross income for such year under section 86.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 25B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''qualified retirement savings'' each place it appears and inserting ''qualified savings''.

(2) The heading of subsection (d) of section 25B of such Code is amended by striking ''RETIREMENT''.

(3) Subparagraph (A) of section 25B(d)(3) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended—

(A) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' the first place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (1) or (2)'', and

(B) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' the second place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (1), or (2), as the case may be,''.

(4) The heading for section 25B of such Code is amended by striking ''**AND IRA CONTRIBUTIONS**'' and inserting ''**, IRA CONTRIBUTIONS, AND QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS**''.

(5) The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to section 25B and inserting the following new item:

''Sec. 25B. Elective deferrals, IRA contributions, and qualified tuition program contributions by certain individuals.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made after December 31, 2014, in taxable years ending after such date.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 127 the following new section:

''SEC. 127A. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Gross income of an employee does not include amounts paid by the employer as contributions to a qualified tuition program held by the employee or spouse of the employee if the contributions are made pursuant to a program which is described in subsection (c).

''(b) MAXIMUM EXCLUSION.—The amount excluded from the gross income of an employee under this section for the taxable year shall not exceed $600.

''(c) QUALIFIED TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—For purposes of this section, a qualified tuition assistance program is a separate written plan of an employer for the benefit of such employer's employees—

''(1) under which the employer makes matching contributions to qualified tuition programs of—

''(A) such employees,

''(B) their spouses, or

''(C) any individual with respect to whom such an employee or spouse—

''(i) is allowed a deduction under section 151, and

''(ii) has the power to authorize distributions and otherwise administer such individual's account under the qualified tuition program, and

''(2) which meets requirements similar to the requirements of paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 127(b).

''(d) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAM.—The term 'qualified tuition program' means a qualified tuition program as defined in section 529(b).

''(2) EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER.—The terms 'employee' and 'employer' shall have the meaning given such terms by paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 127(c).

''(3) APPLICABLE RULES.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) of section 127(c) shall apply.

''(e) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2015, the $600 amount contained in subsection (b)(1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

''(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2014' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

Any increase determined under the preceding sentence shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $50.

''(f) CROSS REFERENCE.—For reporting and recordkeeping requirements, see section 6039D.''.

(b) EXCLUSION FROM EMPLOYMENT TAXES.—

(1) Sections 3121(a)(18), 3306(b)(13), and 3401(a)(18) of such Code are each amended by inserting '', 127A'' after ''127'' each place it appears.

(2) Section 3231(e)(6) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 127'' and inserting ''section 127 or 127A''.

(c) REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 6039D(d)(1) of such Code is amended by inserting '', 127A'' after ''127''.

(d) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Sections 125(f), 414(n)(3)(C), and 414(t)(2) of such Code are each amended by inserting '', 127A'' after ''127'' each place it appears.

(2) Section 132(j)(8) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 127'' and inserting ''section 127 or 127A''.

(3) Section 1397(a)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) Any amount paid or incurred by an employer which is excludable from the gross income of an employee under section 127A, but only to the extent paid or incurred to a person not related to the employer.''.

(4) Section 209(a)(15) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 409(a)(15)) is amended by striking ''or 129'' and inserting '', 127A, or 129''.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 127 the following new item:

''Sec. 127A. Employer contributions to qualified tuition programs.''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2887. A bill to expand access to transportation services for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, 24 years ago, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. I will never forget the day, July 26, 1990, the ADA was signed into law. It was one of the proudest days of my legislative career.

The ADA set forth four great goals for individuals with disabilities—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. In many ways, we have been successful in making progress toward these goals. We have increased the accessibility of our buildings, our streets, even our parks, beaches and recreation areas. We have made our books and TVs, phones, computers, and other technology more accessible. And for many Americans with disabilities, our workplaces have become increasingly more open and accessible.

America is far more inclusive, today, for individuals with disabilities. But our work is still far from complete.

According to new data released this week, almost 30 percent of people with disabilities are living in poverty, and fewer than one in three individuals with a disability participate in the workforce. This is further evidence that we are far from realizing the ADA's goal of economic self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities.

Today, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which I chair, released a report titled ''Fulfilling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities.'' In our report, we detail many of the barriers that adversely impact the economic well-being of individuals with disabilities—including the lack of accessible transportation and the lack of accessible housing. These barriers don't only affect individuals with disabilities who are living in poverty; they also impact individuals with disabilities who are striving to reach the American dream as members of the middle class.

That is why, today, I am introducing three bills that I believe will begin to address these barriers to individuals with disabilities, S. 2887, S. 2888, and S. 2889. The first bill, the Universal Home Design Act, will increase the availability of accessible housing for individuals with disabilities. The second, the Accessible Transportation for All Act, will increase the availability of accessible passenger cars and taxis. The third, the Exercise and Fitness for All Act, will increase the availability of exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, which will help individuals with disabilities maintain and improve their health through appropriate physical activity.

I am confident that these three bills, along with the Community Integration Act, and the recently passed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, will help provide the framework for a future of continued opportunities, inclusion and advancement for individuals with disabilities in America. I urge my Senate colleagues to support these important bills.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2887

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 ''Accessible Transportation for All Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE FOR HIRE.—The term ''accessible vehicle for hire'' means a vehicle used in a demand responsive system by private entities to provide non-fixed route transportation service, including taxi service and transportation network operator vehicles, which—

(A) is designed to enable persons who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices to be transported, and to remain in their wheelchairs or other mobility devices if they so choose; and

(B) affords independent access for people with disabilities to all in-vehicle functions generally available to other passengers in such vehicles, including credit card payment devices.

(2) ACCESSIBLE PASSENGER CAR.—The term ''accessible passenger car'' means a passenger car that is designed to enable persons who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices as a result of a significant mobility impairment—

(A) to independently enter and exit the car via a ramp, lift, or similar device that permits access to the driver's seat, while remaining in a manual wheelchair, power wheelchair, or other mobility device;

(B) to safely store a wheelchair or other mobility device in the car, if desired; and

(C) to independently operate the car, including through using hand controls or other optional modifications.

(3) ACCESSIBLE TAXI VEHICLE.—The term ''accessible taxi vehicle'' means an accessible vehicle for hire operated by a taxi company or other company that provides immediate service through on-street hailing or on-demand dispatch by telephone or electronic means.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the Federal Transit Administration.

(5) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration.

(6) DISCRIMINATORY TERMS OR CONDITIONS.—The term ''discriminatory terms or conditions'' includes—

(A) denial of participation (as described in section 302(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(1)(A)(i)));

(B) participation in an unequal benefit (as described in section 302(b)(1)(A)(ii) of such Act);

(C) the imposition or application of eligibility criteria described in section 302(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act;

(D) a failure to make reasonable accommodations in policies, practices, or procedures (as described in section 302(b)(2)(A)(ii) of such Act);

(E) imposing a surcharge for the use of an accessible taxi or an accessible for-hire vehicle by a person with a disability; and

(F) failing to permit an individual with a disability with his service animal.

(7) FOR HIRE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.—The term ''for hire transportation company'' means a public or private entity operating a demand responsive system, including a taxi service, a transportation network company, or other public or private entity providing transportation or access to non-fixed route transportation services.

(8) PASSENGER CAR.—The term ''passenger car'' has the meaning given the term ''passenger automobile'' in section 32901(a) of title 49, United States Code.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Transportation.

(10) TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY.—The term ''transportation network company'' means a company that uses a digital network, a software application, or other means to connect a passenger to transportation network services provided by a transportation network operator.

(11) TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR.—The term ''transportation network operator'' means an individual who operates a motor vehicle that is—

(A) owned or leased by the individual;

(B) not licensed as a taxi or other public vehicle for hire; and

(C) used to provide services through a transportation network or transportation network company.

SEC. 3. ACCESSIBILITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION.

(a) ADEQUATE PROVISION OF ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES.—Any person who owns, leases, operates, or arranges for the operation of transportation services to members of the public through a for hire transportation company, taxi service, or transportation network company shall provide, or arrange for, the adequate provision of accessible vehicles for hire to serve individuals with disabilities who require such services.

(b) RIGHTS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS.—An individual with a disability may not, as a result of such disability—

(1) be denied full and equal access to appropriate and useable transportation by a person providing transportation services, including services—

(A) through a transportation network company;

(B) through a for hire transportation company;

(C) through a taxi service; or

(D) by a driver, owner, or operator of a taxi vehicle; or

(2) be subject to discriminatory terms or conditions by any person who owns, leases, or operates a transportation vehicle, or arranges for such transportation services, to members of the public, including the services set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

(c) APPLICABLE REMEDIES AND PROCEDURES.—The remedies and procedures set forth in sections 308(a) and 505 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12188(a) and 12205) shall be available to any person aggrieved by the failure of a person to comply with this section.

SEC. 4. MODEL ACCESSIBLE TAXI COMPETITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMPETITION AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall organize a national competition to design 1 or more model accessible taxi vehicles.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the competition under this section shall be to develop 1 or more designs for an accessible taxi vehicle which, without additional modification, can

be manufactured for an amount not to exceed the sum of the average manufacturing cost of a minivan that is generally available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(b) ELIGIBLE COMPETITORS.—Any automobile manufacturer that manufacturers vehicles for sale in the United States may submit a proposal for the competition authorized under this section, regardless of size.

(c) GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall establish guidelines for the competition authorized under this section in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (5).

(2) COST.—A proposal may not be selected for a cash prize under subsection (d) unless the Administrator determines that the cost for manufacturing the proposed accessible taxi vehicle does not exceed the average manufacturing cost of a minivan that is generally available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(3) COLLABORATION REQUIREMENT.—Each proposal submitted under this section shall represent designs collaboratively developed by—

(A) an eligible automobile manufacturer; and

(B) at least 1 national organization serving people with disabilities.

(4) ADOPTABILITY.—Proposals submitted under this section shall be judged on whether the design for an accessible taxi vehicle represents a design that a local taxi commission could realistically adopt. The Administrator shall encourage competitors to seek feedback on their designs from members of a local taxi commission before such submission.

(5) VEHICLE ATTRIBUTES.—Each proposal submitted under this section shall describe the specifications of the proposed accessible taxi vehicle, including—

(A) accessibility features and the extent to which such features allow for the full inclusion of individuals with various disabilities;

(B) estimated highway and city fuel economy;

(C) the cost of the vehicle;

(D) the extent to which the vehicle provides adequate space for passengers and any mobility devices, including wheelchairs;

(E) the relative comfort provided for passengers with disabilities and others; and

(F) available luggage or storage space.

(d) SELECTION.—The Administrator shall convene a selection panel to select the winning proposals for the competition that includes representatives from the taxi industry, the for-hire transportation industry, and the disability community.

(e) PAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall award automobile manufacturers that are selected pursuant to subsection (d) with cash prizes in an amount to be determined by the Administrator.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. MODEL ACCESSIBLE PASSENGER CAR COMPETITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMPETITION AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall organize a national competition to design 1 or more model accessible passenger cars.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the competition under this section shall be to develop 1 or more designs for an accessible passenger car which, without additional modification—

(A) can be manufactured for an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the average manufacturing cost of a passenger car that is available for purchase by consumers in the United States; and

(B) can be sold to the public for an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the average sale price of a new passenger car that is available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(b) ELIGIBLE COMPETITORS.—Any automobile manufacturer that manufacturers passenger cars for sale in the United States may submit a proposal for the competition authorized under this section, regardless of size.

(c) GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish guidelines for the competition authorized under this section in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (5).

(2) COST.—A proposal may not be selected for a cash prize under subsection (d) unless the Administrator determines that—

(A) the cost for manufacturing the proposed accessible passenger car does not exceed 75 percent of the average manufacturing cost of a passenger car that is generally available for purchase by consumers in the United States; and

(B) the sale price of the proposed accessible passenger car will not to exceed 75 percent of the average sale price of a new passenger car that is available for purchase by consumers in the United States.

(3) COLLABORATION REQUIREMENT.—Each proposal submitted under this section shall represent designs collaboratively developed by—

(A) an eligible automobile manufacturer;

(B) a postsecondary school of design; and

(C) at least 1 national organization serving people with disabilities.

(4) STANDARDS.—Proposals submitted under this section shall meet the general requirements set by the Department of Transportation for all passenger cars available for purchase in the United States.

(5) VEHICLE ATTRIBUTES.—Each proposal submitted under this section shall describe the specifications of the proposed accessible passenger car, including—

(A) the extent to which the car meets the requirements of an accessible passenger car set forth in subsection (a)(2);

(B) estimated highway and city fuel economy;

(C) the cost of the vehicle;

(D) the extent to which the vehicle provides adequate space for using and storing mobility devices, including wheelchairs;

(E) whether the car includes hand controls, either as standard equipment or as an option available from the manufacturer;

(F) the ease and comfort with which drivers with disabilities can enter and exit the car;

(G) the ease with which drivers with disabilities can reach and utilize car controls;

(H) the ease of making additional modifications to the car, if necessary; and

(I) available luggage or storage space.

(d) SELECTION.—The Administrator shall convene a selection panel to select the winning proposals for the competition that includes representatives from the automobile industry and the disability community.

(e) PAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall award cash prizes, in an amount to be determined by the Administrator, to the automobile manufacturers, post secondary schools of design, and disability organizations that collaborated on a design that was selected under subsection (d).

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. ACCESSIBLE TAXI AND FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 1 of subtitle I of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 116. Accessible Taxi and For-Hire Transportation Board

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Administration an Accessible Taxi and For-Hire Transportation Board (referred to in this section as the 'Board').

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of 9 members, who shall be appointed as follows:

''(1) PUBLIC MEMBERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall appoint 5 people with disabilities to the Board, including—

''(i) at least 1 person who uses a wheelchair for mobility;

''(ii) at least 1 person who is deaf or hard of hearing;

''(iii) at least 1 person who is blind or visually impaired; and

''(iv) at least 1 person with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability.

''(B) TERM.—Each public member appointed under this paragraph shall be appointed for a 2-year term.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTATIVES.—The Administrator shall designate 2 officials of the Administration to represent the Administration on the Board.

''(3) TAXI INDUSTRY MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint 2 members from the taxi and for-hire transportation industry to the Board.

''(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall designate a Chairperson of the Board from among the appointed public members of the Board.

''(d) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less frequently than 4 times per year.

''(e) DUTIES.—The Board shall conduct activities to increase the availability of accessible taxis and other for-hire vehicles, including—

''(1) coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration to provide information and technical assistance to local municipalities, taxi commissions, and for hire transportation companies (as defined in section 2 of the Accessible Transportation for All Act)—

''(A) to increase the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire; and

''(B) to facilitate improvements to access to taxis and other accessible for-hire transportation options for people with disabilities; and

''(2) submitting an annual report to the Secretary that includes studies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations about the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire throughout the Nation, including—

''(A) the number of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire in the various States and localities, including in the 25 most populated cities in the United States;

''(B) improvements, increases, or changes in the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire to access to taxis and other for-hire transportation in the States, localities, and cities referred to in subparagraph (A);

''(C) any State or local policies, ordinances, regulations, or statutes that led to the increases or changes referred to in subparagraph (B);

''(D) barriers to further increases in the availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire; and

''(E) recommendations about how best to address the barriers described in subparagraph (D).

''(f) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

''(1) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Board may not receive compensation for the performance of services for the Board, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Board. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary uncompensated services of members of the Board.

''(2) STAFF.—The Secretary may designate such personnel as may be necessary to enable the Board to perform its duties.

''(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency, may be detailed to the Board without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

''(4) FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES.—The Secretary shall make available to the Board necessary office space and furnish the Board, under such arrangements respecting financing as may be appropriate, with necessary equipment, supplies, and services.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in chapter 1 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''116. Accessible Taxi and For-Hire Transportation Board.''.

SEC. 7. STATE STRATEGIC PLANS FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO TAXIS AND FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the last day of the first calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, each State shall develop a strategic plan that describes ways to increase the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for-hire transportation options for people with disabilities in the State.

(b) BEST PRACTICES.—Each strategic plan developed under this section shall describe—

(1) current best practices, if any, for increasing the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities within local municipalities in the State; and

(2) any policies, ordinances, or regulations adopted by municipalities to achieve the highest possible standard for accessibility and lowest possible cost for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicle for hire.

(c) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.—Each strategic plan developed under this section—

(1) shall outline long-term goals and specific objectives for increasing the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities;

(2) shall consider options, including incentives, to help reduce the cost of implementing an increase in the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities in the State; and

(3) may examine how to reduce costs through the use of low-cost model taxis and other means.

(d) COLLABORATION.—Each strategic plan developed under this section—

(1) set yearly goals for the number and availability of accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire throughout the State;

(2) describe how the State will meet the goals referred to in paragraph (1);

(3) describe how the State will encourage interstate and intrastate collaboration to increase the availability of accessible taxi vehicles, accessible vehicles for hire, and other accessible for hire transportation options for people with disabilities through collaboration—

(A) among municipalities;

(B) between municipalities and the State; and

(C) between municipalities and private industry.

(e) DISTRIBUTION.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than April 1st of each year, each State shall submit the strategic plan developed under this section to the Secretary.

(2) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review each State plan submitted under paragraph (1). Following each such review, the Secretary shall post the State strategic plan on a publicly available website to facilitate collaboration and to share information and best practices.

SEC. 8. ACCESSIBILITY AND SERVICE STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE TAXIS VEHICLES AND ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR HIRE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in collaboration and consultation with the Access Board established under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 792), shall promulgate regulatory standards, in accordance with this section, including—

(1) accessibility standards for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire; and

(2) service standards for vehicles referred to in paragraph (1).

(b) ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS.—Accessibility standards for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire promulgated under this section shall ensure that such vehicles are fully accessible to, and usable by, passengers with disabilities, including individuals that use wheelchairs or other mobility devices.

(c) SERVICE STANDARDS.—Service standards for accessible taxi vehicles and accessible vehicles for hire promulgated under this section shall, at a minimum, ensure that such vehicles—

(1) are readily available in a manner (including wait times) that is comparable to other, nonaccessible taxi vehicles or nonaccessible vehicles for hire in the area being served;

(2) can be requested using a variety of technological methods or systems; and

(3) are operated by individuals who are trained in properly loading, unloading, securing, and transporting individuals with disabilities.

SEC. 9. TAX CREDIT FOR EXPENDITURES FOR ACCESSIBLE TAXI VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) section 44 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''paid or incurred by an eligible small business'' and inserting ''paid or incurred—

''(A) by an eligible small business'';

(B) by striking ''section).'' and inserting ''section), and''; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

''(B) by an eligible small business which is a qualified taxi company for the purpose of purchasing or adapting a vehicle for use as an accessible taxi vehicle that meets the guidelines established under section 8 of the Accessible Transportation for All Act.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in paragraph (1)(B), which is defined in section 2 of the Accessible Transportation for All Act shall have the meaning given such term in such section, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this paragraph.

''(B) QUALIFIED TAXI COMPANY.—The term 'qualified taxi company' means a person that provides passenger land transportation for a fixed fare by a taxicab and is licensed to engage in the trade or business of furnishing such transportation by a Federal, State, or local authority having jurisdiction over transportation furnished by such person.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenses paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2888. A bill to promote the provision of exercise and fitness equipment that is accessible to individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2888

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 ''Exercise and Fitness For All Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Individuals with disabilities can maintain and improve their health through appropriate physical activity.

(2) In the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans (referred to as the ''Guidelines''), the Department of Health and Human Services recommends that individuals with disabilities, who are able, participate in regular aerobic activity.

(3) The Guidelines also recommend that adults with disabilities, who are able, do muscle-strengthening activities of moderate or high intensity on 2 or more days a week, as these activities provide additional health benefits.

(4) The Guidelines recommend that when adults with disabilities are not able to meet the Guidelines, they should engage in regular physical activity according to their abilities and avoid inactivity.

(5) Unfortunately, many individuals with disabilities are unable to engage in the recommended exercise or fitness activities due to the inaccessibility of exercise or fitness equipment.

(6) Physical inactivity by adults with disabilities can lead to increased risk for functional limitations and secondary health conditions.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to encourage exercise and fitness service providers to provide accessible exercise and fitness equipment for individuals with disabilities; and

(2) to provide guidance about the requirements necessary to ensure that such exercise and fitness equipment is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCESS BOARD.—The term ''Access Board'' means the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792).

(2) ACCESSIBLE EXERCISE OR FITNESS EQUIPMENT.—The term ''accessible exercise or fitness equipment'' means exercise or fitness equipment that is accessible to, and can be independently used and operated by, individuals with disabilities.

(3) EXERCISE OR FITNESS EQUIPMENT.—The term ''exercise or fitness equipment'' means devices such as motorized treadmills, stair climbers or step machines, stationary bicycles, rowing machines, weight machines, circuit training equipment, cardiovascular equipment, strength equipment, or other exercise or fitness equipment.

(4) EXERCISE OR FITNESS SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ''exercise or fitness service provider'' means a fitness facility, health spa, health club, college or university facility, gymnasium, or other similar place of exercise or fitness that—

(A) is considered a public accommodation under section 301 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12181) or is considered a public entity under section 201 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12131); and

(B) provides exercise or fitness equipment for the use of its patrons.

(5) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—The term ''individual with a disability'' means any person with a disability as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(6) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term ''individuals with disabilities'' means more than one individual with a disability.

SEC. 4. EXERCISE AND FITNESS ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Access Board shall develop and publish guidelines for exercise or fitness service providers regarding the provision of accessible exercise or fitness equipment, including relevant personnel training.

(b) CONTENTS OF GUIDELINES.—The guidelines described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be consistent with the Standard Specification for Universal Design of Fitness Equipment for Inclusive Use by Persons with Functional Limitations and Impairments of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM F3021–13) (and any future revisions thereto);

(2) ensure that—

(A) exercise or fitness equipment is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities; and

(B) individuals with disabilities have independent entry to, use of, and exit from the exercise or fitness equipment, to the maximum extent possible; and

(3) take into consideration the following:

(A) Whether the exercise or fitness service provider is a new or existing facility.

(B) Whether the exercise or fitness service provider is staffed or not.

(C) Instruction and additional assistance on the use of the accessible exercise or fitness equipment (including specific accessibility features) for individuals with disabilities.

(D) The size and overall financial resources of the exercise or fitness service provider.

(E) The availability of closed captioning of video programing displayed on equipment and televisions provided by an exercise or fitness service provider.

(c) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—The Access Board shall periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the guidelines, and shall issue the resulting guidelines as revised guidelines.

SEC. 5. TAX CREDIT FOR EXPENDITURES TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE EXERCISE OR FITNESS EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 44(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''paid or incurred by an eligible small business'' and inserting ''paid or incurred—

''(A) by an eligible small business'',

(2) by striking ''section).'' and inserting ''section), and'', and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

''(B) by an eligible small business which is an exercise or fitness service provider for the purpose of providing for use by individuals with disabilities accessible exercise or fitness equipment that meets the guidelines established by the Access Board under section 4 of the Exercise and Fitness for All Act.

Any term used in subparagraph (B) which is defined in section 3 of the Exercise and Fitness for All Act shall have the meaning given such term in such section, as in effect on the date of the enactment of such subparagraph.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenses paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2889. A bill to require compliance with established universal home design guidelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2889

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 ''Universal Home Design Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCESSIBLE.—The term ''accessible'' (except when used in the context of accessible format) means—

(A) consistent with—

(i) subpart D of part 36 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling); and

(ii) appendices B and D to part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling); and

(B) independently usable by individuals with disabilities, including those who use a mobility device such as a wheelchair.

(2) ACCESS BOARD.—The term ''Access Board'' means the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792).

(3) COVERED DWELLING UNIT.—The term ''covered dwelling unit'' means a dwelling unit that—

(A) is a detached single family house, a townhouse or multi-level dwelling unit (whether detached or attached to other units or structures), or a ground-floor unit in a building of not more than 3 dwelling units;

(B) is designed as, or intended for occupancy as, a residence;

(C)(i) was designed, constructed, or commissioned, contracted, or otherwise arranged for construction, by a person or entity who, at any time before the design or construction, received or was guaranteed Federal financial assistance for any program or activity;

(ii) is purchased by a person or entity using amounts that are provided or guaranteed under a program that provides Federal financial assistance for homeownership; or

(iii) is offered for purchase by a person or entity using amounts that are provided or guaranteed under a program that provides Federal financial assistance for homeownership; and

(D) is made available for first occupancy after the expiration of the 30-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(5) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The term ''Federal financial assistance'' means—

(A) any assistance that is provided or otherwise made available by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, any Federal Home Loan Bank, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or any program or activity of the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Department of Veterans Affairs, through any grant, loan, insurance, guarantee, contract, or any other arrangement, after the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, including—

(i) a grant, subsidy, or any other funds;

(ii) real or personal property or any interest in or use of such property, including—

(I) transfers or leases of the property for less than the fair market value or for reduced consideration; and

(II) proceeds from a subsequent transfer or lease of the property if the Federal share of the fair market value is not returned to the Federal Government;

(iii) any tax credit, mortgage or loan guarantee, or insurance; and

(iv) community development funds in the form of obligations guaranteed under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308); and

(B) any assistance that is provided or otherwise made available by the Secretary of Agriculture under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.).

(6) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—The term ''individual with a disability'' means an individual with a disability, as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(7) INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term ''individuals with disabilities'' means more than 1 individual with a disability.

(8) PERSON OR ENTITY.—The term ''person or entity'' includes 1 or more individuals, corporations (including not-for-profit corporations), partnerships, associations, labor organizations, legal representatives, mutual corporations, joint-stock companies, trusts, unincorporated associations, trustees, trustees in cases under title 11 of the United States Code, receivers, and fiduciaries.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(10) UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN.—The term ''universal home design'' means the inclusion of architectural and other landscaping features that allow basic access to and within a residential dwelling by an individual with a disability who cannot climb stairs, including an individual who uses a mobility device such as a wheelchair.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN GUIDELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Access Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop and issue guidelines setting forth the minimum technical criteria and scoping requirements for a covered dwelling unit to be in compliance with universal home design under this Act.

(b) UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN FEATURES COVERED.—The guidelines required to be developed and issued under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, basic access to a covered dwelling unit and to not less than 1 level within such covered dwelling unit, including—

(1) an accessible entrance located on an accessible path from the public street or driveway;

(2) accessible interior doors with sufficient clear width and accessible thresholds;

(3) accessible environmental controls on the wall;

(4) at least 1 accessible indoor room that has an area of not less than 70 square feet and contains no side or dimension narrower than 7 feet;

(5) an accessible bathroom with—

(A) an accessible sink and toilet; and

(B) reinforced walls that permit the installation of grab bars; and

(6) a kitchen space—

(A) with accessible food preparation, washing, and storage areas; and

(B) that can easily be further adapted to accommodate an individual with a disability.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the guidelines are issued under subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue regulations, in an accessible format—

(1) to carry out the provisions of this Act; and

(2) that include accessibility standards that are consistent with the guidelines issued under subsection (a).

(d) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—

(1) ACCESS BOARD.—The Access Board, in consultation with the Secretary, shall—

(A) periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the guidelines issued under subsection (a); and

(B) issue such amended guidelines as revised guidelines.

(2) SECRETARY.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which revised guidelines are issued under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall issue revised regulations that are consistent with such revised guidelines.

SEC. 4. USE OF UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN GUIDELINES IN NEW CONSTRUCTION.

It shall be unlawful for any person described in clauses (i), (ii), and (ii) of section 2(3)(C), with respect to a covered dwelling unit, to fail to ensure that the covered dwelling unit complies with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Each applicant for Federal financial assistance that is to be used for a covered dwelling unit shall submit to the agency providing such Federal financial assistance an assurance, at such time and in such manner as the head of the agency may require, verifying that the applicant is in compliance with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3 with respect to the covered dwelling unit.

(b) CIVIL ACTION FOR PRIVATE PERSONS.—Any person aggrieved by an act or omission that is unlawful under section 3 or 4 may commence a civil action in an appropriate United States district court against any person or entity responsible for any part of the design, construction, or sale of a covered dwelling unit.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons has violated section 3 or 4, the Attorney General may commence a civil action in any appropriate United States district court. The Attorney General may also, upon timely application, intervene in any civil action brought under subsection (b) by a private person if the Attorney General certifies that the case is of general public importance.

(d) RELIEF.—In any civil action brought under subsection (b) or (c), if the court finds that a violation of section 3 or 4 of this Act has occurred or is about to occur, it may award to the plaintiff actual and punitive damages, and may grant as relief, as the court finds appropriate, any permanent or temporary injunction, temporary restraining order, or other order (including an order enjoining the defendant from violating section 3 or 4 of this Act or ordering such affirmative action as may be appropriate).

(e) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—In any civil action brought under subsection (b) or (c), the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the United States, a reasonable attorney's fee and costs.

(f) VIOLATIONS.—For purposes of this section, a violation involving a covered dwelling unit that is not designed or constructed in conformity with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3 shall not be considered to terminate until the violation is corrected.

SEC. 6. OFFICE OF ACCESSIBLE HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Accessible Housing and Development.

(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall be headed by a Director of Accessible Housing and Development, who shall be—

(1) appointed by the Secretary;

(2) an individual with substantial knowledge of individuals with disabilities and universal design; and

(3) responsible for implementing the responsibilities described in subsection (c).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.—The Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall disseminate information to inform the public about the importance of universal home design by—

(A) sharing information and resources about the requirements under this Act, the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.); and

(B) creating a website in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d) to facilitate the dissemination of information and resources under subparagraph (A).

(2) SURVEYING THE AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall conduct a study and submit to the Secretary a report on the number of covered dwelling units and other housing units that are accessible to individuals with disabilities in each State, disaggregated by type of housing, cost, and location.

(3) PROMOTING UNIVERSAL HOME DESIGN.—The Office of Accessible Housing and Development shall—

(A) help monitor progress and compliance with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3;

(B) submit to the Secretary an annual report detailing compliance with the universal home design guidelines established under section 3, including the number of covered dwelling units that were built in each State that were in compliance with such guidelines;

(C) coordinate with, and provide technical assistance to, the Department of Justice to assist in the enforcement of this Act; and

(D) perform any other duties as the Secretary may determine appropriate.

SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act of the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of the provision to other persons not similarly situated shall not be affected thereby.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2891. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an innovation in surface transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with Senate colleagues the Innovation in Surface Transportation Act, which will spur economic development and include more local stakeholders in transportation projects. I am proud to join with Senators WICKER, BEGICH, COCHRAN, and CASEY to sponsor this important bipartisan legislation.

As a former Mayor, I understand local leaders are often in the best position to make sound, cost-effective investment decisions to boost the local economy. Today, our cities, towns and suburbs are not getting the transportation investments they need to remain competitive and attract the kind of investment needed to create jobs and put more people to work.

This legislation establishes a statewide program of competitive grants to local communities overseen by a diverse selection panel, including state Departments of Transportation, local jurisdictions, port authorities, and representatives from air quality and safety organizations. This innovative proposal would encourage communities to compete against their peers, and stretch to make the most of every project and every dollar. Recognizing each state and region has different transportation needs, the panel would create criteria specific to their State's needs, such as improving the movement of freight, or connecting low-income communities to jobs. The bill would also require a metric-based, objective, fully transparent process based off critical criteria, such as return on investment, job creation, and reducing environmental impacts.

The most cost-effective and economically important projects will rise to the top, which will help communities across the country meet the great challenge of maintaining aging infrastructure and preparing for future growth with constrained funding.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to build further support for this legislation and continue working to provide long-term transportation investment that strengthens communities across the nation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 2896. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to adjust for inflation the amount that is exempt from administrative offsets by the Department of Education for defaulted student loans; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today Senator NELSON and I are introducing legislation to limit the amount the Federal Government can garnish from Social Security benefits for unpaid student loan debt. Our bill would adjust the current $750 garnishment floor for inflation and index it going forward, to make sure that garnishments do not force seniors into poverty.

According to a recent study by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, the number of borrowers who have experienced garnishments to Social Security retirement, survivor, or disability benefits to repay student loans has increased over time. In 2001, about 31,000 Social Security beneficiaries had part of their benefits garnished to pay defaulted student loans. In 2013, this number had grown to approximately 155,000 beneficiaries, an increase of 400 percent.

The Debt Collection Improvement Act limits the amount the federal government can garnish from monthly Federal benefits. In 1998, this amount was set at $750 per month, and since then, it has not been raised or adjusted for inflation. This means that the federal government can garnish Social Security benefits so long as the beneficiary is not left with less than $750 per month. Fifteen years ago, this was above the poverty line, but as a result of inflation, the $750 limit now represents just 81 percent of the poverty threshold for a single adult 65 or older.

GAO found that if the garnishment limit had been indexed to match the rate of increase in the poverty threshold, in 2013, 68 percent of all borrowers whose Social Security benefits were garnished for Federal student loan debt would have kept their entire benefit. This means that in more than 2/3 of all cases involving the garnishment of Social Security benefits for unpaid student loan debt, the senior was forced into poverty. Indexing the floor to keep up with cost of living would keep this from happening.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect the financial security of seniors facing garnishment for unpaid student loan debt.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today I announce my support of the Social Security Garnishment Modernization Act. I once again want to thank and commend Senator COLLINS, my cosponsor on this legislation and co-leader on the Senate Special Committee on Aging. This is the fifth bill I have cosponsored with Senator COLLINS as a direct result of a hearing we have held in the Aging Committee.

Earlier this month, our Committee examined the growing problem of seniors facing student loan debt in retirement. A senior with student loan debt who reaches the age of 65 has a one in four chance of being in default on that loan. If a senior still has student loan debt by the time he reaches 75, there's a better chance than not that the senior is in default on those loans.

The consequences for being in default on those loans in retirement can be devastating. The Department of Education can direct the Treasury Department to garnish a substantial portion of a senior's monthly Social Security payment. Seniors can be left with just $750 a month, well below the official monthly poverty threshold of $931. This figure has not been updated since the late 1990s. This bill would update the amount of money protected from garnishment and index it for inflation going forward so that a senior today would get to keep $1,072 a month even if he was in default on his student loans.

This bill could help people like 72-year-old Janet Lee Dupree of Citra, FL, whose Social Security check was garnished for a $3,000 loan she took out in the early 1970s. With interest and fees, that loan ballooned to $15,000, which means that she will likely be in debt the rest of her life. If this bill passed, she would get to keep more of her hard-earned Social Security benefits that she needs to get by and pay for health care costs associated with two chronic and debilitating diseases.

We need to fix this problem soon because the next wave of retirees is coming, and a substantial number of them are still carrying student loan debt. Nearly 18 million people ages 50 to 64 owe on their student loans, and one in five of those people are already in default, meaning they could face garnishment once they start taking Social Security benefits. We need to protect today's retirees and tomorrow's retirees so that they have enough money to live with dignity.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2906. A bill to provide for the treatment and extension of temporary financing of short-time compensation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senators HARKIN and WHITEHOUSE in introducing the Layoff Prevention Extension Act of 2014. This bill would extend the financing and grant provisions for the work sharing initiative I authored and worked to include as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Since becoming law, work sharing has helped save over 110,000 jobs, including 1,200 jobs in my State of Rhode Island, according to the Department of Labor. It has saved States $225 million by reimbursing them for work sharing benefits they paid out to workers—benefits that helped keep people on the job as employees and employers elected to reduce hours across the board instead of laying workers off.

Before my bill became law only a handful of States had work sharing programs. By tilting the incentives away from layoffs and toward work sharing a majority of states now have laws on their books. However, the 100 percent Federal financing of these work sharing benefits will expire in the summer of 2015 and the $100 million in implementation grants by the end of this year. My bill would extend both of these deadlines by one year so States with existing work sharing programs and those that are looking to enact a program can qualify for Federal support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this bill to keep American workers on the job and encourage more States to enact work sharing programs that enjoy broad support in States that have adopted them and economists on both sides of the spectrum.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2908. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the Affordable Care Act made great strides in improving access to health insurance for millions of Americans. Unfortunately, especially in high-cost geographic areas, some in the middle class are facing high insurance premiums.

If you make a penny over $45,960 you lose all Federal assistance for purchasing health insurance through the new exchanges. This is especially hard for individuals between the ages of 50 and 64, who are facing higher premiums but do not yet qualify for Medicare.

I have received thousands of calls and emails about access to health insurance. The high costs are a real problem. For example, Dave, one of my constituents from Livermore, CA, wrote to me to share how this policy has affected him. Dave is 60 and self-employed, making $65,000 per year. He signed up for a plan through the new health insurance exchange to cover both himself and his wife. If they made just $3,000 less per year they would have qualified for a subsidy and paid $491 for the second lowest cost silver plan. Since they are just over the threshold, the full cost of this plan is $1552. They decided to go with less robust coverage and still pay $1147 for a bronze plan. Under this legislation, Dave and his wife could get a better plan for less than half of what they pay now.

Another constituent, Dan, lives in Riverside, CA, and is 62 years old. He wrote to me and explained that his pension is just barely too high to receive help with his health insurance premiums and that he just can't afford it. Currently, the second lowest cost silver plan for Dan and his wife would be $1141 per month. Under this legislation, they would be able to afford health insurance.

The way the law is currently designed, there is a steep subsidy cliff.

This should gradually reduce, in a way that provides some help for more middle-income Americans so they pay no more than 9.5 percent their income in health insurance premiums.

The Affordable Health Insurance for the Middle Class Act would do just that. This legislation extends the current subsidy up to 600 percent of the Federal poverty level, which is $68,940 for an individual. As an individual makes more, their subsidy goes down.

I am particularly concerned about older individuals who need medical care but face premiums they simply cannot afford. In California, it is estimated that approximately 360,600 individuals between the ages of 50–64 who do not qualify for Medicaid or have employer-based coverage would see premiums greater than 9.5 percent of their income. Nearly 98,000 of these are expected to remain uninsured due to the cost. This is a simple fix to improve the law that will further increase access to coverage.

The bill is paid for by a nominal increase in the federal cigarette tax, which amounts to five cents per pack.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Affordable Health Insurance for the Middle Class Act. It is commonsense to have a gradual decline in the federal assistance for health insurance and help those who are just out of reach of affording it on their own.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT RECENTLY PROPOSED MEASURES THAT WILL REDUCE TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE SUPERVISORS (IAIS) SHOULD BE DISAPPROVED BY UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES TO THE IAIS

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 561

Whereas the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) establishes global insurance standards that the United States and other countries are expected to implement and are graded on their compliance with;

Whereas heretofore, the procedures of the IAIS were relatively transparent for observers;

Whereas on August 4, 2014, the IAIS proposed eliminating public observers from its meetings starting on January 1, 2015, significantly reducing the transparency of its activities and only allowing certain parties to attend;

Whereas representatives of United States consumer advocacy organizations have just recently been admitted as observers;

Whereas the IAIS proposed procedures would provide far less transparency and participation than the procedure afforded to interested stakeholders in the United States by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC);

Whereas maximum transparency produces the best regulation and the proposed procedures will reduce transparency; and

Whereas United States State insurance regulators who currently provide the largest portion of funding to the IAIS have already publically expressed opposition to the proposed reduction in IAIS transparency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the International Association of Insurance Supervisors' (IAIS) proposed procedures will reduce transparency and access to IAIS supervisory standard development by United States stakeholders including those representing consumers;

(2) the proposed procedures specifically authorize the unfair and unequal treatment of interested parties by allowing the IAIS to selectively admit certain parties and exclude others at key meetings;

(3) all representatives of the United States at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors should oppose these new procedures and instead advocate more transparency and public inclusion by the IAIS;

(4) should the IAIS adopt the proposed procedures or any similar reductions in transparency, United States representatives to the IAIS should make all appropriate efforts to ensure that proper transparency is restored; and

(5) all United States representatives to the IAIS should work to ensure that their activities are transparent to Congress and United States stakeholders, and that United States representatives to the IAIS should regularly communicate with United States stakeholders through timely comprehensive reporting and in-person discussions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACTS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS ARE A BUDGET-NEUTRAL MEANS TO SUPPORT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN REDUCING ITS ENERGY CONSUMPTION WITHOUT INCREASING SPENDING WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY SUPPORTING UNITED STATES BASED JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

S. RES. 562

Whereas Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts were first authorized by Congress in 1986 and 1992 respectively and reduce energy costs and consumption at Federal buildings and facilities without relying on additional appropriations;

Whereas the contracts are financed by a third-party and realize sufficient energy savings to cover the cost of the financed improvements over the contract term;

Whereas the contractor provides a guarantee of energy savings for the Energy Savings Performance Contract and the utility provides energy savings performance assurances or guarantees of the savings for the Utility Energy Service Contract;

Whereas performance-based contracting is an opportunity for significant savings so much so that the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has determined that under an Energy Savings Performance Contract the total cost savings delivered to the Government is nearly twice the guaranteed amount;

Whereas the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 required a Government-wide audit of facilities and, although to date only half of those buildings have been surveyed, it has been established that at least $9,000,000,000 worth of energy savings that could be achieved within a decade;

Whereas the Office of Management and Budget first recognized savings from Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts on an annual basis throughout the term of the contract as far back as 1998;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office instead has determined that the full cost of the authority to enter into the long-term contracts for capital investments be scored upfront as new mandatory spending while the savings in energy costs that flow from these investments be realized over time as part of the annual appropriations process;

Whereas this has continued to hinder the ability of Congress to pass legislation ensuring additional energy and cost savings to the Federal Government through utilization of these contracts despite their proven savings; and

Whereas there is broad bipartisan and bicameral recognition in Congress of the value of these energy saving contracts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that legislation regarding Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts, and legislation which may lead to their use by the Federal Government, should receive Congressional scoring treatment that allows future year guaranteed discretionary savings to be counted against the mandatory spending attributed to undertaking such contracts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PURSUE EXTRADITION AUTHORITY FOR INTERNATIONAL CYBERCRIMINALS COMMITTING CREDIT CARD THEFT TARGETING UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 563

Whereas the number of United States citizens who have had their identity and financial information compromised as a result of recent data breaches at major retailers exceeds 100,000,000;

Whereas the financial security of middle class Americans has been put at risk by these criminal attacks;

Whereas cybercrimes targeting the financial information of United States citizens are often transnational crimes; and

Whereas the United States does not currently have established extradition agreements with many countries acting as safe

havens for cybercriminals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should immediately launch international negotiations with the governments of the world's leading powers for new, effective extradition treaties with countries with which the United States has no current extradition authority, as well as renegotiate old, ineffective treaties, in order to combat more effectively international cybercriminals, including those who target the credit card information of United States citizens.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—HONORING CONSERVATION ON THE CENTENNIAL OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON EXTINCTION

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 564

Whereas the Senate recognizes the importance of conserving natural habitats for bird populations and preserving the Nation's biodiversity;

Whereas the death of Martha, the last passenger pigeon, on September 1, 1914, at the Cincinnati Zoo, and the extinction of the passenger pigeon helped to catalyze the American conservation movement of the early 20th century, resulting in new laws and practices that prevented the extinction of many species;

Whereas the story of the passenger pigeon can serve as a cautionary tale and raise awareness of current issues related to human-caused extinction, explore connections between humans and the natural world, and inspire people to build sustainable relationships with other species;

Whereas the passenger pigeon (Ectopistes migratorius) was once the most abundant bird in North America, with a population exceeding 3,000,000,000 and with flocks so large that they could darken the skies for hours and even days at a time;

Whereas due to unregulated market hunting in the 19th century and deforestation, the passenger pigeon population plummeted toward extinction;

Whereas Project Passenger Pigeon, a consortium of over 150 institutions, scientists, conservationists, educators, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and others throughout the Nation, is using the centenary of the extinction of the species to tell the story of the passenger pigeon; and

Whereas the story of the passenger pigeon, once a symbol of never-ending natural abundance, and its subsequent extinction is unique in the annals of the history of the United States:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the importance of this centenary, our natural heritage, the sustainability of our ecosystem, and the conservation of our Nation's wildlife.

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PERMANENTLY STORE NUCLEAR WASTE IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 565

Whereas the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin are precious public natural resources, shared by the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Provinces;

Whereas since 1909, the United States and Canada have worked to maintain and improve the water quality of the Great Lakes through water quality agreements;

Whereas more than 40,000,000 people in Canada and the United States depend on the fresh water from the Great Lakes for drinking water;

Whereas Ontario Power Generation is proposing to build a permanent geological repository for nuclear waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada;

Whereas nuclear waste is highly toxic and can take tens of thousands of years to decompose to safe levels;

Whereas during the 1980s when the Department of Energy, in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), was studying potential sites for a permanent nuclear waste repository in the United States, the Canadian Government expressed concern with locating a permanent nuclear waste repository within the shared water basins of the 2 countries; and

Whereas a spill of nuclear waste into the Great Lakes could have lasting and severely adverse environmental, health, and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the people that depend on them for their livelihood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) the Canadian Government should not allow a permanent nuclear waste repository to be built within the Great Lakes Basin;

(2) the President and the Secretary of State should take appropriate action to work with the Canadian Government to prevent a permanent nuclear waste repository from being built within the Great Lakes Basin; and

(3) the President and the Secretary of State should work together with their Canadian Government counterparts on a safe and responsible solution for the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 566

Whereas South Dakota joined the Union as a State on November 2, 1889;

Whereas South Dakota serves as a breadbasket for the United States and the world;

Whereas the agriculture industry in South Dakota produces a $25,600,000,000 economic impact each year;

Whereas South Dakota is among the top 10 producers in the United States of 9 different crops;

Whereas South Dakota is among the top 10 producers in the United States in 5 different animal production areas;

Whereas South Dakota is a land of opportunity and free enterprise;

Whereas South Dakota consistently has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the United States;

Whereas South Dakota has an outstanding system of education at every level, teaching students to become leaders and innovators in a variety of fields;

Whereas South Dakotans have gone on to serve proudly and in disproportionately high numbers in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the USS South Dakota was commissioned in 1942 and valiantly served in the Pacific during World War II;

Whereas South Dakota is honored to be home to 9 Native American tribes;

Whereas South Dakota boasts the highest mountains between the Appalachians and the Rockies;

Whereas South Dakota supports environmental conservation as home to 6 National parks;

Whereas people from all over the United States travel to South Dakota every year to participate in an annual tradition of pheasant hunting that has spurred tourism and economic growth and has maintained a heritage important to South Dakotans for generations; and

Whereas South Dakota came to symbolize the commitment of the United States to freedom and democracy by way of the world-famous Mount Rushmore: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends and celebrates South Dakota and its people on the State's 125th anniversary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 567—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE POSSIBLE EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 567

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Vietnam is an important emerging partner with which the United States increasingly shares strategic and economic interests, including improving bilateral and multilateral capacity for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, upholding the principles of freedom of navigation and peaceful resolution of international disputes, strengthening an open regional trading order, and maintaining a favorable balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) the Government of Vietnam has recently taken modest but encouraging steps to improve its human rights record, including signing the United Nations Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly December 10, 1984, increasing registrations for places of worship, taking greater action to combat human trafficking, reviewing the Criminal Code, and beginning high-level engagement with the United States and international human rights nongovernmental organizations;

(3) in light of growing challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and some steps by the Government of Vietnam to improve its human rights record, the President should begin a process to ease the United States prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam, which is maintained under executive authority and can be changed without legislative action, but should not be changed without consultation with Congress;

(4) easing the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam at this time solely with regard to maritime and coastal defense would further United States national security interests, but steps beyond this to ease further the prohibition would require the Government of Vietnam to take significant and sustained steps to protect human rights, including releases of prisoners of conscience and legal reforms;

(5) the United States Government should continue to support civil society in Vietnam, including advocates for religious freedom, press freedom, and labor rights who seek to use peaceful means to build a strong and prosperous Vietnam that respects human rights and the rule of law; and

(6) the United States Government should continue to engage the Government of Vietnam in a high-level dialogue and specify what steps on human rights would be necessary for the Government of Vietnam to take in order to continue strengthening the bilateral relationship, including to ease further the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 568—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2014 AS ''NATIONAL SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 568

Whereas sepsis is a medical condition resulting from an immune system response to an infection;

Whereas the overwhelming flood of immune chemicals released into the blood to fight an infection can impair blood flow, injuring organs;

Whereas sepsis is a serious community-acquired infection and a leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas in severe cases of sepsis, a patient can experience a drop in blood pressure, a weakened heart, and septic shock, causing potentially fatal multiple organ failure;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 individuals in the United States are infected with sepsis each year;

Whereas sepsis has killed over 4,000,000 individuals in the United States between 2004 and 2014;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 50 percent of individuals infected with sepsis die, accounting for more deaths in the United States than prostate cancer, breast cancer, and AIDS combined;

Whereas according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, sepsis is the most expensive cause of hospitalization in the United States, with an annual cost of $24,000,000,000;

Whereas the number of sepsis deaths is on the rise in the United States;

Whereas an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association reports that more than 80 percent of individuals who die from sepsis arrive at the hospital with sepsis;

Whereas early recognition, diagnosis, and treatment can prevent sepsis fatalities; and

Whereas September 2014 is an appropriate month to designate as ''National Sepsis Awareness Month'' to raise awareness of sepsis and encourage educating patients, families, health care professionals, and government agencies on the importance of early detection as the key for patients to survive sepsis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the month of September 2014 as ''National Sepsis Awareness Month''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 569—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 23, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY'' TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 569

Whereas adults who are age 65 or older (referred to in this preamble as ''older adults'') are the fastest-growing population in the United States;

Whereas the number of older adults in the United States is expected to increase from 35,000,000 older adults in 2000 to 79,700,000 older adults in 2040;

Whereas each year, 1 out of every 3 older adults in the United States falls;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults;

Whereas in 2012, more than 2,400,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 722,000 older adults were subsequently hospitalized from such injuries;

Whereas in 2011, more than 22,900 older adults in the United States died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas in 2010, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was $30,000,000,000;

Whereas between 2004 and 2014, the rate of death from falls of older adults in the United States has risen sharply;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls does not decrease, the annual cost of injuries from falls will reach an estimated $67,700,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, comprehensive clinical assessments, and reduction of home hazards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 23, 2014, as ''National Falls Prevention Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies;

(3) commends the 72 member organizations of the Falls Free® Coalition, and the falls prevention coalitions in 42 States and the District of Columbia, for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about preventing falls among adults who are age 65 or older (referred to in this resolution as ''older adults'');

(4) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to raise awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(5) urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue developing and evaluating interventions to prevent falls among older adults that will translate into effective community-based falls prevention programs;

(6) urges the Administration for Community Living, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and their partners to continue to promote evidence-based programs and services in communities across the United States to reduce the number of older adults at risk of falling;

(7) encourages State health departments and State Units on Aging, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and related health care costs, to collaborate with organizations and individuals to reduce falls among older adults in the United States; and

(8) encourages experts in the field of falls prevention to share best practices so that others can replicate their success.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today, I wish to bring awareness to the growing problem of falls amongst our seniors, the fastest-growing population in the United States. Each year, one out of every three older Americans over age 65 falls, resulting in more than 2,400,000 older hospital emergency department visits and more than 22,900 deaths resulting from injuries sustained in unintentional falls. The costs associated with these falls are equally alarming: in 2010, the direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults was $30,000,000,000. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of falls does not decrease, the annual cost of injuries resulting from falls will reach an estimated $67,700,000,000 by 2020.

These staggering numbers are alarming, and we must work to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults by utilizing cost-effective strategies to improve balance and strength through exercise programs, improve comprehensive clinical assessments, and reduce hazards in seniors' homes. That is why today I have put forth this Resolution to designate September 23, 2014, as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. I thank my colleagues, Senator COLLINS, my partner on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Senators MIKULSKI and SANDERS for joining with me in support of National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. National Falls Prevention Awareness Day seeks to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults. The 72 member organizations of the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 42 States and the District of Columbia have worked tirelessly to increase education and awareness about preventing falls among older Americans. We will continue to foster and encourage these coalitions and ensure the safety and independence of our older adults as they age in their homes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 17, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE DAY''

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI,

and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 570

Whereas the United States should reduce dependence on foreign oil and enhance energy security by creating a transportation sector that is less dependent on oil;

Whereas the United States should improve air quality in the United States by reducing emissions from the millions of motor vehicles that operate in the United States;

Whereas the United States should foster national expertise and technological advancement in cleaner, more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas a robust domestic industry for alternative fuels and alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will create jobs and increase the competitiveness of the United States in the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States need more options for clean and energy-efficient transportation;

Whereas mainstream adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will produce benefits at the local, national, and international levels;

Whereas consumers and businesses require a better understanding of the benefits of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas first responders require proper comprehensive training to be fully prepared for any precautionary measures that they may need to take during incidents and extrications that involve alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas the Federal Government can lead the way toward a cleaner and more efficient transportation sector by choosing alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles for the fleets of the Federal Government; and

Whereas Federal support for the adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles can accelerate greater energy independence for the United States, improve the environmental security of the United States, and address global climate change: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 17, 2014, as ''National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day'';

(2) proclaims National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day as a day to promote programs and activities that will lead to the greater use of cleaner, more efficient transportation that uses new sources of energy; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to—

(A) increase personal and commercial use of cleaner and more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

(B) promote public sector adoption of cleaner and more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles; and

(C) encourage the adoption of Federal policies to advance and adopt alternative, advanced, and emerging vehicle and fuel technologies in order to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign oil.

SENATE RESOLUTION 571—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, AS ''UNITED STATES AND INDIA PARTNERSHIP DAY''

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 571

Whereas the United States, the oldest democracy in the world, will welcome the Prime Minister of India, the leader of the largest democracy in the world, to the Nation's capital, on September 30, 2014;

Whereas the United States–India relationship is built on mutual respect for common values, including democracy, the rule of law, a market economy, and ethnic and religious diversity, and is bolstered by strong people-to-people connections, including a 3,000,000 strong Indian American diaspora;

Whereas the Senate places tremendous value on the relationship between the United States and India, and the bipartisan Senate India Caucus comprises 42 Senators and is the largest country-specific caucus in the Senate;

Whereas the Indian general election of 2014 was the largest election in Indian history, proving that democracy in India is as strong as it is encompassing of its religious, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity;

Whereas the President of the United States congratulated the Prime Minister of India after his party's election victory and emphasized the ''deep bond and commitment to promoting economic opportunity, freedom, and security'' in India and the United States;

Whereas the 2 largest democracies in the world, the United States and India, have further developed their governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, artists, entertainers, athletes, scientists, engineers, doctors, nurses, universities, schools, and faiths and the dignity of their citizens by demonstrating the value of an enlightened democratic rule of law, a peaceful government, and freedom from terror, tyranny, and oppression;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and India is vital to promoting stability, democracy, and economic prosperity in the 21st century;

Whereas bilateral trade between the United States and India increased from $19,000,000,000 in 2000 to $95,000,000,000 in 2013;

Whereas in 2013, the United States exported goods to India totaling $35,000,000,000 and generating 168,000 jobs in the United States; and

Whereas in 2013, the United States invested more than $28,000,000,000 in India, generating more than 500,000 jobs in India: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 30, 2014, as ''United States and India Partnership Day'', recognizing the contributions of the United States and India to one another and their relationship that will continue to help define the 21st century; and

(2) recognizes that the relationship between the United States and India is a special and permanent bond.

SENATE RESOLUTION 572—CONGRATULATING THE SAILORS OF THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE UPON THE COMPLETION OF 4,000 BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE (SSBN) DETERRENT PATROLS

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 572

Whereas the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force recently completed the 4,000th deterrent patrol of a ballistic missile submarine (SSBN);

Whereas this milestone is significant for the Submarine Force, its crews and their families, the United States Navy, and the entire country;

Whereas this milestone was reached through the combined efforts and impressive achievements of all of the submariners who have participated in such patrols since the first patrol of USS George Washington (SSBN 598) in 1960;

Whereas, as a result of the dedication and commitment to excellence of the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force, ballistic missile submarines have always been ready and vigilant, reassuring United States allies and deterring anyone who might seek to do harm to the United States or United States allies;

Whereas the national maritime strategy of the United States recognizes the critical need for strategic deterrence in today's uncertain world;

Whereas the true strength of the ballistic missile submarine lies in the extremely talented and motivated Sailors who have voluntarily chosen to serve in the submarine community; and

Whereas the inherent stealth, unparalleled firepower, and nearly limitless endurance of the ballistic missile submarine provide a credible deterrence for any enemies that would seek to use force against the United States or United States allies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 4,000 ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; and

(2) honors and thanks the crews of ballistic missile submarines and their devoted families for their continued dedication and sacrifice.

SENATE RESOLUTION 573—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. HAGAN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 573

Whereas September 3, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), which gave to the people of the United States the National Wilderness Preservation System, an enduring resource of natural heritage;

Whereas great writers of the United States, including Ralph Waldo Emerson,

Henry David Thoreau, Willa Cather, George Perkins Marsh, Mary Hunter Austin, David James Duncan, and John Muir, poets such as William Cullen Bryant, and painters such as Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, Frederic Remington, Georgia O'Keefe, Albert Bierstadt, and Thomas Moran, helped define the distinct cultural value of wild nature and concept of wilderness in the United States;

Whereas national leaders, such as President Theodore Roosevelt, who reveled in outdoor pursuits, have sought to ensure the wisest use of natural resources, so as to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people as possible;

Whereas luminaries in the conservation movement, such as scientist Aldo Leopold, writer Howard Zahniser, teacher Sigurd Olson, biologists Olaus, Adolph, and Margaret ''Mardy'' Murie, and conservationists David Brower and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, envisioned and ardently advocated for a national system of protected wilderness areas and believed that the people of the United States could and should protect and preserve wilderness so that wilderness lasts well into the future;

Whereas legislators such as Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, a Democrat from Minnesota, Senator Clinton P. Anderson, a Democrat from New Mexico, and Representative John Saylor, a Republican from Pennsylvania, introduced versions of the Wilderness Act in each House of Congress and worked tirelessly along with colleagues for 8 years to secure its passage with bipartisan votes of 78 to 12 in the Senate and 373 to 1 in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law in the Rose Garden on September 3, 1964;

Whereas, over the 50 years since the enactment of the Wilderness Act, various Presidents from both parties, leaders of Congress, and experts in the land management agencies within the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture have expanded and improved the system of wilderness protection created by the Wilderness Act;

Whereas the Wilderness Act instituted an unambiguous national policy to recognize the natural heritage of the United States as a valuable resource and protect wilderness for the good of future generations;

Whereas wilderness provides billions of dollars of ecosystem services in the form of safe drinking water, clean air, and recreational opportunities;

Whereas 44 States have protected wilderness areas; and

Whereas President Gerald R. Ford stated that the National Wilderness Preservation System ''serves a basic need of all Americans, even those who may never visit a wilderness area—the preservation of a vital element in our heritage'' and that ''wilderness preservation ensures that a central facet of our Nation can still be realized, not just remembered'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

(2) recognizes and commends the extraordinary work of the individuals and organizations involved in building and maintaining the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) is grateful for wilderness, a tremendous asset the United States continues to preserve as a gift to future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 574—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2014, AS ''NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK''

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 574

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 42 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not less than 1,900,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,681,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2012, commercial fish landings generated $5,100,000,000 and recreational anglers took more than 70,000,000 fishing trips and spent $24,600,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that it is the policy of the United States to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 20 through September 27, 2014, is recognized as ''National Estuaries Week'' to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 20 through September 27, 2014, as ''National Estuaries Week'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 575—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS ''NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 575

Whereas over 2,900,000 families in the United States live with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 7 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetimes;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among males in the United States;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute estimates that, in 2014, 233,000 men will be diagnosed with, and more than 29,000 men will die of, prostate cancer;

Whereas 40 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in males under the age of 65;

Whereas approximately every 7.5 seconds, a male in the United States turns 50 years old and increases his odds of developing cancer, including prostate cancer;

Whereas African-American males suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is up to 60 percent higher than that for white males and have double the prostate cancer mortality rate than that of white males;

Whereas obesity is a significant predictor of the severity of prostate cancer;

Whereas the probability that obesity will lead to death and high cholesterol levels is strongly associated with advanced prostate cancer;

Whereas males in the United States with 1 family member diagnosed with prostate cancer have a 33 percent chance of being diagnosed with the disease, males with 2 close family members diagnosed have an 83 percent chance, and males with 3 family members diagnosed have a 97 percent chance;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease in the early stages, increasing the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 33 percent of males survive more than 5 years if diagnosed with prostate cancer after the cancer has metastasized;

Whereas there are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer while it is in the early stages, making screening critical;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of males and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2014 as ''National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month'';

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to increase research funding to a level that is commensurate with the burden of prostate cancer, so that—

(i) screening and treatment for prostate cancer may be improved;

(ii) the causes of prostate cancer may be discovered; and

(iii) a cure for prostate cancer may be developed; and

(C) to continue to consider ways for improving access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 44—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 44

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, September 18, 2014, through Tuesday, October 14, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Wednesday, October 15, 2014, it stand adjourned until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, September 18, 2014, through Friday, November 7, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after concurrence with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3843. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J . Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3844. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3845. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3846. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3847. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3848. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3849. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3850. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3851. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

SA 3852. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3853. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3854. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3855. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3854 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra.

SA 3856. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3857. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3858. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3859. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3860. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3861. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3862. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3863. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3864. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3865. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3866. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3867. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3868. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3869. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3870. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3871. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3872. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the

bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3873. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3874. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3875. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3876. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3877. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3878. Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3879. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3880. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3881. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3882. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3883. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3884. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3885. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2470, to provide for drought relief measures in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SA 3886. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3887. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3888. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3889. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3890. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3891. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3892. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3893. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3894. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3895. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3896. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3897. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3898. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3899. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3900. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3901. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3902. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3903. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SA 3904. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3905. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3906. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3907. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3908. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3909. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3910. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3911. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3912. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3913. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3914. Mr. UDALL, of Colorado submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3915. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3916. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3917. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3918. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3919. Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3920. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3921. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3922. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3923. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

SA 3924. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3923 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3925. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3926. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3927. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3926 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, supra.

SA 3928. Mr. PRYOR (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous

clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

SA 3929. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. BENNET)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans.

SA 3930. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. AYOTTE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, supra.

SA 3931. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

SA 3932. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CRAPO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.

SA 3933. Mr. PRYOR (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2673, to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

SA 3934. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1360, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

SA 3935. Mr. BURR (for Mr. PRYOR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 479, recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special ''Welcome Home Commemoration'' for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3843. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 126, strike ''shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for 'November 1, 2014' '' and inserting ''are each amended by striking 'November 1, 2014' and inserting 'June 30, 2015' ''.

SA 3844. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 126 and insert the following:

SEC. 126. (a) Section 1101(a) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (47 U.S.C. 151 note) is amended by striking ''during the period beginning November 1, 2003, and ending November 1, 2014''.

(b) Paragraph (2) of section 1104(a) of such Act is amended to read as follows:

''(2) STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE TAX.—

''(A) DATE FOR TERMINATION.—This subsection shall not apply after November 1, 2006, with respect to a State telecommunications service tax described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) DESCRIPTION OF TAX.—A State telecommunications service tax referred to in subparagraph (A) is a State tax—

''(i) enacted by State law on or after October 1, 1991, and imposing a tax on telecommunications service; and

''(ii) applied to Internet access through administrative code or regulation issued on or after December 1, 2002.''.

SA 3845. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 149.

SA 3846. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 149.

SA 3847. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORT ON UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report on all assessed and voluntary contributions, including in-kind, of the United States Government to the United Nations and its affiliated agencies and related bodies during the previous fiscal year.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The total amount of all assessed and voluntary contributions, including in-kind, of the United States Government to the United Nations and United Nations affiliated agencies and related bodies.

(2) The approximate percentage of United States Government contributions to each United Nations affiliated agency or body in such fiscal year when compared with all contributions to such agency or body from any source in such fiscal year.

(3) For each such contribution—

(A) the amount of the contribution;

(B) a description of the contribution (including whether assessed or voluntary);

(C) the department or agency of the United States Government responsible for the contribution;

(D) the purpose of the contribution; and

(E) the United Nations or United Nations affiliated agency or related body receiving the contribution.

(c) SCOPE OF INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under subsection (a) shall include the information required under this section for the previous four fiscal years.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Not later than 14 days after submitting a report required under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall post a public version of the report on a text-based, searchable, and publicly available Internet website.

SA 3848. Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. INDEPENDENT STUDY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MODELING AND SIMULATION INDUSTRIAL BASE IN SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall enter into a contract with one or more entities that has expertise in industrial base analysis and modeling and simulation technologies and is not part of the Department of Defense to conduct an independent study and assessment of the domestic modeling and simulation industrial base.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study and assessment required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An identification and categorization of Department of Defense requirements for modeling and simulation in support of, but not limited to, operational planning, training and readiness, technology development, and test and evaluation.

(2) A definition, general description, and assessment of the capacity and capability of the domestic modeling and simulation industrial base.

(3) A description and assessment of the capability and capacity of the domestic modeling and simulation industrial base related, but not limited, to Department of Defense requirements for—

(A) operational planning;

(B) training and readiness;

(C) technology development; and

(D) test and evaluation.

(4) A description, assessment, and estimate of potential impact, including increased costs, related to the risk of the loss of Department of Defense related modeling and simulation industrial base capability, capacity, or skills related, but not limited, to requirements for—

(A) operational planning;

(B) training and readiness;

(C) technology development; and

(D) test and evaluation.

(5) For risks assessed in paragraph (4) as high or significant, alternative or recommended mitigation strategies to manage potential loss of capability, capacity, or skills.

(6) A description and assessment, including recommendations, if any, for improvement of the Department of Defense's distribution of responsibility and authority for, and capability or development of, analytical systems for monitoring and managing risk related to the health of the defense related modeling and simulation industrial base.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In undertaking the independent study and assessment required by subsection (a), the Under Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretaries of the military departments and such others as the Under Secretary may consider appropriate.

(d) ACCESS.—The Under Secretary shall ensure that the entity or entities awarded a

contract under subsection (a) has access to all the data, records, plans, and other information required by the entity or entities to conduct the study and assessment required under such subsection.

(e) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the congressional defense committees a final report, including findings and recommendations, with respect to the independent study and assessment conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the comments of the Secretaries of the military departments and, at the discretion of the Under Secretary, any other agencies that may have been consulted or participated in the study, including specific plans to respond to the finding and recommendations of the independent assessment.

(3) INTERIM REPORT.—The Under Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees an interim report on the independent assessment not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3849. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA RELATIONSHIP.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has served as an anchor for stability, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and around the world;

(2) the people and the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea continue to strengthen and adapt the alliance to serve as a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, recognizing the shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as the foundations of the alliance;

(3) the people and the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea share deep concerns that North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missiles programs and its repeated provocations pose grave threats to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, recognize that both nations are determined to achieve the peaceful denuclearization of North Korea, and remain fully committed to continuing close cooperation on the full range of issues related to North Korea;

(4) the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea are working closely together to realize a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, free from the fear of war, and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and free market principles;

(5) the United States Government support the goals and vision articulated in President Park Geun Hye's March 28, 2014, Dresden Address on unification to include family reunions, humanitarian assistance targeting mothers and children, infrastructure projects, cultural and educational exchange programs, and reconfirms its commitment to help realize such goals and vision;

(6) the United States Government supports the concrete steps that President Park has taken to promote unification to include the creation of the Presidential Committee on Unification and the proposal to create an International Peace Park at the DMZ;

(7) the United States Government fully recognizes that the United States-Korea alliance will play a pivotal role in achieving unification on the Korean Peninsula;

(8) the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea are strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula;

(9) the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea have decided that due to the evolving security environment in the region, including the enduring North Korean nuclear and missile threat, the current timeline to the transition of wartime operational control (OPCON) to a Republic of Korea-led defense in 2015 can be reconsidered; and

(10) the United States Government welcomes the Republic of Korea's ratification of a new five-year Special Measures Agreement, which establishes the framework for Republic of Korea contributions to offset the costs associated with the stationing of United States Forces Korea on the Korean Peninsula.

SA 3850. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. PROHIBITION ON REVERSE AUCTIONS FOR COVERED CONTRACTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, when used appropriately, reverse auctions may improve the Federal Government's procurement of commercially available commodities by increasing competition, reducing prices, and improving opportunities for small businesses.

(b) USE OF REVERSE AUCTIONS.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48; and

(2) by inserting after section 46 the following new section:

"SEC. 47. REVERSE AUCTIONS PROHIBITED FOR COVERED CONTRACTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a covered contract described in subsection (c), reverse auction methods may not be used—

''(1) if the covered contract is suitable for award to a small business concern; or

''(2) if the award is to be made under—

''(A) section 8(a);

''(B) section 8(m);

''(C) section 15(a);

''(D) section 15(j);

''(E) section 31;

''(F) section 36; or

''(G) section 8127 of title 38, United States Code.

''(b) LIMITATIONS ON USING REVERSE AUCTIONS.—

''(1) NUMBER OF OFFERS; REVISIONS TO BIDS.—A Federal agency may not award a covered contract using a reverse auction method if only one offer is received or if offerors do not have the ability to submit revised bids throughout the course of the auction.

''(2) OTHER PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY.—A Federal agency may not award a covered contract under a procurement provision other than those provisions described in subsection (a)(2) if the justification for using such procurement provision is to use reverse auction methods.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the following definitions apply:

''(1) COVERED CONTRACT.—The term 'covered contract' means a contract—

''(A) for services, including design and construction services; or

''(B) for goods in which the technical qualifications of the offeror constitute part of the basis of award.

''(2) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.—The term 'design and construction services' means—

''(A) site planning and landscape design;

''(B) architectural and interior design;

''(C) engineering system design;

''(D) performance of construction work for facility, infrastructure, and environmental restoration projects;

''(E) delivery and supply of construction materials to construction sites;

''(F) construction, alteration, or repair, including painting and decorating, of public buildings and public works; and

''(G) architectural and engineering services as defined in section 1102 of title 40, United States Code.

''(3) REVERSE AUCTION.—The term 'reverse auction' means, with respect to procurement by an agency, a real-time auction conducted through an electronic medium between a group of offerors who compete against each other by submitting offers for a contract or task order with the ability to submit revised offers throughout the course of the auction.''.

(c) CONTRACTS AWARDED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 8127(j) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) The provisions of section 47(a) of the Small Business Act (relating to the prohibition on using reverse auction methods to award a contract) shall apply to a contract awarded under this section.''.

SA 3851. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike ''30 days'' and insert ''29 days''.

SA 3852. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''29'' and insert ''28''.

SA 3853. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike ''not later than 30 days after the enactment of this joint resolution'' and insert ''By October 31, 2014''.

SA 3854. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''October 31'' and insert ''October 30''.

SA 3855. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3854 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3853 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''30'' and insert ''29''.

SA 3856. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike Sec. 149.

SA 3857. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING.

None of the funds made available in this Resolution may be used—

(1) to carry out any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148) or title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–152), or the amendments made by such Act, title, or subtitle; or

(2) for rulemaking under such Act, title, or subtitle.

SA 3858. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 106(3), strike ''December 11, 2014'' and insert ''April 17, 2015''.

SA 3859. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. No agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government may use any Federal funding—

(1) to consider or adjudicate any new or previously denied application of any alien requesting consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, as authorized by Executive memorandum dated June 15, 2012 and effective on August 15, 2012 (or by any subsequent Executive memorandum or policy authorizing a similar program);

(2) to newly authorize deferred action for any class of aliens not lawfully present in the United States; or

(3) to authorize any alien to work in the United States if such alien—

(A) was not lawfully admitted into the United States in compliance with the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

(B) is not in lawful status in the United States as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3860. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deploy or maintain United States Armed Forces in a sustained combat role relative to the organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), or any similar successor organization, in Iraq, Syria, or both unless—

(1) there is an imminent threat to United States citizens or the national security interests of the United States; or

(2) expressly authorized by an Act or Joint Resolution of Congress.

SA 3861. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR VETERANS.

(a) DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM.—Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) If a disabled veterans' outreach program specialist is not able to assist all eligible veterans seeking his or her assistance under this chapter, the Secretary may establish an order of priority for the furnishing of such assistance that is consistent with paragraph (1) of this subsection and section 4102 of this title.

''(5) A disabled veterans' outreach program specialist may perform an initial intake and assessment of an individual under this chapter in order to—

''(A) determine whether the individual is a special disabled veteran, another disabled veteran, or another eligible veteran;

''(B) administer the order of priority set forth in paragraph (1) and any order of priority established under paragraph (4); and

''(C) assess the needs of the individual, including whether the individual needs intensive services.''; and

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

''(e) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not impose any restriction on the duties that a disabled veterans' outreach program specialist may perform or on the individuals whom a disabled veterans' outreach program specialist may assist other than those specifically provided for in this chapter.''.

(b) LOCAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES.—Section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by inserting ''(1)'' before ''As principal duties'';

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(2) In addition to the principal duties required by paragraph (1), a local veterans' employment representative may furnish employment, training, and placement services directly to eligible veterans and eligible persons.

''(3) Each local veterans' employment representative shall spend a majority of his or her time as a local veterans' employment representative carrying out the principal duties set forth in subsection (b).''; and

(D) in the heading, by striking ''PRINCIPAL'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

''(f) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not impose any restriction on the duties that a local veterans' employment representative may perform or on the individuals whom a local veterans' employment representative may assist other than those specifically provided for in this chapter.''.

SA 3862. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF LIAISONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall appoint individuals as follows:

(1) At least one individual to act as a liaison under this section between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) At least one individual for each of the reserve components of the Armed Forces to act as a liaison under this section between the respective component of the Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) DUTIES OF LIAISONS.—Each individual acting as a liaison under this section shall expedite the timely provision to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of such information as the Secretary requires to process claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(c) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop and implement procedures to improve the timely provision to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of such information as the Secretary requires to process claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) TIMELY PROVISION.—The procedures developed and implemented under paragraph

(1) shall ensure that the information provided to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is provided to the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary requests the information.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the requests for information made by the Secretary during the most recent one-year period for information from the Secretary of Defense required by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to process claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary; and

(2) the timeliness of responses to such requests.

SA 3863. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS WHO ARE SEPARATING FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 1145 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS.—(1) The Secretary concerned shall provide a physical examination pursuant to subsection (a)(5) to each member of a reserve component who—

''(A) will not otherwise receive such an examination under such subsection; and

''(B) elects to receive such a physical examination.

''(2) The Secretary concerned shall—

''(A) provide the physical examination under paragraph (1) to a member during the 90-day period before the date on which the member is scheduled to be separated from the armed forces; and

''(B) issue orders to such a member to receive such physical examination.

''(3) A member may not be entitled to health care benefits pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) solely by reason of being provided a physical examination under paragraph (1).

''(4) In providing to a member a physical examination under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall provide to the member a record of the physical examination.''.

SA 3864. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN PHILIPPINES DURING WORLD WAR II.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and such military historians as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate, shall establish a process to determine whether a covered individual served as described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code, for purposes of determining whether such covered individual is eligible for benefits described in such subsections.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is any individual who—

(1) claims service described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) is not included in the Approved Revised Reconstructed Guerilla Roster of 1948, known as the ''Missouri List''.

(c) PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS FOR DISQUALIFYING CONDUCT UNDER NEW PROCESS.—The process established under subsection (a) shall include a mechanism to ensure that a covered individual is not treated as an individual eligible for a benefit described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of such title if such covered individual engaged in any disqualifying conduct during service described in such subsections, including collaboration with the enemy or criminal conduct.

SA 3865. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. REPORT ON INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS SYSTEMS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to Congress a report that sets forth a timeline with milestones for achieving interoperability between the electronic health records systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SA 3866. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 632. REPORT ON IMPACT OF REDUCING OR ELIMINATING COMMISSARY SUBSIDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the impact that eliminating or reducing the commissary subsidy would have on eligible beneficiaries.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The number of commissaries currently in operation.

(2) An estimate of the number of eligible beneficiaries utilizing commissaries.

(3) An estimate of the financial impact and costs incurred by eligible beneficiaries if the commissary subsidy is reduced or eliminated.

(4) An estimate of the cost savings for families utilizing the commissary benefit.

(5) Any other matter the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 3867. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 526. GUIDANCE ON PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR EARLY SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES FOR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AFTER SEPARATION.

The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance to the Secretaries of the military departments on measures to streamline and encourage the processing by the military departments of requests for early separation or discharge from the Armed Forces submitted by members of the Armed Forces who have agreed to participate in programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service after separation or discharge from the Armed Forces.

SA 3868. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 526. AUTHORITY TO WAIVE SIX-MONTH MINIMUM SERVICE IN GRADE REQUIREMENT FOR RETIREMENT AT HIGHER GRADE FOR OFFICERS INVOLUNTARILY RETIRED FOR AGE BEFORE MEETING MINIMUM.

Section 1370 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''An officer'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (e), an officer'';

(2) in subsection (d)(4), by striking ''A person'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (e), a person'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

''(e) WAIVER OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN GRADE REQUIREMENT FOR OFFICERS RETIRED FOR AGE.—(1) Under authority the Secretary of Defense may grant to the Secretary of the

military department concerned, an officer may be retired in the highest grade in which the officer served on active duty satisfactorily, notwithstanding the failure of the officer to meet the service in grade requirement specified in subsection (a)(1) with respect to service in such grade, if the officer is retired for age while serving in such grade.

''(2) Under authority the Secretary of Defense may grant to the Secretary of the military department concerned, a person may be retired in the highest grade in which the person served satisfactorily as a reserve commissioned officer in an active status or in a retired status on active duty, notwithstanding the failure of the person to meet the service in grade requirement specified in subsection (d)(2) with respect to service in such grade, if the person is retired for age while serving in such grade.''.

SA 3869. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE TREATMENT FOR FATHERS OF CERTAIN PERMANENTLY DISABLED OR DECEASED VETERANS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Gold Star Fathers Act of 2014''.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 2108(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (F) and (G) and inserting the following:

''(F) the parent of an individual who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving in the armed forces during a period named by paragraph (1)(A) of this section, if—

''(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

''(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse;

''(G) the parent of a service-connected permanently and totally disabled veteran, if—

''(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

''(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse; and''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3870. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

Subtitle D—Mental Health Exposure Tracking

SEC. 741. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Mental Health Exposure Military Official Record Act of 2014''.

SEC. 742. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subtitle is to implement a significant event tracker (SET) system to train and enable members of the Armed Forces, including members of the reserve components thereof, to track exposures to traumatic events and address mental health issues during and after service.

SEC. 743. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) UNIT COMMANDER DEFINED.—The term ''unit commander'' means the first individual in the chain of command with authority over the member concerned under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

(2) REPORTABLE EVENT.—The term ''reportable event'' includes—

(A) a kinetic combat patrol;

(B) witnessed loss of life, dismemberment, or significant physical injury in a combat operation, expeditionary operation, or peacetime regular training;

(C) an injury or exposure that may constitute a traumatic brain injury (TBI), including a concussive or mechanical event involving the head that occurs in a combat operation, expeditionary operation, or peacetime regular training;

(D) victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault; and

(E) any other event determined by the Secretary of Defense to be potentially traumatic to an affected individual.

(3) RESERVE COMPONENT.—The term ''reserve component'' means a reserve component of the Armed Forces named in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 744. REQUIREMENT TO IMPLEMENT SET SYSTEM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement the significant event tracker system described under section 745 (in this subtitle referred to as the ''SET system'').

SEC. 745. SIGNIFICANT EVENT TRACKER (SET) SYSTEM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a SET system to track, report, and summarize individual exposures to traumatic events for the purpose of enabling former members of the Armed Forces, including members of the reserve components thereof, to show evidence of possible traumatic events incurred during their service.

(b) RECORDING OF EVENTS.—

(1) RESPONSIBILITY.—

(A) UNIT COMMANDERS.—A unit commander may enter reportable events that affect the entire unit and its members or delegate to a leader of a subunit of the unit commander's command the entry of reportable events affecting the subunit.

(B) INDIVIDUAL REPORTING.—A unit commander may choose to delegate event reporting to the individual members of units who are employed as short-term, temporary (less than 30 days) detachments and individual augments which, by the nature of their mission, preclude the persistent inclusion in one common reviewing unit. The delegation may be until a predetermined date such as the end of a deployment or on a 30-day basis, as determined by the unit commander.

(C) MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY.—A medical treatment facility may directly enter a reportable event affecting a member of the Armed Forces undergoing treatment at such facility for an injury identified by a military medical personnel or as reported by a member of the Armed Forces to such an individual.

(D) MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Military law enforcement may directly enter a reportable event involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault.

(E) REPORTING OF OUTSIDE INCIDENTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance regarding the entry of reportable events involving members of the Armed Forces that occur while in duty status outside of military installations and are initially reported to local non-military law enforcement or non-military medical treatment facilities.

(F) REPORTING OF PREVIOUS INCIDENTS FOR CURRENTLY SERVING SERVICEMEMBERS.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance regarding the potential entry of past reportable events involving currently serving members of the Armed Forces that occurred earlier in their career.

(2) INCLUDED INFORMATION.—Each entry for a reportable event shall include the following information:

(A) Name, date, location, and unit.

(B) Duty Status.

(C) Type of event.

(D) Whether a physical injury was sustained as a result, and if so, the extent of such injury.

(E) Other information as required by the Secretary of Defense.

(c) VERIFICATION OF EVENTS.—

(1) EVENTS REPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A reportable event entered by an individual member under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall be reviewed by the unit commander for purposes of verifying, contesting, or denying the event.

(B) VERIFICATION TOOLS.—In reviewing reportable events under subparagraph (A), the unit commander shall use all available verification tools, including Department of Defense reports, unit logs, reports from creditable witnesses such as patrol leaders, and any other evidence deemed appropriate by the unit commander.

(C) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance designed to ensure that entries submitted to a unit commander for review are handled accurately with discretion and in a timely fashion while recognizing the challenges posed by operational tempo and competing time demands.

(2) EVENTS REPORTED BY THE UNIT COMMANDERS OR DELEGATES.—Reportable events entered by a unit commander or delegate under subsection (b)(1)(A), other than reportable events involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault, shall be submitted directly to the respective unit's commanding officer for review under subsection (d). Reportable events involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault shall be submitted directly to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(3) EVENTS REPORTED BY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.—Reportable events entered by medical treatment facilities under subsection (b)(1)(C) shall be submitted directly to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(4) EVENTS REPORTED BY MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Reportable events entered by military law enforcement under subsection (b)(1)(D) shall be submitted directly to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(d) COMMAND REVIEW.—

(1) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.—The commanding officer shall have responsibility for reviewing and determining the disposition of a reportable event involving the member submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (c), other than a reportable event involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault, and submitting the event and such determination to the secure central tracking database under subsection (e).

(2) DISPOSITION.—The commanding officer shall, in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of Defense, assign to each such reportable event one of the following designations:

(A) Approved, in the case of clear documentation and verification of the facts and the individual's exposure.

(B) Approved/Contested, in the case of clear documentation and verification of the occurrence of the event, but where the commanding officer has reasonable doubt for approval of the reportable event.

(C) Denied/Contested, in the case of questionable documentation or verification, but where the commanding officer has reasonable doubt for denial of the reportable event.

(D) Denied, in the case of no clear evidence of the facts or the member's exposure.

(3) NON-REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—Each reportable entry reviewed under this subsection shall be entered into the secure central tracking database and may not be removed or deleted, regardless of designation.

(e) SECURE CENTRAL TRACKING DATABASE.—

(1) STORAGE OF INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All reportable events shall be submitted to a secure central tracking database, either indirectly pursuant to subsection (d), or directly pursuant to paragraphs (3) or (4) of subsection (c) or, in the case of a reportable event involving victimization or witnessing of a sexual assault, paragraph (2) of subsection (c). The database shall serve as the central repository for all reportable events relating to a member of the Armed Forces, including for purposes of preparing the member's official SET record upon separation from service.

(B) TREATMENT OF INFORMATION.—

(i) CLASSIFIED AND SENSITIVE OPERATIONS.—The secure central tracking database shall include measures to ensure that information related to classified and sensitive operations is coded so as to document the event without violating operational security concerns.

(ii) SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES.—The secure central tracking database shall include measures to ensure that information related to sexual assault cases in the secure central tracking database is coded in order to protect privacy and to correctly reflect the status, and protect the integrity, of ongoing investigations.

(iii) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INDIVIDUAL RECORDS.—An individual member's complete SET record and individual entries may not be reviewed by the member's unit commander or the chain of command, and may not be used by anyone for the purpose of evaluating promotion, reenlistment, or assignment issues.

(C) USE BY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES.—Medical treatment facilities shall be provided access to the secure central tracking database for purposes of entering reportable events under subsection (b)(1)(C) and consulting for diagnoses.

(D) USE BY MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES.—Military law enforcement and criminal investigative services shall be provided general access to the secure central tracking database for purposes of entering reportable events under section (b)(1)(D) and to a limited summary for purposes of diagnosing patterns and trends related to crimes committed inside their jurisdiction. The summary shall not include specific information about events, evidence, or individual members, including private personal information such as names and social security numbers.

(E) ACCESS TO INDIVIDUAL RECORDS FOR PURPOSES OF MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY DISCIPLINARY AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An individual member's complete SET record and individual entries may, with the explicit consent of the member, be reviewed, evaluated, and shared with—

(I) in the case of a military disciplinary or judicial hearing or proceeding, the member's military and civilian legal representative or representatives, unit commander, or military judge for the purpose of addressing concerns related to such hearing or proceeding; and

(II) in the case of a non-military disciplinary or judicial hearing or proceeding, the member's civilian legal representative or representatives for the purpose of addressing concerns related to such hearing or proceeding.

(ii) ACCESS IN CASES OF MENTAL INCAPACITY.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide guidance for questions related to the accessing a servicemember's SET record for servicemembers who have been determined to be mentally incapable and thus are unable to provide their own consent or objection to the release of personal information.

(F) UNIT COMMANDER REVIEW.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), unit commanders may only view individual pending entries that have been submitted to them for review and designation, and may not view previous entries that have already been reviewed and designated.

(ii) ADMINISTRATIVE ACCESS.—Unit commanders may only access entries that have already been reviewed, designated, and entered into the secure central data base by that individual commander in order to correct roster entries for subunits, provide additional post-incident documentation, or take such other administrative actions as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense. In no instance may such access permit the removal of any entry, regardless of designation.

(G) STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF UNIT COMMANDERS.—

(i) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance governing the sharing of SET entry statistics among unit commands and other Department of Defense individuals, offices, activities, and agencies for purposes of analyzing the number and types of entries generated over time. Information so shared may not include specific information about events, evidence, or individual members, including private personal information such as names and social security numbers.

(ii) EVALUATION ON UNIT COMMANDERS.—Unit commanders may not be evaluated by their superiors for the number and types of entries generated by their command, but may be evaluated by their superior officer in the chain of command for the speed and accuracy of their entries, and the review of their entries.

(H) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON ACCESS.—No non-Department of Defense agencies, organizations, or individuals, such as veterans' service organizations, local law enforcement, judicial courts, or civilian medical treatment facilities, shall be granted access to the secure central tracking database. Department of Defense medical officers may only review an individual member's entire SET record for the medical purposes set forth in subsection (e)(2)(A) and such other purposes as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) DISTRIBUTION AND CONTROL.—

(A) PRE-DISCHARGE.—

(i) MEDICAL RETIREMENTS.—In the case of a member of the Armed Services preparing for medical retirement due to injury or other conditions, the official SET record shall be provided to and used by the Medical Evaluation Board or Physical Evaluation Board.

(ii) NON-MEDICAL DISCHARGES AND RETIREMENTS.—In the case of a member of the Armed Services preparing for a non-medical discharge or retirement, the official SET record shall be reviewed by the medical officer of the member's parent unit and serve as the basis for any follow-on actions as determined by the medical officer.

(iii) BENEFITS DELIVERY AT DISCHARGE CLAIMS.—In the case of a member of the Armed Services initiating a Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claim, the BDD Specialist shall be provided with the official SET record in order to file a fully developed claim for the member.

(B) UPON DISCHARGE.—Upon a member's separation from service in the Armed Forces, including a member of a reserve component thereof, copies of the member's official SET record, including a compilation of all reported events and a summary prepared by an authorizing agent with cleared access to the secure central tracking database, shall be distributed in accordance with the procedures of the military service in which the individual served, including copies to the following recipients:

(i) The separating member.

(ii) The separating member's Service Personnel and Medical File, or other relevant record as determined under the Secretary of Defense's guidance.

(iii) The Department of Veterans Affairs, and if specifically designated by the member, the veteran affairs agency of the State that is the separating member's relevant home of record or intended new residence and such other veterans service organization as may be designated by the member.

SEC. 746. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed as limiting the ability of current and former members of the Armed Forces to provide documentation other than the SET record, including handwritten statements, for purposes of appealing, documenting, or presenting evidence related to post traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury claims.

SA 3871. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 234. PILOT PROGRAM ON SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF VETERANS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of supporting activities of covered entities that promote the participation of covered veterans in science and technology activities of the Department of Defense to promote the education and training of such veterans in science, technology, engineering, and math fields that are relevant to the needs of the Department.

(b) COVERED ENTITIES.—For purposes of the pilot program, a covered entity is any entity that is in receipt of a contract or grant from the Department of Defense to carry out research, development, testing, or evaluation.

(c) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of the pilot program, a covered veteran is any veteran who—

(1) is pursuing a program of education;

(2) is a teacher;

(3) has a service-connected disability; or

(4) is a member of the faculty at a community college.

(d) SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING.—The Secretary may carry out the pilot program

through the award of supplementary funding to covered entities to support—

(1) participation of covered veterans in research activities otherwise funded by the Secretary; or

(2) internships and fellowships at—

(A) Department laboratories or research facilities; or

(B) university or industry research facilities.

(e) DERIVATION OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts used to carry out the pilot program shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 201.

(f) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this section shall expire on September 30, 2019.

(g) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once each fiscal year in which the Secretary carries out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the pilot program.

SA 3872. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a review and assessment by the Comptroller General of the current state of electronic waste recycling by the Department of Defense, including an assessment of recycling, reuse, refurbishment, and demanufacturing activities of Department with respect to used electronics.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information on the disposition of used Department electronics, including the volume of electronics that are recycled, reused, refurbished, and demanufactured.

(2) Information on the value of all strategic and critical materials recovered from recycled electronics of the Department during fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

(3) Information on the economic models used by the Department for the collection and capture of strategic or critical materials from used electronics, including any benefits and challenges associated with the models.

(4) An identification and assessment of potential opportunities for improving the efficiency or effectiveness of Department efforts to recover strategic and critical materials from used Department electronics.

SA 3873. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3851 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 124, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''29'' and insert ''27''.

SA 3874. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. SMALL BUSINESS CYBER EDUCATION.

The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, may make every reasonable effort to promote an outreach and education program to assist small businesses (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) contracted by the Department of Defense to assist such businesses to—

(1) understand the gravity and scope of cyber threats;

(2) develop a plan to protect intellectual property; and

(3) develop a plan to protect the networks of such businesses.

SA 3875. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 476, line 15, strike''$20,000,000'' and insert ''$10,000,000''.

On page 492, line 19, strike ''**SURFACE**''.

On page 492, line 22, insert ''AND SUBSURFACE'' after ''SURFACE''.

On page 492, line 25, insert ''and subsurface'' after ''surface''.

On page 493, line 5, insert ''and subsurface'' after ''surface''.

On page 493, line 17, insert ''and subsurface'' after ''surface''.

On page 496, line 25, strike ''$30,000,000'' and insert ''$140,000,000''.

Strike subtitle A of title XV and insert the following:

Subtitle A—Authorization of Additional Appropriations

SEC. 1501. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subtitle is to authorize appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 to provide additional funds for overseas contingency operations being carried out by the Armed Forces.

SEC. 1502. PROCUREMENT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for procurement accounts for the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and Defense-wide activities, as specified in the funding table in section 4102.

SEC. 1503. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Department of Defense for research, development, test, and evaluation, as specified in the funding table in section 4202.

SEC. 1504. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for operation and maintenance, as specified in the funding table in section 4302.

SEC. 1505. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for military personnel, as specified in the funding table in section 4402.

SEC. 1506. WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for providing capital for working capital and revolving funds, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1507. DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE-WIDE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1508. DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1509. DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Defense Health Program, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1510. COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1511. EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2015 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the European Reassurance Initiative, as specified in the funding table in section 4502.

SEC. 1512. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for military construction, as specified in the funding table in section 4602.

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1526. COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund shall be available for the following purposes:

(1) To enhance counterterrorism and crisis response activities undertaken by the United States Armed Forces under authority provided by any other provision of law.

(2) To provide support and assistance to foreign security forces or other groups or individuals to conduct, support, or facilitate counterterrorism and crisis response activities under authority provided by any other provision of law.

(b) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Activities using amounts available pursuant to subsection (a) may be conducted by contract, including contractor-operated capabilities, if the Secretary of Defense typically acquires services

or equipment by contract in conducting a similar activity for the Department of Defense.

(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN SECURITY FORCES.—The provision of support and assistance to foreign security forces using amounts available pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall be subject to the provisions of section 2246 of title 10, United States Code (as added by section 1202 of this Act).

(d) TRANSFER REQUIREMENT AND AUTHORITIES.—

(1) USE OF FUNDS ONLY PURSUANT TO TRANSFER.—Amounts in the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund may be used for the purposes specified in subsection (a) only pursuant to transfers authorized by this subsection.

(2) TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.—Amounts in the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund may be transferred from the Fund to any of the following accounts of the Department of Defense for the purposes specified in subsection (a):

(A) Operation and maintenance accounts.

(B) Procurement accounts.

(C) Research, development, test, and evaluation accounts.

(3) LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE AMOUNT TRANSFERRABLE BY FISCAL YEAR.—The total amount transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Funds under the authority in paragraph (2) in any fiscal year may not exceed $4,000,000,000.

(4) TRANSFER FOR ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—

(A) LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—With respect to a program specified in subparagraph (B), the maximum amount that may be available in a fiscal year in connection with such program, including by transfer from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund under paragraph (2), is the amount specified for that program in subparagraph (B), notwithstanding any limitation on the amount of funds available for that program in a fiscal year that is specified in the applicable provision of law referred to in subparagraph (B).

(B) COVERED PROGRAMS.—The programs specified in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) The Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program under section 2249c of title 10, United States Code, the amount of $50,000,000.

(ii) Programs under section 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163), the amount of $700,000,000.

(iii) Programs under section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375), the amount of $80,000,000.

(5) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—The transfer of an amount to an account under the authority in paragraph (2) shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for such account by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(6) TRANSFERS BACK TO FUND.—Upon a determination that all or part of the amounts transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund under paragraph (2) are not necessary for the purpose for which transferred, such amounts shall be transferred back to the Fund.

(7) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority provided by paragraph (2) is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

(e) MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET MATERIALS.—

(1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the intended management and use of the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund.

(2) BUDGET MATERIALS.—The budget justification materials for the Department of Defense for any fiscal year in which amounts are requested for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund (as submitted to Congress with the budget of the President for such fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) shall include a separate request, and justifying materials, for amounts for the Fund.

(f) MANAGER.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall designate a senior civilian employee of the Department of Defense to serve as manager of the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund.

(g) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 15 days before transferring amounts from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing of such transfer. Each notice of a transfer shall include the following:

(1) A detailed description of the project or activity to be supported by the transfer, including the request of the commander of the combatant command concerned for support, urgent operational need, or emergent operational need.

(2) The amount planned to be expended on such project or activity, and the timeline for such expenditure.

(h) BIANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the first half of a fiscal year and after the end of the second half of a fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(A) A description of the expenditure of funds from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund during such half fiscal year, including expenditures of funds in direct or indirect support of the counterterrorism activities of foreign governments.

(B) A description of any funds considered not necessary for the purpose for which transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund and transferred back to the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund pursuant to subsection (d)(6) during such half fiscal year.

(2) INFORMATION ON SUPPORT OF COUNTERTERRORISM ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The information in a report under paragraph (1)(A) on direct or indirect support of the counterterrorism activities of foreign governments shall include, for each foreign government so supported, the following:

(A) The total amount of such assistance provided to, or expended on behalf of, the foreign government pursuant to this section.

(B) A description of the types of counterterrorism activities conducted using the assistance.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term ''first half of a fiscal year'' means the period beginning on October 1 of any year and ending on March 31 of the following year.

(B) The term ''second half of a fiscal year'' means the period beginning on April 1 of any year and ending on September 30 of such year.

(i) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—No amounts may be transferred from the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund after September 30, 2017.

SEC. 1527. EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for the European Reassurance Initiative shall be available for the purpose of providing support and assistance to allies and partner nations in Europe under authority provided by any other provision of law, including through such activities as the following:

(1) Activities to increase the presence of the United States Armed Forces in Europe.

(2) Bilateral and multilateral military exercises and training with allies and partner nations in Europe.

(3) Activities to improve infrastructure in Europe to enhance the responsiveness of the United States Armed Forces.

(4) Activities to enhance the prepositioning in Europe of equipment of the United States Armed Forces.

(5) Activities to build the defense and security capacity of allies and partner nations in Europe.

(b) TRANSFER REQUIREMENT AND RELATED AUTHORITIES.—

(1) USE OF FUNDS ONLY PURSUANT TO TRANSFER.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), amounts in the European Reassurance Initiative may be used for the purpose specified in subsection (a) only pursuant to transfers authorized by this subsection.

(2) TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.—Amounts in the European Reassurance Initiative may be transferred from the Initiative to any of the following accounts of the Department of Defense for the purpose specified in subsection (b):

(A) Military personnel accounts.

(B) Operation and maintenance accounts.

(C) Procurement accounts.

(3) MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts in the European Reassurance Initiative, $163,000,000 may be used for military construction projects in connection with activities undertaken as described in subsection (a). Such funds may be used for any such project only if, not later than 15 days before the contract for any such project is awarded, the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees for such project the following:

(i) A complete Military Construction Project Data Form DD 1391.

(ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a certification that such project—

(I) is consistent with the basing assessment initiated by the Secretary of Defense on January 25, 2013 (known as the ''European Infrastructure Consolidation Assessment'');

(II) is of an enduring nature; and

(III) most effectively meets requirements of the Commander of the United States European Command at the location specified in the Military Construction Project Data Form DD 1391.

(B) EXCEPTION.—A certification is not required under subparagraph (A)(ii) for a military construction project if the project is to be carried out under the authority of, and subject to the limits specified in, section 2805 of title 10, United States Code.

(C) MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''military construction project'' means a military construction project within the meaning of section 2801 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) TRANSFER FOR ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—With respect to a program specified in section 1526(d), the maximum amount that may be available in a fiscal year in connection with such program, including by transfer from the European Reassurance Initiative under paragraph (2), is the amount specified for that program in section 1526(d), notwithstanding any limitation on the amount of funds available for that program in a fiscal year that is specified in the applicable provision of law referred to in section 1526(d).

(5) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—The transfer of an amount to an account

under the authority in paragraph (2) shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for such account by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(6) TRANSFERS BACK TO FUND.—Upon a determination that all or part of the amounts transferred from the European Reassurance Initiative under paragraph (2) are not necessary for the purpose for which transferred, such amounts shall be transferred back to the Initiative.

(7) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority provided by paragraph (2) is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

(c) PLAN FOR USE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the intended use of the European Reassurance Initiative.

(d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 15 days before transferring amounts from the European Reassurance Initiative pursuant to subsection (b) for activities specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing of such transfer. Each notice of a transfer shall include the following:

(1) A detailed description of the project or activity to be supported by the transfer, including any request of the Commander of the United States European Command for support, urgent operational need, or emergent operational need.

(2) The amount planned to be expended on such project or activity, and the timeline for such expenditure.

(e) BIANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the first half of a fiscal year and after the end of the second half of a fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(A) A description of the expenditure of funds from the European Reassurance Initiative during such half fiscal year, including expenditures of funds in direct or indirect support of the activities of foreign governments described in subsection (a).

(B) A description of any funds considered not necessary for the purpose for which transferred from the European Reassurance Initiative and transferred back to the European Reassurance Initiative pursuant to subsection (d)(6) during such half fiscal year.

(2) INFORMATION ON SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The information in a report under paragraph (1)(A) on direct or indirect support of the activities of foreign governments described in subsection (a) shall include, for each foreign government so supported, the following:

(A) The total amount of such assistance provided to, or expended on behalf of, the foreign government pursuant to this section.

(B) A description of the types of activities conducted using the assistance.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term ''first half of a fiscal year'' means the period beginning on October 1 of any year and ending on March 31 of the following year.

(B) The term ''second half of a fiscal year'' means the period beginning on April 1 of any year and ending on September 30 of such year.

(f) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—No amounts may be transferred or obligated from the European Reassurance Initiative after September 30, 2016.

On page 750, between section 4101 and title XLII, insert the following:

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY		
	FIXED WING		
3	AERIAL COMMON SENSOR (ACS) (MIP)	36,000	36,000
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY TOTAL	**36,000**	**36,000**
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY		
	AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM		
4	HELLFIRE SYS SUMMARY	29,100	29,100
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY TOTAL	**29,100**	**29,100**
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY		
	SMALL/MEDIUM CAL AMMUNITION		
7	CTG, 30MM, ALL TYPES	35,000	35,000
	MORTAR AMMUNITION		
9	60MM MORTAR, ALL TYPES	5,000	5,000
	ARTILLERY AMMUNITION		
13	ARTILLERY CARTRIDGES, 75MM & 105MM, ALL TYPES	10,000	10,000
14	ARTILLERY PROJECTILE, 155MM, ALL TYPES	15,000	15,000
	ROCKETS		
20	ROCKET, HYDRA 70, ALL TYPES	66,905	66,905
	OTHER AMMUNITION		
21	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	3,000	3,000
22	GRENADES, ALL TYPES	1,000	1,000
23	SIGNALS, ALL TYPES	5,000	5,000
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY TOTAL	**140,905**	**140,905**
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY		
	TACTICAL VEHICLES		
05	FAMILY OF MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLES (FHTV)	95,624	95,624
8	PLS ESP	60,300	60,300
10	HVY EXPANDED MOBILE TACTICAL TRUCK EXT SERV	192,620	192,620
15	MINE-RESISTANT AMBUSH-PROTECTED (MRAP) MODS	197,000	197,000
	ELECT EQUIP—TACT INT REL ACT (TIARA)		
63	DCGS-A (MIP)	48,331	48,331
67	CI HUMINT AUTO REPRTING AND COLL(CHARCS)	4,980	4,980
	ELECT EQUIP—ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW)		
71	FAMILY OF PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITIE	32,083	32,083
72	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE/SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES	17,535	17,535
	COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
133	FORCE PROVIDER	51,500	51,500
135	CARGO AERIAL DEL & PERSONNEL PARACHUTE SYSTEM	2,580	2,580
	OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
170	RAPID EQUIPPING SOLDIER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	25,000	25,000
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY TOTAL	**727,553**	**727,553**
	JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND		
	NETWORK ATTACK		
01	ATTACK THE NETWORK	189,700	189,700
	JIEDDO DEVICE DEFEAT		
02	DEFEAT THE DEVICE	94,600	94,600

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	FORCE TRAINING		
03	TRAIN THE FORCE	15,700	15,700
	STAFF AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
4	OPERATIONS	79,000	79,000
	JOINT IMPR EXPLOSIVE DEV DEFEAT FUND TOTAL	**379,000**	**379,000**
	SUBTOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY	**1,312,558**	**1,312,558**
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	COMBAT AIRCRAFT		
11	H–1 UPGRADES (UH–1Y/AH–1Z)	30,000	30,000
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
27	MQ–8 UAV	40,888	40,888
	MODIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT		
39	EP–3 SERIES	34,955	34,955
49	SPECIAL PROJECT AIRCRAFT	2,548	2,548
54	COMMON ECM EQUIPMENT	31,920	31,920
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
67	AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES	936	936
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY TOTAL	**141,247**	**141,247**
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	TACTICAL MISSILES		
10	LASER MAVERICK	7,656	7,656
11	STAND OFF PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS (SOPGM)	4,800	4,800
	WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY TOTAL	**12,456**	**12,456**
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC		
	NAVY AMMUNITION		
1	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	5,086	5,086
2	AIRBORNE ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	8,862	8,862
3	MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION	3,473	3,473
6	AIR EXPENDABLE COUNTERMEASURES	29,376	29,376
11	OTHER SHIP GUN AMMUNITION	3,919	3,919
12	SMALL ARMS & LANDING PARTY AMMO	3,561	3,561
13	PYROTECHNIC AND DEMOLITION	2,913	2,913
14	AMMUNITION LESS THAN $5 MILLION	2,764	2,764
	MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION		
15	SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION	9,475	9,475
16	LINEAR CHARGES, ALL TYPES	8,843	8,843
17	40 MM, ALL TYPES	7,098	7,098
18	60MM, ALL TYPES	5,935	5,935
19	81MM, ALL TYPES	9,318	9,318
20	120MM, ALL TYPES	6,921	6,921
22	GRENADES, ALL TYPES	3,218	3,218
23	ROCKETS, ALL TYPES	7,642	7,642
24	ARTILLERY, ALL TYPES	30,289	30,289
25	DEMOLITION MUNITIONS, ALL TYPES	1,255	1,255
26	FUZE, ALL TYPES	2,061	2,061
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMO, NAVY & MC TOTAL	**152,009**	**152,009**
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY		
	OTHER SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT		
23	UNDERWATER EOD PROGRAMS	8,210	8,210
	SHIPBOARD COMMUNICATIONS		
88	COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS UNDER $5M	1,100	1,100
	OTHER ORDNANCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
132	EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL EQUIP	207,860	207,860
	CIVIL ENGINEERING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
138	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES	1,063	1,063
139	GENERAL PURPOSE TRUCKS	152	152
142	TACTICAL VEHICLES	26,300	26,300
145	ITEMS UNDER $5 MILLION	3,300	3,300
	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
152	COMMAND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	10,745	10,745
157	OPERATING FORCES SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	3,331	3,331
158	C4ISR EQUIPMENT	35,923	35,923
159	ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	514	514
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY TOTAL	**298,498**	**298,498**
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS		
	OTHER SUPPORT		
7	MODIFICATION KITS	3,190	3,190
	GUIDED MISSILES		
10	JAVELIN	17,100	17,100
	OTHER SUPPORT		
13	MODIFICATION KITS	13,500	13,500
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS		
	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT		
16	REPAIR AND TEST EQUIPMENT	980	980
	COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (NON-TEL)		
19	ITEMS UNDER $5 MILLION (COMM & ELEC)	996	996

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	INTELL/COMM EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
25	INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	1,450	1,450
28	RQ–11 UAV	1,740	1,740
	OTHER COMM/ELEC EQUIPMENT (NON-TEL)		
31	NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT	134	134
36	COMM SWITCHING & CONTROL SYSTEMS	3,119	3,119
	TACTICAL VEHICLES		
42	MEDIUM TACTICAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	584	584
	ENGINEER AND OTHER EQUIPMENT		
52	EOD SYSTEMS	5,566	5,566
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
55	MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIP	3,230	3,230
	GENERAL PROPERTY		
58	TRAINING DEVICES	2,000	2,000
	PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS TOTAL	**53,589**	**53,589**
	SUBTOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY	**657,799**	**657,799**
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	OTHER AIRLIFT		
4	C–130J	70,000	70,000
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
18	MQ–9	192,000	192,000
	STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT		
21	B–1B	91,879	91,879
	OTHER AIRCRAFT		
50	C–130	47,840	47,840
51	C–130J MODS	18,000	18,000
53	COMPASS CALL MODS	24,800	24,800
63	HC/MC–130 MODIFICATIONS	44,300	44,300
64	OTHER AIRCRAFT	111,990	111,990
	AIRCRAFT SPARES AND REPAIR PARTS		
70	INITIAL SPARES/REPAIR PARTS	45,410	45,410
	AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE TOTAL	**646,219**	**646,219**
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	MISSILE REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT—BALLISTIC		
6	PREDATOR HELLFIRE MISSILE	114,939	114,939
	MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE TOTAL	**114,939**	**114,939**
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE		
	CARTRIDGES		
2	CARTRIDGES	2,163	2,163
	BOMBS		
4	GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS	41,545	41,545
5	JOINT DIRECT ATTACK MUNITION	90,330	90,330
	FLARES		
11	FLARES	18,916	18,916
	FUZES		
12	FUZES	17,778	17,778
	PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE TOTAL	**170,732**	**170,732**
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE		
	PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES		
4	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	3,000	3,000
6	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	1,878	1,878
	MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT		
8	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	5,131	5,131
	BASE MAINTENANCE SUPPORT		
9	RUNWAY SNOW REMOV & CLEANING EQUIP	1,734	1,734
10	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	22,000	22,000
	SPCL COMM-ELECTRONICS PROJECTS		
27	GENERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	3,857	3,857
33	C3 COUNTERMEASURES	900	900
	SPACE PROGRAMS		
48	MILSATCOM SPACE	19,547	19,547
	ORGANIZATION AND BASE		
55	BASE COMM INFRASTRUCTURE	1,970	1,970
	PERSONAL SAFETY & RESCUE EQUIP		
57	NIGHT VISION GOGGLES	765	765
	BASE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT		
60	BASE PROCURED EQUIPMENT	2,030	2,030
61	CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS	99,590	99,590
63	MOBILITY EQUIPMENT	107,361	107,361
64	ITEMS LESS THAN $5 MILLION	10,975	10,975
	SPECIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS		
70	DEFENSE SPACE RECONNAISSANCE PROG.	6,100	6,100
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
70A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	2,599,434	2,599,434
	OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE TOTAL	**2,886,272**	**2,886,272**
	SUBTOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE	**3,818,162**	**3,818,162**

SEC. 4102. PROCUREMENT FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE		
	MAJOR EQUIPMENT, DISA		
10	TELEPORT PROGRAM	4,330	4,330
	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS		
46A	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	41,529	41,529
	AMMUNITION PROGRAMS		
65	ORDNANCE ITEMS <$5M	14,903	14,903
	OTHER PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS		
68	INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS	13,549	13,549
71	OTHER ITEMS <$5M	32,773	32,773
76	WARRIOR SYSTEMS <$5M	78,357	78,357
88	OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS	3,600	3,600
	PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE TOTAL	**189,041**	**189,041**
	SUBTOTAL, DEFENSE-WIDE	**189,041**	**189,041**
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND		
1	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND	50,000	50,000
	JOINT URGENT OPERATIONAL NEEDS FUND TOTAL	**50,000**	**50,000**
	TOTAL, TITLE XV, PROCUREMENT OCO	**6,027,560**	**6,027,560**

On page 764, between section 4201 and title XLIII, insert the following:

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4202. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Program Element	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY		
		ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES		
60	0603747A	SOLDIER SUPPORT AND SURVIVABILITY	4,500	4,500
		SUBTOTAL, ADVANCED COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT & PROTOTYPES	**4,500**	**4,500**
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, ARMY	**4,500**	**4,500**
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY		
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
229A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	35,080	35,080
		SUBTOTAL, OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	**35,080**	**35,080**
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, NAVY	**35,080**	**35,080**
		RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW		
		OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT		
265A	9999999999	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	40,397	40,397
		SUBTOTAL, OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	**40,397**	**40,397**
		TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL, DW	**40,397**	**40,397**
		TOTAL, TITLE XV, RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT TEST & EVAL, OCO	**79,977**	**79,977**

On page 771, between section 4301 and title XLIV, insert the following:

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MANEUVER UNITS	77,419	77,419
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	3,827	3,827
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	22,353	22,353
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	1,231,128	1,231,128
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	452,332	452,332
060	AVIATION ASSETS	47,522	47,522
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,043,683	1,043,683
080	LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	166,725	166,725

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
090	LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	87,636	87,636
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	291,977	291,977
140	ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	7,041,667	7,041,667
150	COMMANDERS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM	10,000	10,000
160	RESET	2,834,465	2,834,465
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**13,310,734**	**13,310,734**
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
350	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	1,776,267	1,776,267
380	AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT	45,537	45,537
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	32,264	32,264
420	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	98,171	98,171
430	OTHER SERVICE SUPPORT	99,694	99,694
450	REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	137,053	137,053
525	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	856,002	856,002
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	**3,044,988**	**3,044,988**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY	**16,355,722**	**16,355,722**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES		
	OPERATING FORCES		
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	3,726	3,726
050	LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,242	1,242
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	608	608
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	30,996	30,996
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**36,572**	**36,572**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARMY RES	**36,572**	**36,572**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MANEUVER UNITS	12,593	12,593
020	MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	647	647
030	ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	6,670	6,670
040	THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	664	664
060	AVIATION ASSETS	22,485	22,485
070	FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	14,560	14,560
100	BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	13,923	13,923
120	MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	4,601	4,601
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**76,143**	**76,143**
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
150	ADMINISTRATION	318	318
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	**318**	**318**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ARNG	**76,461**	**76,461**
	AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND		
	MINISTRY OF DEFENSE		
011	SUSTAINMENT	2,514,660	2,514,660
012	INFRASTRUCTURE	20,000	20,000
013	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	21,442	21,442
014	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	359,645	359,645
021	SUSTAINMENT	953,189	953,189
022	INFRASTRUCTURE	15,155	15,155
023	EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION	18,657	18,657
024	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	174,732	174,732
	SUBTOTAL, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE	**4,077,480**	**4,077,480**
	DETAINEE OPS		
031	SUSTAINMENT	29,603	29,603
032	TRAINING AND OPERATIONS	2,250	2,250
	SUBTOTAL, DETAINEE OPS	**31,853**	**31,853**
	TOTAL, AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND	**4,109,333**	**4,109,333**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	547,145	547,145
040	AIR OPERATIONS AND SAFETY SUPPORT	2,600	2,600
050	AIR SYSTEMS SUPPORT	22,035	22,035
060	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	192,411	192,411
070	AIRCRAFT DEPOT OPERATIONS SUPPORT	1,116	1,116
080	AVIATION LOGISTICS	33,900	33,900
090	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	1,105,500	1,105,500
100	SHIP OPERATIONS SUPPORT & TRAINING	20,068	20,068
110	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,922,829	1,922,829
130	COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS	29,303	29,303
160	WARFARE TACTICS	26,229	26,229
170	OPERATIONAL METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY	20,398	20,398
180	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	676,555	676,555
190	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	10,662	10,662

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
250	IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT	90,684	90,684
260	WEAPONS MAINTENANCE	189,196	189,196
300	SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION	16,220	16,220
310	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	88,688	88,688
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**4,995,539**	**4,995,539**
	MOBILIZATION		
360	EXPEDITIONARY HEALTH SERVICES SYSTEMS	5,307	5,307
380	COAST GUARD SUPPORT	213,319	213,319
	SUBTOTAL, MOBILIZATION	**218,626**	**218,626**
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
420	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	48,270	48,270
	SUBTOTAL, TRAINING AND RECRUITING	**48,270**	**48,270**
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
500	ADMINISTRATION	2,464	2,464
510	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	520	520
530	MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	5,205	5,205
540	OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	1,439	1,439
570	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	186,318	186,318
590	PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN	1,350	1,350
600	ACQUISITION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	11,811	11,811
640	NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE	1,468	1,468
705	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	4,230	4,230
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	**214,805**	**214,805**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY	**5,477,240**	**5,477,240**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	OPERATIONAL FORCES	467,286	467,286
020	FIELD LOGISTICS	353,334	353,334
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	426,720	426,720
060	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	12,036	12,036
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**1,259,376**	**1,259,376**
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
110	TRAINING SUPPORT	52,106	52,106
	SUBTOTAL, TRAINING AND RECRUITING	**52,106**	**52,106**
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
150	SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	162,000	162,000
160	ADMINISTRATION	1,322	1,322
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	**163,322**	**163,322**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS	**1,474,804**	**1,474,804**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	MISSION AND OTHER FLIGHT OPERATIONS	16,133	16,133
040	AIRCRAFT DEPOT MAINTENANCE	6,150	6,150
070	MISSION AND OTHER SHIP OPERATIONS	12,475	12,475
090	SHIP DEPOT MAINTENANCE	2,700	2,700
110	COMBAT SUPPORT FORCES	8,418	8,418
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**45,876**	**45,876**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, NAVY RES	**45,876**	**45,876**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	OPERATING FORCES	9,740	9,740
040	BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	800	800
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**10,540**	**10,540**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, MC RESERVE	**10,540**	**10,540**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
010	PRIMARY COMBAT FORCES	1,136,015	1,136,015
020	COMBAT ENHANCEMENT FORCES	803,939	803,939
030	AIR OPERATIONS TRAINING (OJT, MAINTAIN SKILLS)	8,785	8,785
040	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	1,146,099	1,146,099
050	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	78,000	78,000
060	BASE SUPPORT	1,113,273	1,113,273
070	GLOBAL C3I AND EARLY WARNING	92,109	92,109
080	OTHER COMBAT OPS SPT PROGRAMS	168,269	168,269
090	TACTICAL INTEL AND OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	26,337	26,337
100	LAUNCH FACILITIES	852	852
110	SPACE CONTROL SYSTEMS	4,942	4,942
120	COMBATANT COMMANDERS DIRECT MISSION SUPPORT	69,400	69,400
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**4,648,020**	**4,648,020**

SEC. 4302. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	MOBILIZATION		
140	AIRLIFT OPERATIONS	2,417,280	2,417,280
150	MOBILIZATION PREPAREDNESS	138,043	138,043
160	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	437,279	437,279
170	FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	2,801	2,801
180	BASE SUPPORT	15,370	15,370
	SUBTOTAL, MOBILIZATION	**3,010,773**	**3,010,773**
	TRAINING AND RECRUITING		
190	OFFICER ACQUISITION	39	39
200	RECRUIT TRAINING	432	432
230	BASE SUPPORT	1,617	1,617
240	SPECIALIZED SKILL TRAINING	2,145	2,145
310	OFF-DUTY AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION	163	163
	SUBTOTAL, TRAINING AND RECRUITING	**4,396**	**4,396**
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
340	LOGISTICS OPERATIONS	85,016	85,016
350	TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	934	934
380	BASE SUPPORT	6,923	6,923
390	ADMINISTRATION	151	151
400	SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	162,106	162,106
410	OTHER SERVICEWIDE ACTIVITIES	246,256	246,256
450	INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	60	60
465	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	12,921	12,921
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	**514,367**	**514,367**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE	**8,177,556**	**8,177,556**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
030	DEPOT MAINTENANCE	72,575	72,575
050	BASE SUPPORT	5,219	5,219
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**77,794**	**77,794**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, AF RESERVE	**77,794**	**77,794**
	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG		
	OPERATING FORCES		
020	MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	20,300	20,300
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**20,300**	**20,300**
	TOTAL, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, ANG	**20,300**	**20,300**
	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE		
	OPERATING FORCES		
020	SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND/OPERATING FORCES	2,390,521	2,390,521
	SUBTOTAL, OPERATING FORCES	**2,390,521**	**2,390,521**
	ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES		
080	DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY	22,847	22,847
090	DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY	21,516	21,516
110	DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY	36,416	36,416
130	DEFENSE LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY	105,000	105,000
150	DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY	6,251	6,251
170	DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY	1,660,000	1,660,000
230	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY	93,000	93,000
270	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE	28,264	28,264
290	WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES	2,424	2,424
295	CLASSIFIED PROGRAMS	1,341,224	1,341,224
	SUBTOTAL, ADMIN & SRVWIDE ACTIVITIES	**3,316,942**	**3,316,942**
	TOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE	**5,707,463**	**5,707,463**
	TOTAL, TITLE XV, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, OCO	**41,569,661**	**41,569,661**

On page 772, between section 4401 and title XLV, insert the following:

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
MILITARY PERSONNEL		
MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS		

SEC. 4402. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS	5,394,983	5,394,983
SUBTOTAL, MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS	**5,394,983**	**5,394,983**
MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS		
MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	58,728	58,728
SUBTOTAL, MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	**58,728**	**58,728**
TOTAL, TITLE XV, MILITARY PERSONNEL, OCO	**5,453,711**	**5,453,711**

On page 773, between section 4501 and title XLVI, insert the following:

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4502. OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Line	Item	FY 2015 Request	Senate Authorized
	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE		
010	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	5,000	5,000
	TOTAL, WORKING CAPITAL FUND, AIR FORCE	**5,000**	**5,000**
	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE		
010	WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	86,350	86,350
	TOTAL, WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEFENSE-WIDE	**86,350**	**86,350**
	TOTAL, ALL WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS	**91,350**	**91,350**
	OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL		
010	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	7,968	7,968
	TOTAL, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	**7,968**	**7,968**
	DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF		
010	DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE	189,000	189,000
	TOTAL, DRUG INTERDICTION & CTR-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEF	**189,000**	**189,000**
	DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM		
	DHP OPERATION & MAINTENANCE		
010	IN-HOUSE CARE	65,902	65,902
020	PRIVATE SECTOR CARE	214,259	214,259
030	CONSOLIDATED HEALTH SUPPORT	15,311	15,311
060	EDUCATION AND TRAINING	5,059	5,059
	SUBTOTAL, DHP OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	**300,531**	**300,531**
	TOTAL, DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM	**300,531**	**300,531**
	COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND		
010	COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	4,000,000	4,000,000
	TOTAL, COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS FUND	**4,000,000**	**4,000,000**
	EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE		
010	EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE	925,000	925,000
	TOTAL, EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE	**925,000**	**925,000**
	TOTAL, TITLE XV, OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, OCO	**5,513,849**	**5,513,849**

On page 779, after section 4601, add the following:

SEC. 4602. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

SEC. 4602. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(In Thousands of Dollars)

Account	State or Country and Installation	Project Title	Budget Request	Senate Authorized
Military Construction				
Military Construction, Defense-Wide				
MC, Def-Wide	Worldwide Classified Classified Location	Classified Project	46,000	46,000
Subtotal, Military Construction, Defense-Wide			**46,000**	**46,000**
Total, Title XV, Military Construction, OCO			**46,000**	**46,000**

SA 3876. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION ___. PURCHASE OF PRISON-MADE PRODUCTS BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.—Section 4124 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''shall purchase'' and inserting ''may purchase''; and

(B) by inserting ''and services'' after ''such products''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''subject to the requirements of subsection (a)'' and inserting ''that purchases such products or services of the industries authorized by this chapter''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8504 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON AWARD OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS TO FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INC..

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Federal agency may not award a contract to Federal Prison Industries after competition restricted to small business concerns under section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) or the program established under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)).

SEC. ___. SHARE OF INDEFINITE DELIVERY/INDEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to require that if the head of an executive agency reduces the quantity of items or services to be delivered under an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract to which Federal Prison Industries is a party, the head of the executive agency shall reduce Federal Prison Industries's share of the items or services to be delivered under the contract by the same percentage by which the total number of items or services to be delivered under the contract from all sources is reduced.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code; and

(2) the term ''Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council'' means the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council established under section 1302(a) of title 41, United States Code.

SA 3877. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1047. PROHIBITION ON TERMINATION OF C–130 ACTIVE ASSOCIATE UNITS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of the Air Force may not—

(1) terminate any C–130 active associate unit of a reserve component of the Air Force in existence as of October 1, 2013;

(2) reduce the authorized number, or number, of airmen assigned to C–130 active associate units of the reserve components of the Air Force to fewer than the number authorized for assignment, or assigned, to such units as of October 1, 2013; or

(3) reduce the number of aircraft assigned to C–130 active associate units of the reserve components of the Air Force from the number so assigned as of October 1, 2014.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 by title XV for operation and maintenance is hereby reduced by $13,850,000.

SA 3878. Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. AMENDMENTS TO JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CERTAIN SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTS.

(a) EXPANSION OF SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTS COVERED.—Paragraph (1) of section 811(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111—84; 123 Stat. 2405) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) COVERED PROCUREMENT.—The term 'covered procurement' means either of the following:

''(A) A procurement covered by chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code.

''(B) A procurement covered by division C of subtitle I of title 41, United States Code.''.

(b) TREATMENT OF OTHER JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL ACTIONS.—Section 811 of such Act is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) TREATMENT OF OTHER JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL ACTIONS.—In the case of any contract for which a justification and approval is required under section 2304(f) of title 10, United States Code, or section 3304(e) of title 41, United States Code, a justification and approval meeting the requirements of such section shall be treated as meeting the requirements of this section for purposes of the award of a sole-source contract.''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 811 of such Act is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to provide that the'' and inserting ''The'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''sections 303(f)(1)(C) and 303(j) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253(f)(1)(C) and 253(j))'' and inserting ''sections 3304(e)(1)(C) and 3304(f) of title 41, United States Code'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''section 309(a)'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''section 151 of title 41, United States Code.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''section 303(f)(1)(B)'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''section 3304(e)(1)(B) of title 41, United States Code.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to implement this section.''.

SA 3879. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 102 of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6502), the Secretary of the Air Force shall convey to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in the parcels of real property described in subsection (d) and known as the Distant Early Warning line site in the National Petroleum Reserve near Wainwright, Alaska, that is currently subject to a right-of-way reservation issued to the United States Air Force by the Bureau of Land Management, BLM case file number F–81468.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the Corporation shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not less than the fair market value of the property conveyed, as determined by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary and in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the Corporation to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a). If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the Corporation.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.—The parcel of real property conveyed in subsection (a) consists of Lots 1, 2, and 3 of United States Survey 5252, approximately 1,518.95 acres, including improvements thereon.

(e) DATE OF TRANSFER.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall take place as soon as practicable after any necessary environmental remediation activities at the parcel are certified by the applicable State or Federal Government entities as complete.

(f) REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall retain responsibility for the implementation and completion of remedial action upon the parcels of conveyed real property described in subsection (b) as well as for implementation of any necessary response actions at areas of contamination identified in the future where the contamination was the result of Air Force activities.

(g) REVOCATION OF RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS AND LEASES.—Upon completion of the conveyance, all existing right-of-way grants or leases issued by the Bureau of Land Management or the Air Force authorizing use of the parcels by the Air Force or Olgoonik Corporation shall be revoked.

(h) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3880. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 69, after line 19, add the following:

SEC. 317. BROWNFIELDS UTILIZATION, INVESTMENT, AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 104(k)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

''(J) a limited liability corporation in which all managing members are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I);

''(K) a limited partnership in which all general partners are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I); or

''(L) a qualified community development entity (as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).''.

(b) MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.—Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) and (10) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (10) and (13) through (15), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''subject to paragraphs (4) and (5)'' and inserting ''subject to paragraphs (5) and (6)''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (D) and paragraphs (5) and (6), the Administrator shall establish a program to provide multipurpose grants to an eligible entity based on the considerations under paragraph (3)(C), to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, or remediation activities at 1 or more brownfield sites in a proposed area.

''(B) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

''(i) INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each grant awarded under this paragraph shall not exceed $950,000.

''(ii) CUMULATIVE GRANT AMOUNTS.—The total amount of grants awarded for each fiscal year under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 percent of the funds made available for the fiscal year to carry out this subsection.

''(C) CRITERIA.—In awarding a grant under this paragraph, the Administrator shall consider the extent to which an eligible entity is able—

''(i) to provide an overall plan for revitalization of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area in which the multipurpose grant will be used;

''(ii) to demonstrate a capacity to conduct the range of eligible activities that will be funded by the multipurpose grant; and

''(iii) to demonstrate that a multipurpose grant will meet the needs of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area.

''(D) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this paragraph, each eligible entity shall expend the full amount of the grant not later than the date that is 3 years after the date on which the grant is awarded to the eligible entity unless the Administrator, in the discretion of the Administrator, provides an extension.''.

(c) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.—Section 104(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity that is a governmental entity may receive a grant under this paragraph for property acquired by that governmental entity prior to January 11, 2002, even if the governmental entity does not qualify as a bona fide prospective purchaser (as that term is defined in section 101(40)).''.

(d) INCREASED FUNDING FOR REMEDIATION GRANTS.—Section 104(k)(3)(A)(ii) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking ''$200,000 for each site to be remediated'' and inserting ''$500,000 for each site to be remediated, which limit may be waived by the Administrator, but not to exceed a total of $650,000 for each site, based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, or ownership status of the site''.

(e) ALLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Paragraph (5) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking subclause (III); and

(ii) by redesignating subclauses (IV) and (V) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively;

(B) by striking clause (ii);

(C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(D) in clause (ii) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)), by striking ''Notwithstanding clause (i)(IV)'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding clause (i)(III)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may use up to 8 percent of the amounts made available under a grant or loan under this subsection for administrative costs.

''(ii) RESTRICTION.—For purposes of clause (i), the term 'administrative costs' does not include—

''(I) investigation and identification of the extent of contamination;

''(II) design and performance of a response action; or

''(III) monitoring of a natural resource.''.

(f) SMALL COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Paragraph (7)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Administrator'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator''; and

(2) by inserting after clause (i) (as added by paragraph (1)) the following:

''(ii) SMALL COMMUNITY RECIPIENTS.—In carrying out the program under clause (i), the Administrator shall give priority to small communities, Indian tribes, rural areas, or low-income areas with a population of not more than 15,000 individuals, as determined by the latest available decennial census.''.

(g) WATERFRONT BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.—Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (10) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) the following:

''(11) WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITE.—In this paragraph, the term 'waterfront brownfield site' means a brownfield site that is adjacent to a body of water or a federally designated floodplain.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing grants under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

''(i) take into consideration whether the brownfield site to be served by the grant is a waterfront brownfield site; and

''(ii) give consideration to waterfront brownfield sites.''.

(h) CLEAN ENERGY BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.—Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as amended by subsection (g)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

''(12) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS AT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—In this paragraph, the term 'clean energy project' means—

''(i) a facility that generates renewable electricity from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; and

''(ii) any energy efficiency improvement project at a facility, including combined heat and power and district energy.

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants—

''(i) to eligible entities to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, feasibility analysis, design, or remediation activities to locate a clean energy project at 1 or more brownfield sites; and

''(ii) to capitalize a revolving loan fund for the purposes described in clause (i).

''(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant under this paragraph shall not exceed $500,000.''.

(i) TARGETED FUNDING FOR STATES.—Paragraph (15) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C.

9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) TARGETED FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the Administrator may use not more than $2,000,000 to provide grants to States for purposes authorized under section 128(a), subject to the condition that each State that receives a grant under this subparagraph shall have used at least 50 percent of the amounts made available to that State in the previous fiscal year to carry out assessment and remediation activities under section 128(a).''.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION FUNDING.—Paragraph (15)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended by striking ''2006'' and inserting ''2016''.

(2) STATE RESPONSE PROGRAMS.—Section 128(a)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9628(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''2006'' and inserting ''2016''.

SA 3881. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVI, add the following:

SEC. 2614. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT ARMY RESERVE PROJECT, TUSTIN, CALIFORNIA.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2602 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 2135) for Tustin, California, for construction of an Army Reserve Center at that location, the Secretary of the Army may, instead of constructing a new facility in Tustin, construct a new facility in the vicinity of Tustin, California.

SA 3882. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. USE OF AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR FORCE RESERVE FOR INITIAL AIRBORNE RESPONSE TO FIGHTING WILDFIRES.

(a) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—Subject to subsection (b), in order to prevent the loss of life and reduce property losses from wildfires, section 1535(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply to limit the use of interagency agreements with the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve to procure the services of a unit of the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve to conduct Defense Support to Civil Authority (DSCA) missions utilizing military fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft, including Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) units, in the airborne response to fighting wildfires.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Section 1535(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply to interagency agreements described in subsection (a) only when a requesting agency determines that—

(1) privately contracted fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft are unavailable;

(2) there is an unfilled request for fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft, including MAFFS units, to perform an initial airborne response; or

(3) fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft, including MAFFS units, are needed to supplement privately contracted fixed-wing aerial firefighting aircraft.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as diminishing the role of contractor owned and operated fixed-wing aircraft as the primary source of aerial firefighting assets for the Federal wildland firefighting agencies.

SA 3883. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO REFERENCES TO GI BILL AND POST-9/11 GI BILL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 3699. Prohibition relating to references to GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill

''(a) PROHIBITION.—(1) No person may, except with the written permission of the Secretary, use the words and phrases covered by this subsection in connection with any promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity in a manner that reasonably and falsely suggests that such use is approved, endorsed, or authorized by the Department or any component thereof.

''(2) For purposes of this subsection, the words and phrases covered by this subsection are as follows:

''(A) 'GI Bill'.

''(B) 'Post-9/11 GI Bill'.

''(3) A determination that a use of one or more words and phrases covered by this subsection in connection with a promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity is not a violation of this subsection may not be made solely on the ground that such promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity includes a disclaimer of affiliation with the Department or any component thereof.

''(b) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—(1) When any person is engaged or is about to engage in an act or practice which constitutes or will constitute conduct prohibited by subsection (a), the Attorney General may initiate a civil proceeding in a district court of the United States to enjoin such act or practice.

''(2) Such court may, at any time before final determination, enter such restraining orders or prohibitions, or take such other action as is warranted, to prevent injury to the United States or to any person or class of persons for whose protection the action is brought.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3698 the following new item:

''3699. Prohibition relating to references to GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill.''.

SA 3884. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. PILOT PROGRAM ON JOB PLACEMENT AND RELATED EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE RESERVES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of various mechanisms to enhance Department of Defense efforts in providing job placement assistance and related employment services to members of the National Guard and the Reserves.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—The members of the National Guard and the Reserves eligible for job placement assistance and related employment services under the pilot program are such categories of members as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the pilot program.

(c) ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES.—The mechanisms assessed under the pilot program shall include mechanisms as follows:

(1) To identify unemployed and underemployed members of the National Guard and the Reserves.

(2) To provide job placement assistance and related employment services to members of the National Guard and the Reserves on an individualized basis, including—

(A) resume writing and interview preparation assistance and services;

(B) cost-effective job placement services;

(C) post-employment follow up services; and

(D) such other assistance and services as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the pilot program.

(d) DISCHARGE.—

(1) DISCHARGE THROUGH ADJUTANTS GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for the carrying out of the pilot program through the Adjutants General of the States.

(2) OUTREACH.—The Adjutants General shall take appropriate actions to facilitate participation in the pilot program by eligible members of the National Guard and the Reserves, including through outreach to unit commanders.

(e) STATE MATCHING SHARE OF FUNDS.—In order for the pilot program to be carried out in a State, the State shall agree to contribute to the carrying out of the pilot program an amount, derived from non-Federal sources, equal to at least 30 percent of the funds provided by the Secretary for carrying out the pilot program in the State.

(f) EVALUATION METRICS.—The Secretary shall establish metrics for purposes of evaluating the success of the pilot program.

(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees on an annual basis a report on the activities, if any, under the pilot program during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) A description of the activities under the pilot program during the fiscal year covered by such report, set forth by State in which the pilot program was carried out, including—

(i) the number of members of the National Guard and the Reserves who participated in the pilot program;

(ii) the job placement assistance and related employment services provided to such members under the pilot program; and

(iii) the number of members of the National Guard and Reserves who obtained employment through participation in the pilot program.

(B) A comparison of the pilot program with other programs conducted by the Department of Defense during such fiscal year to provide job placement assistance and related employment services to unemployed and underemployed members of the National Guard and the Reserves, including the costs of services per individual under such programs.

(C) An assessment of the impact of the pilot program, and increased employment among members of the National Guard and the Reserves as a result of the pilot program, on the readiness of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(D) Such recommendations for improvement or extension of the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(E) Such other matters relating to the pilot program as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(h) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—The amount obligated by the Secretary in any fiscal year to carry out the pilot program may not exceed $20,000,000.

(i) SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the authority to carry out the pilot program shall expire on September 30, 2018.

(2) TWO-YEAR EXTENSION.—The Secretary may continue to carry out the pilot program for a period, not in excess of two years, after September 30, 2018, if the Secretary considers continuation of the pilot program for such period to be advisable.

SA 3885. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2470, to provide for drought relief measures in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; as follows:

On page 7, line 2, strike ''or possible removal''.

SA 3886. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. RETALIATORY INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2302(a)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (xi), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (xii), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after clause (xii) the following:

''(xiii) an investigation, other than a ministerial or nondiscretionary investigation, if the investigation or a series of investigations is ongoing for a period of—

''(I) not less than 90 consecutive days; or

''(II) not less than a total of 181 days in any 1-year period;''.

SA 3887. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) For purposes of subsection (b)(8), the public disclosure of information is specifically prohibited by law only if a statute—

''(A) leaves no discretion on the prohibition;

''(B) establishes particular criteria for the prohibition; or

''(C) refers to particular types of matters to be prohibited.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any matter pending on, or filed or commenced on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3888. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert:

SEC. ____ COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON SERIOUS MISCONDUCT WITHIN THE NATIONAL GUARD

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report evaluating the effectiveness of—

(1) the authorities of the Secretary of Defense and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to investigate and respond on their own initiative to allegations of serious misconduct, including but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, violations of federal law, retaliation and waste, fraud and abuse arising in operations of the National Guard in Title 32 and Title 10 status.

(2) the mechanisms available to the Secretary of Defense, each of the Armed Services, and the Chief of the National Guard to receive, process and monitor the disposition of allegations of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1) whether first brought to the attention of the federal government or the Adjutant Generals.

(3) the process used to determine whether allegations of the nature referred to in subsection (1) are investigated by the Department of Defense, the Department of Defense Inspector General, the Inspector General of the National Guard Bureau, the Inspectors General of the Armed Services, the Office of Complex Investigations of the National Guard Bureau, federal military and civilian law enforcement agencies or other agencies in the first instance and the coordination of investigations among such agencies

(4) the monitoring of investigations into allegations of the nature referred to in subsection (1) by the Secretary of Defense, the Armed Services and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau which are undertaken by federal agencies and those undertaken under the direction of the Adjutant Generals.

(5) the process used for disposing of substantiated allegations whether by prosecution or administrative action and the consistency in the disposition of allegations of a similar nature across the National Guard

(6) state codes of military justice in prosecuting members of the National Guard for serious misconduct of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1) and an evaluation of whether the Uniform Code of Military Justice should be extended to authorize prosecution of some or all offenses committed by members of the National Guard while in Title 32 status

(7) mechanisms to protect the confidentiality of members of the National Guard who report allegations of serious misconduct of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1) and to prevent retaliation aganst such persons

(8) the National Guard Bureau in preventing and proactively identifying instances of serious misconduct of the nature referred to in subparagraph (1), including the availability and effectiveness of hotlines through which members of the National Guard who are uncomfortable reporting their concerns through state channels may bring them to the attention of the National Guard Bureau and the use of command climate surveys in identifying serious misconduct.

SA 3889. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, WEST NOME TANK FARM, NOME, ALASKA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey, without consideration, to the City of Nome (in this section referred to as the ''City'') all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, known as the USAF West Nome Tank Farm, located adjacent to the City's port facilities along Port Road in Nome, Alaska. To the extent practicable, the Secretary is encouraged to complete the conveyance by September 30, 2015.

(b) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCES.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the City to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs and costs related to environmental documentation. If amounts are collected from the City

in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received as reimbursements under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(c) RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND CLEAN-UP.—The Department of the Air Force shall retain liability for environmental restoration and clean-up activities for the real property conveyed under this section.

(d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect or limit the application of, or any obligation to comply with, any environmental law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S. C. 4321 et se.), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9601 et se.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S. C. 6901 et se.).

(e) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under this section shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERM AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3890. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. EXTENSION OF PART-TIME REEMPLOYMENT AUTHORITY FOR ANNUITANTS.

(a) CSRS.—Section 8344(l)(7) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by strike ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''.

(b) FERS.—Section 8468(i)(7) of such title is amended by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''.

SA 3891. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, line 17, insert ''or personnel'' after ''aircraft''.

SA 3892. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. USE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR SUPPORT OF CIVILIAN FIREFIGHTING ACTIVITIES.

(a) OPERATIONAL USE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 32, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 116. Operational use: support for civilian firefighting activities

''(a) BASIS OF AUTHORITY.—The authority in this section is based on a recognition of the basic premises of the National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework that—

''(1) incidents are typically managed at the local level first; and

''(2) local jurisdictions retain command, control, and authority over response activities for their jurisdictional areas.

''(b) ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN FIREFIGHTING ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED.—Members and units of the National Guard are authorized to support firefighting operations, missions, or activities, including aerial firefighting employment of the Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS), undertaken in support of a Federal or State agency or other civilian authority.

''(c) ROLE OF GOVERNOR AND STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL.—For the purposes of subsection (a)—

''(1) the Governor of a State shall be the principal civilian authority; and

''(2) the adjutant general of the State—

''(A) shall be the principal military authority, when acting in the adjutant general's State capacity; and

''(B) has the primary authority to mobilize members and units of the National Guard of the State in any duty status under this title the adjutant general considers appropriate to employ necessary forces when funds to perform such operations, missions, or activities are reimbursed.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''116. Operational use: support for civilian firefighting activities.''.

(b) ACTIVE GUARD AND RESERVE (AGR) SUPPORT.—Section 328(b) of such title is amended by inserting ''duty as specified in section 116(b) of this title or may perform'' after ''subsection (a) may perform''.

(c) FEDERAL TECHNICIAN SUPPORT.—Section 709(a)(3) of such is amended by inserting ''duty as specified in section 116(b) of this title or'' after ''the performance of'' the first place it appears.

SA 3893. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. REIMBURSEMENT OF STATES FOR LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF FIRE CAUSED BY MILITARY TRAINING OR OTHER ACTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE ARMED FORCES OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, upon application by a State, reimburse the State for the reasonable costs of the State for services provided in connection with loss or destruction of property, or mitigation of damage, loss, or destruction of property, whether or not property of the State, as a result of a fire caused by military training or other actions in the United States of units or members of the Armed Forces or employees of the Department of Defense.

(2) SERVICES COVERED.—Services reimbursable under this subsection shall be limited to services proximately related to the fire for which reimbursement is sought under this subsection.

(b) APPLICATION.—Each application of a State for reimbursement for costs under subsection (a) shall set forth an itemized request of the services covered by the application, including the costs of such services.

(c) FUNDS.—Reimbursements under subsection (a) shall be made from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance.

SA 3894. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 715, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

Subtitle F—Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development

SEC. 2851. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2014'' or the ''BUILD Act''.

SEC. 2852. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 104(k)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

''(J) a limited liability corporation in which all managing members are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I);

''(K) a limited partnership in which all general partners are organizations described in subparagraph (I) or limited liability corporations whose sole members are organizations described in subparagraph (I); or

''(L) a qualified community development entity (as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).''.

SEC. 2853. MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) and (10) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (10) and (13) through (15), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''subject to paragraphs (4) and (5)'' and inserting ''subject to paragraphs (5) and (6)''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) MULTIPURPOSE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (D) and paragraphs (5) and (6), the Administrator shall establish a program to provide multipurpose grants to an eligible entity based on the considerations under paragraph (3)(C), to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, or remediation activities at 1 or more brownfield sites in a proposed area.

''(B) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

''(i) INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each grant awarded under this paragraph shall not exceed $950,000.

''(ii) CUMULATIVE GRANT AMOUNTS.—The total amount of grants awarded for each fiscal year under this paragraph shall not exceed 15 percent of the funds made available for the fiscal year to carry out this subsection.

''(C) CRITERIA.—In awarding a grant under this paragraph, the Administrator shall consider the extent to which an eligible entity is able—

''(i) to provide an overall plan for revitalization of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area in which the multipurpose grant will be used;

''(ii) to demonstrate a capacity to conduct the range of eligible activities that will be funded by the multipurpose grant; and

''(iii) to demonstrate that a multipurpose grant will meet the needs of the 1 or more brownfield sites in the proposed area.

''(D) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this paragraph, each eligible entity shall expend the full amount of the grant not later than the date that is 3 years after the date on which the grant is awarded to the eligible entity unless the Administrator, in the discretion of the Administrator, provides an extension.''.

SEC. 2854. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.

Section 104(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PUBLICLY OWNED BROWNFIELD SITES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity that is a governmental entity may receive a grant under this paragraph for property acquired by that governmental entity prior to January 11, 2002, even if the governmental entity does not qualify as a bona fide prospective purchaser (as that term is defined in section 101(40)), so long as the eligible entity has not caused or contributed to a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at the property.''.

SEC. 2855. INCREASED FUNDING FOR REMEDIATION GRANTS.

Section 104(k)(3)(A)(ii) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking ''$200,000 for each site to be remediated'' and inserting ''$500,000 for each site to be remediated, which limit may be waived by the Administrator, but not to exceed a total of $650,000 for each site, based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, or ownership status of the site''.

SEC. 2856. ALLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.

Paragraph (5) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking sub clause (III); and

(ii) by redesignating subclauses (IV) and (V) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively;

(B) by striking clause (ii);

(C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(D) in clause (ii) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C)), by striking ''Notwithstanding clause (i)(IV)'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding clause (i)(III)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may use up to 8 percent of the amounts made available under a grant or loan under this subsection for administrative costs.

''(ii) RESTRICTION.—For purposes of clause (i), the term 'administrative costs' does not include—

''(I) investigation and identification of the extent of contamination;

''(II) design and performance of a response action; or

''(III) monitoring of a natural resource.''.

SEC. 2857. SMALL COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Paragraph (7)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Administrator may provide,'' and inserting the following:

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

''(I) DISADVANTAGED AREA.—The term 'disadvantaged area' means an area with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the State-wide annual median household income, as determined by the latest available decennial census.

''(II) SMALL COMMUNITY.—The term 'small community' means a community with a population of not more than 15,000 individuals, as determined by the latest available decennial census.

''(ii) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants that provide,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) SMALL OR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY RECIPIENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to sub clause (II), in carrying out the program under clause (ii), the Administrator shall use not more than $600,000 of the amounts made available to carry out this paragraph to provide grants to States that receive amounts under section 128(a) to assist small communities, Indian tribes, rural areas, or disadvantaged areas in achieving the purposes described in clause (ii).

''(II) LIMITATION.—Each grant awarded under sub clause (I) shall be not more than $7,500.''.

SEC. 2858. WATERFRONT BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (10) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) the following:

''(11) WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF WATERFRONT BROWNFIELD SITE.—In this paragraph, the term 'waterfront brownfield site' means a brownfield site that is adjacent to a body of water or a federally designated floodplain.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing grants under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

''(i) take into consideration whether the brownfield site to be served by the grant is a waterfront brownfield site; and

''(ii) give consideration to waterfront brownfield sites.''.

SEC. 2859. CLEAN ENERGY BROWNFIELDS GRANTS.

Section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)) (as amended by section 2858) is amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

''(12) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS AT BROWNFIELD SITES.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—In this paragraph, the term 'clean energy project' means—

''(i) a facility that generates renewable electricity from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; and

''(ii) any energy efficiency improvement project at a facility, including combined heat and power and district energy.

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a program to provide grants—

''(i) to eligible entities to carry out inventory, characterization, assessment, planning, feasibility analysis, design, or remediation activities to locate a clean energy project at 1 or more brownfield sites; and

''(ii) to capitalize a revolving loan fund for the purposes described in clause (i).

''(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—A grant under this paragraph shall not exceed $500,000.''.

SEC. 2860. TARGETED FUNDING FOR STATES.

Paragraph (15) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) TARGETED FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, the Administrator may use not more than $2,000,000 to provide grants to States for purposes authorized under section 128(a), subject to the condition that each State that receives a grant under this subparagraph shall have used at least 50 percent of the amounts made available to that State in the previous fiscal year to carry out assessment and remediation activities under section 128(a).''.

SEC. 2861. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION FUNDING.—Paragraph (15)(A) of section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9604(k)) (as redesignated by section 2853(1)) is amended by striking ''2006'' and inserting ''2016''.

(b) STATE RESPONSE PROGRAMS.—Section 128(a)(3) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. C. 9628(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''2006'' and inserting ''2016''.

SEC. 2862. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) Describes the options to use the Brownfields program to redevelop domestic defense facilities that are no longer being used by the military for the purposes of revitalizing local communities;

(2) Describes potential joint funding opportunities between the two agencies to advance redevelopment of unmused domestic defense facilities; and

(3) Analyzes the impact that redeveloped facilities would have on improving local economies and employment.

SEC. 2863. CONFORMING AMORTIZATION PERIODS BEGINNING IN 2014 FOR 402(A)(2) FROZEN PLAN RELIEF UNDER THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (26 U.S. C. 430 note) is amended by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k), and by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

''(j) CONFORMING AMORTIZATION PERIODS BEGINNING IN 2014.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The rules of paragraphs (3) and (4) shall apply in the case of a plan sponsor of an eligible plan that—

''(A) made an initial election under subsection (a)(2) prior to January 1, 2008, and

''(B) satisfies the requirements of paragraph (2).

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of this paragraph are satisfied if—

''(A) no applicable benefit increase (as defined in subsection (b)(3)(B)) takes effect at any time during the period beginning on November 29, 2011, and ending on the day before the first day of the first plan year beginning in 2014, and

''(B) the requirements of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) are satisfied as of January 1, 2013, for the plan for which the initial election under subsection (a)(2) was made (treating the plan year commencing on January 1, 2013, as the first applicable plan year for purposes of such requirements).

''(3) CONFORMING AMORTIZATION PERIODS.—Effective for the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2014, and for each subsequent plan year through the end of the 17-year period determined under subparagraph (A), the plan sponsor shall apply section 303 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by—

''(A) determining the amortization period as a 17-year period beginning on January 1, 2008,

''(B) amortizing any funding shortfall in equal annual installments over the portion of the 17-year amortization period remaining as of the date of the enactment of the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2013 (with all previously established shortfall amortization bases considered fully amortized),

''(C) using an interest rate of 8.25 percent (rather than the segment rates calculated on the basis of the corporate bond yield curve) in determining the funding target and shortfall amortization charge, and

''(D) excluding any plan-related expenses expected to be paid from plan assets during the plan year.

''(4) AUTOMATIC REVOCATION OF ELECTION MADE UNDER THE PRESERVATION OF ACCESS TO CARE FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES AND PENSION RELIEF ACT OF 2010.—In the case of a plan sponsor that made an election under section 303(c)(2)(D)(iv) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, such election shall be automatically revoked notwithstanding sub clause (III) of section 303(c)(2)(D)(iv) of such Act and section 430(c)(2)(D)(iv) of such Code.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3895. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1213. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide defense articles, defense services, and training to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, crew weapons and ammunition, counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment, pursuant to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant provisions of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a detailed description of the anticipated defense articles, defense services, and training to be provided pursuant to this section;

(2) a timeline for the provision of such defense articles, defense services, and training; and

(3) a list of defense articles, defense services, and training authorized to be provided by subsection (a) that have been requested by the Government of Ukraine but are not being provided and an explanation with respect to why such defense articles, defense services, and training are not being provided.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $350,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation and expenditure through the end of fiscal year 2017.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available pursuant to subsection (c) for provision of defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to procure such articles, services, and training from the United States Government or other appropriate sources.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE; TRAINING.—The terms ''defense article'', ''defense service'', and ''training'' have the meanings given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 3896. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1025. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOREIGN RECIPIENTS.

(a) TRANSFERS BY GRANT.—The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign countries on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) MEXICO.—To the Government of Mexico, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS CURTS (FFG–38) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG–41).

(2) THAILAND.—To the Government of Thailand, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS RENTZ (FFG–46) and USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG–48).

(b) TRANSFER BY SALE.—The President is authorized to transfer the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS TAYLOR (FFG–50), USS GARY (FFG–51), USS CARR (FFG–52), and USS ELROD (FFG–55) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office of the United States (which is the Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3309(a))) on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761).

(c) ALTERNATIVE TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding the authority provided in subsections (a) and (b) to transfer specific vessels to specific countries, the President is authorized, subject to the same conditions that would apply for such country under this Act, to transfer any vessel named in this Act to any country named in this Act such that the total number of vessels transferred to such country does not exceed the total number of vessels authorized for transfer to such country by this Act.

(d) GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.—The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by subsection (a) or (c) shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(e) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(f) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

(g) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3897. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1247. REPORT ON NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INF TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the ''Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty'' or ''INF Treaty'').

(2) This behavior poses a threat to the United States, its deployed forces, and its allies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty; and

(2) the President should demand the Russian Federation completely and verifiably eliminate the military systems that constitute the material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following elements:

(A) A description of the status of the President's efforts, in cooperation with United States allies, to hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty and obtain the complete and verifiable elimination of its military systems that constitute the material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(B) The President's assessment as to whether it remains in the national security interests of the United States to remain a party to the INF Treaty, and other related treaties and agreements, while the Russian Federation is in material breach of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(C) Notification of any deployment by the Russian Federation of a ground launched ballistic or cruise missile system with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

(D) A plan, prepared by the Secretary of Defense, for the research and development of United States systems for which there is a military requirement but the flight test or deployment of which is prohibited by the INF treaty as well as a description of the military countermeasures being developed by the United States to respond to Russia's potential deployment of systems current prohibited by the INF.

(E) A plan developed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), to verify that Russia has fully and completely dismantled any ground launched cruise missiles or ballistic missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, including details on facilities that inspectors need access to, people inspectors need to talk with, how often inspectors need the accesses for, and how much the verification regime would cost.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SA 3898. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle E—Palestinian Authority Reform

SEC. 1271. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Palestinian and United Nations Anti-Terrorism Act of 2014''.

SEC. 1272. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On April 23, 2014, representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, signed an agreement to form a government of national consensus.

(2) On June 2, 2014, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced a unity government as a result of the April 23, 2014, agreement.

(3) United States law requires that any Palestinian government that ''includes Hamas as a member'', or over which Hamas exercises ''undue influence'', only receive United States assistance if certain certifications are made to Congress.

(4) The President has taken the position that the current Palestinian government does not include members of Hamas or is influenced by Hamas and has thus not made the certifications required under current law.

(5) The leadership of the Palestinian Authority has failed to completely denounce and distance itself from Hamas' campaign of terrorism against Israel.

(6) President Abbas has refused to dissolve the power-sharing agreement with Hamas even as more than 2,300 rockets have targeted Israel since July 2, 2014.

(7) President Abbas and other Palestinian Authority officials have failed to condemn Hamas' extensive use of the Palestinian people as human shields.

(8) The Israeli Defense Forces have gone to unprecedented lengths for a modern military to limit civilian casualties.

(9) On July 23, 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a one-sided resolution criticizing Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza.

(10) The United Nations Human Rights Council has a long history of taking anti-Israel actions while ignoring the widespread and egregious human rights violations of many other countries, including some of its own members.

(11) On July 16, 2014, officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) discovered 20 rockets in one of the organization's schools in Gaza, before returning the weapons to local Palestinian officials rather than dismantling them.

(12) On multiple occasions during the conflict in Gaza, Hamas has used the facilities and the areas surrounding UNRWA locations to store weapons, harbor their fighters, and conduct attacks.

SEC. 1273. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to deny United States assistance to any entity or international organization that harbors or collaborates with Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, until Hamas agrees to recognize Israel, renounces violence, disarms, and accepts prior Israeli-Palestinian agreements;

(2) to seek a negotiated settlement of this conflict only under the condition that Hamas and any United States-designated terrorist groups are required to entirely disarm; and

(3) to continue to provide security assistance to the Government of Israel to assist its efforts to defend its territory and people from rockets, missiles, and other threats.

SEC. 1274. RESTRICTIONS ON AID TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

For purposes of section 620K of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378b), any power-sharing government, including the current government, formed in connection with the agreement signed on April 23, 2014, between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas is considered a ''Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority''.

SEC. 1275. REFORM OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Until the Secretary of State submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the requirements described in subsection (b) have been satisfied—

(1) the United States contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations shall be reduced by an amount equal to the percentage of such contribution that the Secretary determines would be allocated by the United Nations to support the United Nations Human Rights Council or any of its Special Procedures;

(2) the Secretary shall not make a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Human Rights Council; and

(3) the United States shall not run for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The annual certification referred to in subsection (a) is a certification made by the Secretary of State to Congress that the United Nations Human Rights Council's agenda does not include a permanent item related to the State of Israel or the Palestinian territories.

(c) REVERSION OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated and available for a United States contribution to the United Nations but withheld from obligation and expenditure pursuant to this section shall immediately revert to the United States Treasury and the United States Government shall not consider them arrears to be repaid to any United Nations entity.

SEC. 1276. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA).

Section 301(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2221(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) PALESTINE REFUGEES; CONSIDERATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR FURNISHING ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No contributions by the United States to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, a successor entity or any related entity, or to the regular budget of the United Nations for the support of UNRWA or a successor entity for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, may be provided until the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

''(A) no official, employee, consultant, contractor, subcontractor, representative, or affiliate of UNRWA—

''(i) is a member of Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group; or

''(ii) has propagated, disseminated, or incited anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic rhetoric or propaganda;

''(B) no UNRWA school, hospital, clinic, other facility, or other infrastructure or resource is being used by Hamas or an affiliated group for operations, planning, training, recruitment, fundraising, indoctrination, communications, sanctuary, storage of weapons or other materials, or any other purposes;

''(C) UNRWA is subject to comprehensive financial audits by an internationally recognized third party independent auditing firm and has implemented an effective system of vetting and oversight to prevent the use, receipt, or diversion of any UNRWA resources by Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group, or their members; and

''(D) no recipient of UNRWA funds or loans is a member of Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group.

''(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.''.

SEC. 1277. ISRAELI SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

The equivalent amount of all United States contributions withheld from the Palestinian Authority, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East under this subtitle is authorized to be provided to—

(1) the Government of Israel for the Iron Dome missile defense system and other missile defense programs; and

(2) underground warfare training and technology and assistance to identify and deter tunneling from Palestinian-controlled territories into Israel.

SA 3899. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 332. REPORT ON EASTERN RANGE SUPPORT FOR LAUNCHES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the requirements and investments needed to modernize the Eastern Range off the coast of Florida to support launches in support of United States defense and commercial interests.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The results of the investigation into the failure of the radar system supporting the range in March 2014, including the causes for the failure.

(2) An assessment of each current radar and other system as well as supporting infrastructure required to support the mission requirement of the range, including back-up systems.

(3) An estimate of the annual level of dedicated funding required to maintain the range infrastructure in adequate condition to meet national security requirements.

(4) A review of requirements to repair, upgrade, and modernize the radars and other mission support systems to current technologies.

(5) A prioritized list of projects, costs, and projected funding schedules needed to carry out the maintenance, repair, and modernization requirements.

SA 3900. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. REPORT ON ADDITIONAL MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH REPORT ON THE FORCE STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to Congress a report on the matters specified in subsection (b) with respect to the report of the Secretary on the force structure of the United States Army submitted under section 1066 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1943).

(b) MATTERS.—The matters specified in this subsection with respect to the report referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) An update of the planning assumptions and scenarios used to determine the size and force structure of the Army, including the reserve component, for the future-years defense program for fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

(2) An updated evaluation of the adequacy of the proposed force structure for meeting the goals of the national military strategy of the United States.

(3) A description of any new alternative force structures considered, if any, including the assessed advantages and disadvantages of each and a brief explanation of why those not selected were rejected.

(4) The estimated resource requirements of each of the new alternative force structures referred to in paragraph (3).

(5) An updated independent risk assessment of the proposed Army force structure, to be conducted by the Chief of Staff of the Army.

(6) A description of plans and actions taken to implement and apply the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States regarding force reduction analysis and decision process improvements in the report entitled ''Defense Infrastructure: Army Brigade Combat Team Inactivations Informed by Analysis but Actions Needed to Improve Stationing Process'' (GAO–14—76, December 2013) used in the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment of the Army.

(7) A description of various alternative options for allocating funds available to the Army to ensure that the end strengths of the Army do not fall below the end strengths contemplated in the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review and accompanying defense guidance.

(8) Such other information or updates as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 3901. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 221, line 20, insert '', including the availability of inpatient mental health care'' before the period.

On page 222, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(8) With respect to each military medical treatment facility covered by the study that serves a major training center of the Armed Forces, an assessment whether the Secretary consulted with the appropriate training directorate, training and doctrine command, and forces command of the military department concerned with respect to the frequency of high-tempo, live-fire military operations at such training center.

(9) An assessment of the capacity of each medical facility in the surrounding area of a major training center of the Armed Forces to treat battlefield related injuries, including whether such facility has a helipad capable of receiving medical evacuation airlift patients arriving from the primary evacuation aircraft platform used by such training center.

SA 3902. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 713, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 2835. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CORPORATION.—The term ''Corporation'' means the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and after the date of completion of the appraisal required under subsection (d)(1)(B), the Secretary shall convey to the Corporation by quitclaim deed for the amount of consideration determined under subsection (d)(1), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property described in subsection (c).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The parcel to be conveyed under subsection (b) consists of approximately 1,518 acres and improvements comprising a former Distant Early

Warning Line site in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska near Wainwright, Alaska, and described as United States Survey Number 5252 located within the Umiat Meridian.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) CONSIDERATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance of the property under subsection (b), the Corporation shall pay to the Secretary an amount not less than the fair market value of the conveyed property, to be determined as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) APPRAISAL.—The fair market value of the property to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined based on an appraisal that—

(i) is conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser that is approved by the Secretary and the Corporation;

(ii) is based on the highest and best use of the property;

(iii) is approved by the Secretary; and

(iv) is paid for by the Corporation.

(2) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3903. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Vessel Incidental Discharge Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings; purpose.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
Sec. 4. Regulation and enforcement.
Sec. 5. Uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.
Sec. 6. Treatment technology certification.
Sec. 7. Exemptions.
Sec. 8. Alternative compliance program.
Sec. 9. Judicial review.
Sec. 10. Effect on State authority.
Sec. 11. Application with other statutes.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Beginning with enactment of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships in 1980 (22 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), the United States Coast Guard has been the principal Federal authority charged with administering, enforcing, and prescribing regulations relating to the discharge of pollutants from vessels engaged in maritime commerce and transportation.

(2) The Coast Guard estimates there are approximately 21,560,000 State-registered recreational vessels, 75,000 commercial fishing vessels, and 33,000 freight and tank barges operating in United States waters.

(3) From 1973 to 2005, certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel were exempted by regulation from otherwise applicable permitting requirements.

(4) Over the 32 years during which this regulatory exemption was in effect, Congress enacted statutes on a number of occasions dealing with the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including—

(A) the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) in 1980;

(B) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.);

(C) the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4073);

(D) section 415 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 3434) and section 623 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (33 U.S.C. 1901 note), which established interim and permanent requirements, respectively, for the regulation of vessel discharges of certain bulk cargo residue;

(E) title XIV of division B of Appendix D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 2763), which prohibited or limited certain vessel discharges in certain areas of Alaska;

(F) section 204 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1902a), which established requirements for the regulation of vessel discharges of agricultural cargo residue material in the form of hold washings; and

(G) title X of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (33 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), which provided for the implementation of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards and requirements for the management of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES.—The term ''aquatic nuisance species'' means a nonindigenous species (including a pathogen) that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

(3) BALLAST WATER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''ballast water'' means any water, including any sediment suspended in such water, taken aboard a vessel—

(i) to control trim, list, draught, stability, or stresses of the vessel; or

(ii) during the cleaning, maintenance, or other operation of a ballast water treatment technology of the vessel.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''ballast water'' does not include any pollutant that is added to water described in subparagraph (A) that is not directly related to the operation of a properly functioning ballast water treatment technology under this Act.

(4) BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—The term ''ballast water performance standard'' means the numerical ballast water discharge standard set forth in section 151.2030 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations or section 151.1511 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as applicable, or a revised numerical ballast water performance standard established under subsection (a)(1)(B), (b), or (c) of section 5 of this Act.

(5) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY OR TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''ballast water treatment technology'' or ''treatment technology'' means any mechanical, physical, chemical, or biological process used, alone or in combination, to remove, render harmless, or avoid the uptake or discharge of aquatic nuisance species within ballast water.

(6) BIOCIDE.—The term ''biocide'' means a substance or organism, including a virus or fungus, that is introduced into or produced by a ballast water treatment technology to reduce or eliminate aquatic nuisance species as part of the process used to comply with a ballast water performance standard under this Act.

(7) DISCHARGE INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel'' means—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I)(aa) ballast water, graywater, bilge water, cooling water, oil water separator effluent, anti-fouling hull coating leachate, boiler or economizer blowdown, byproducts from cathodic protection, controllable pitch propeller and thruster hydraulic fluid, distillation and reverse osmosis brine, elevator pit effluent, firemain system effluent, freshwater layup effluent, gas turbine wash water, motor gasoline and compensating effluent, refrigeration and air condensate effluent, seawater pumping biofouling prevention substances, boat engine wet exhaust, sonar dome effluent, exhaust gas scrubber washwater, or stern tube packing gland effluent; or

(bb) any other pollutant associated with the operation of a marine propulsion system, shipboard maneuvering system, habitability system, or installed major equipment, or from a protective, preservative, or absorptive application to the hull of a vessel;

(II) weather deck runoff, deck wash, aqueous film forming foam effluent, chain locker effluent, non-oily machinery wastewater, underwater ship husbandry effluent, welldeck effluent, or fish hold and fish hold cleaning effluent; or

(III) any effluent from a properly functioning marine engine; or

(ii) a discharge of a pollutant into navigable waters in connection with the testing, maintenance, or repair of a system, equipment, or engine described in subclause (I)(bb) or (III) of clause (i) whenever the vessel is waterborne.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel'' does not include—

(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel of—

(I) rubbish, trash, garbage, incinerator ash, or other such material discharged overboard;

(II) oil or a hazardous substance as those terms are defined in section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321);

(III) sewage as defined in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6)); or

(IV) graywater referred to in section 312(a)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322(a)(6));

(ii) an emission of an air pollutant resulting from the operation onboard a vessel of a vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator; or

(iii) a discharge into navigable waters from a vessel when the vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation on water.

(8) GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED AREA.—The term ''geographically limited area'' means an area—

(A) with a physical limitation, including limitation by physical size and limitation by authorized route, that prevents a vessel from operating outside the area, as determined by the Secretary; or

(B) that is ecologically homogeneous, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(9) MANUFACTURER.—The term ''manufacturer'' means a person engaged in the manufacture, assemblage, or importation of ballast water treatment technology.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(11) VESSEL.—The term ''vessel'' means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or practically or otherwise capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.

SEC. 4. REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish and implement enforceable uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. The standards and requirements shall—

(1) be based upon the best available technology economically achievable; and

(2) supersede any permitting requirement or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under any other provision of law.

(b) ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall administer and enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this Act. Each State may enforce the uniform national standards and requirements under this Act.

SEC. 5. UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULATION OF DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements set forth in the final rule, Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters (77 Fed. Reg. 17254 (March 23, 2012), as corrected at 77 Fed. Reg. 33969 (June 8, 2012)), shall be the management requirements for a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel until the Secretary revises the ballast water performance standard under subsection (b) or adopts a more stringent State standard under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

(B) ADOPTION OF MORE STRINGENT STATE STANDARD.—If the Secretary makes a determination in favor of a State petition under section 10, the Secretary shall adopt the more stringent ballast water performance standard specified in the statute or regulation that is the subject of that State petition in lieu of the ballast water performance standard in the final rule described under subparagraph (A).

(2) INITIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule establishing best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(b) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD; 8-YEAR REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the feasibility review under paragraph (2), not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule revising the ballast water performance standard under subsection (a)(1) so that a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel will contain—

(A) less than 1 organism that is living or has not been rendered harmless per 10 cubic meters that is 50 or more micrometers in minimum dimension;

(B) less than 1 organism that is living or has not been rendered harmless per 10 milliliters that is less than 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and more than 10 micrometers in minimum dimension;

(C) concentrations of indicator microbes that are less than—

(i) 1 colony-forming unit of toxicogenic Vibrio cholera (serotypes O1 and O139) per 100 milliliters or less than 1 colony-forming unit of that microbe per gram of wet weight of zoological samples;

(ii) 126 colony-forming units of escherichia coli per 100 milliliters; and

(iii) 33 colony-forming units of intestinal enterococci per 100 milliliters; and

(D) concentrations of such additional indicator microbes and of viruses as may be specified in regulations issued by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator and such other Federal agencies as the Secretary and the Administrator consider appropriate.

(2) FEASIBILITY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 2 years before January 1, 2022, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review to determine the feasibility of achieving the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1).

(B) CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—In conducting a review under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider whether revising the ballast water performance standard will result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species, taking into account—

(i) improvements in the scientific understanding of biological and ecological processes that lead to the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species;

(ii) improvements in ballast water treatment technology, including—

(I) the capability of such treatment technology to achieve a revised ballast water performance standard;

(II) the effectiveness and reliability of such treatment technology in the shipboard environment;

(III) the compatibility of such treatment technology with the design and operation of a vessel by class, type, and size;

(IV) the commercial availability of such treatment technology; and

(V) the safety of such treatment technology;

(iii) improvements in the capabilities to detect, quantify, and assess the viability of aquatic nuisance species at the concentrations under consideration;

(iv) the impact of ballast water treatment technology on water quality; and

(v) the costs, cost-effectiveness, and impacts of—

(I) a revised ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on shipping, trade, and other uses of the aquatic environment; and

(II) maintaining the existing ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on water-related infrastructure, recreation, propagation of native fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and other uses of navigable waters.

(C) LOWER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines on the basis of the feasibility review and after an opportunity for a public hearing that no ballast water treatment technology can be certified under section 6 to comply with the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall require the use of the treatment technology that achieves the performance levels of the best treatment technology available.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) cannot be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall extend the implementation deadline for that class of vessels for not more than 36 months.

(iii) COMPLIANCE.—If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is extended, the Secretary shall recommend action to ensure compliance with the extended implementation deadline under clause (ii).

(D) HIGHER REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that ballast water treatment technology exists that exceeds the revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall revise the ballast water performance standard for that class of vessels to incorporate the higher performance standard.

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the treatment technology under clause (i) can be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall accelerate the implementation deadline for that class of vessels. If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is accelerated, the Secretary shall provide not less than 24 months notice before the accelerated deadline takes effect.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The revised ballast water performance standard under paragraph (1) shall apply to a vessel beginning on the date of the first drydocking of the vessel on or after January 1, 2022, but not later than December 31, 2024.

(4) REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a compliance deadline for compliance by a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel) with a revised ballast water performance standard under this subsection.

(B) PROCESS FOR GRANTING EXTENSIONS.—In issuing regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a process for an owner or operator to submit a petition to the Secretary for an extension of a compliance deadline with respect to the vessel of the owner or operator.

(C) PERIOD OF EXTENSIONS.—An extension issued under subparagraph (B) may—

(i) apply for a period of not to exceed 18 months from the date of the applicable deadline under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) be renewable for an additional period of not to exceed 18 months.

(D) FACTORS.—In issuing a compliance deadline or reviewing a petition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to the ability of an owner or operator to meet a compliance deadline, the following factors:

(i) Whether the treatment technology to be installed is available in sufficient quantities to meet the compliance deadline.

(ii) Whether there is sufficient shipyard or other installation facility capacity.

(iii) Whether there is sufficient availability of engineering and design resources.

(iv) Vessel characteristics, such as engine room size, layout, or a lack of installed piping.

(v) Electric power generating capacity aboard the vessel.

(vi) Safety of the vessel and crew.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS.—

(i) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition for an extension of a compliance deadline submitted by an owner or operator under this paragraph.

(ii) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition referred to in clause (i) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

(c) FUTURE REVISIONS OF VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE STANDARDS; DECENNIAL REVIEWS.—

(1) REVISED BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review, 10 years after the issuance of a final rule under subsection (b) and every 10 years thereafter, to determine whether further revision of the ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

(2) REVISED STANDARDS FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN BALLAST WATER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may include in a decennial review under this subsection best management practices for discharges covered by subsection (a)(2). The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise 1 or more best management practices for such discharges after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising 1 or more of such practices would substantially reduce the impacts on navigable waters of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary, the Administrator, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies as determined by the Secretary, shall consider the criteria under section 5(b)(2)(B).

(4) REVISION AFTER DECENNIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the current ballast water performance standard after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising the current ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

SEC. 6. TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Beginning 1 year after the date that the requirements for testing protocols are issued under subsection (i), no manufacturer of a ballast water treatment technology shall sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, or import into the United States for sale or resale, a ballast water treatment technology for a vessel unless the treatment technology has been certified under this section.

(b) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—

(1) EVALUATION.—Upon application of a manufacturer, the Secretary shall evaluate a ballast water treatment technology with respect to—

(A) the effectiveness of the treatment technology in achieving the current ballast water performance standard when installed on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel);

(B) the compatibility with vessel design and operations;

(C) the effect of the treatment technology on vessel safety;

(D) the impact on the environment;

(E) the cost effectiveness; and

(F) any other criteria the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) APPROVAL.—If after an evaluation under paragraph (1) the Secretary determines that the treatment technology meets the criteria, the Secretary may certify the treatment technology for use on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel).

(3) SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, a process to suspend or revoke a certification issued under this section.

(c) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS.—In certifying a ballast water treatment technology under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may impose any condition on the subsequent installation, use, or maintenance of the treatment technology onboard a vessel as is necessary for—

(A) the safety of the vessel, the crew of the vessel, and any passengers aboard the vessel;

(B) the protection of the environment; or

(C) the effective operation of the treatment technology.

(2) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The failure of an owner or operator to comply with a condition imposed under paragraph (1) shall be considered a violation of this section.

(d) PERIOD FOR USE OF INSTALLED TREATMENT EQUIPMENT.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall allow a vessel on which a system is installed and operated to meet a ballast water performance standard under this Act to continue to use that system, notwithstanding any revision of a ballast water performance standard occurring after the system is ordered or installed until the expiration of the service life of the system, as determined by the Secretary, so long as the system—

(1) is maintained in proper working condition; and

(2) is maintained and used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and any treatment technology certification conditions imposed by the Secretary under this section.

(e) CERTIFICATES OF TYPE APPROVAL FOR THE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) ISSUANCE.—If the Secretary approves a ballast water treatment technology for certification under subsection (b), the Secretary shall issue a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology to the manufacturer in such form and manner as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—A certificate of type approval issued under paragraph (1) shall specify each condition imposed by the Secretary under subsection (c).

(3) OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—A manufacturer that receives a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology under this subsection shall provide a copy of the certificate to each owner and operator of a vessel on which the treatment technology is installed.

(f) INSPECTIONS.—An owner or operator who receives a copy of a certificate under subsection (e)(3) shall retain a copy of the certificate onboard the vessel and make the copy of the certificate available for inspection at all times while the owner or operator is utilizing the treatment technology.

(g) BIOCIDES.—The Secretary may not approve a ballast water treatment technology under subsection (b) if—

(1) it uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is a pesticide, as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136), unless the biocide is registered under that Act or the Secretary, in consultation with Administrator, has approved the use of the biocide in such treatment technology; or

(2) it uses or generates a biocide the discharge of which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard under section 303 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313).

(h) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the use of a ballast water treatment technology by an owner or operator of a vessel shall not satisfy the requirements of this Act unless it has been approved by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) COAST GUARD SHIPBOARD TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION PROGRAM.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology is being evaluated under the Coast Guard Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program.

(B) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES CERTIFIED BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology has been certified by a foreign entity and the certification demonstrates performance and safety of the treatment technology equivalent to the requirements of this section, as determined by the Secretary.

(i) TESTING PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue requirements for land-based and shipboard testing protocols or criteria for—

(1) certifying the performance of each ballast water treatment technology under this section; and

(2) certifying laboratories to evaluate such treatment technologies.

SEC. 7. EXEMPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any standards regarding a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under this Act apply to—

(1) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is less than 79 feet in length and engaged in commercial service (as defined in section 2101(5) of title 46, United States Code);

(2) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a fishing vessel, including a fish processing vessel and a fish tender vessel, (as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code);

(3) a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel if the vessel is a recreational vessel (as defined in section 2101(25) of title 46, United States Code);

(4) the placement, release, or discharge of equipment, devices, or other material from a vessel for the sole purpose of conducting research on the aquatic environment or its natural resources in accordance with generally recognized scientific methods, principles, or techniques;

(5) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel authorized by an on-scene coordinator in accordance with part 300 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or part 153 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations;

(6) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or human life, or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shoreside facility; or

(7) a vessel of the armed forces of a foreign nation when engaged in noncommercial service.

(b) BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standards under this Act apply to—

(1) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel determined by the Secretary to—

(A) operate exclusively within a geographically limited area;

(B) take up and discharge ballast water exclusively within 1 Captain of the Port Zone

established by the Coast Guard unless the Secretary determines such discharge poses a substantial risk of introduction or establishment of an aquatic nuisance species;

(C) operate pursuant to a geographic restriction issued as a condition under section 3309 of title 46, United States Code, or an equivalent restriction issued by the country of registration of the vessel; or

(D) continuously take on and discharge ballast water in a flow-through system that does not introduce aquatic nuisance species into navigable waters;

(2) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel consisting entirely of water suitable for human consumption; or

(3) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel in an alternative compliance program established pursuant to section (8).

(c) VESSELS WITH PERMANENT BALLAST WATER.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water performance standard under this Act apply to, a vessel that carries all of its permanent ballast water in sealed tanks that are not subject to discharge.

(d) VESSELS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to apply to a vessel as follows:

(1) A vessel owned or operated by the Department of Defense (other than a time-chartered or voyage-chartered vessel).

(2) A vessel of the Coast Guard, as designated by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

SEC. 8. ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may promulgate regulations establishing 1 or more compliance programs as an alternative to ballast water management regulations issued under section 5 for a vessel that—

(1) has a maximum ballast water capacity of less than 8 cubic meters;

(2) is less than 3 years from the end of the useful life of the vessel, as determined by the Secretary; or

(3) discharges ballast water into a facility for the reception of ballast water that meets standards promulgated by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary.

(b) PROMULGATION OF FACILITY STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall promulgate standards for—

(1) the reception of ballast water from a vessel into a reception facility; and

(2) the disposal or treatment of the ballast water under paragraph (1).

SEC. 9. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An interested person may file a petition for review of a final regulation promulgated under this Act in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(b) DEADLINE.—A petition shall be filed not later than 120 days after the date that notice of the promulgation appears in the Federal Register.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), a petition that is based solely on grounds that arise after the deadline to file a petition under subsection (b) has passed may be filed not later than 120 days after the date that the grounds first arise.

SEC. 10. EFFECT ON STATE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No State or political subdivision thereof may adopt or enforce any statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State or political subdivision thereof may enforce a statute or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to ballast water discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel that specifies a ballast water performance standard that is more stringent than the ballast water performance standard under section 5(a)(1)(A) and is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act if the Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator and any other Federal department or agency the Secretary considers appropriate, makes a determination that—

(1) compliance with any performance standard specified in the statute or regulation can in fact be achieved and detected;

(2) the technology and systems necessary to comply with the statute or regulation are commercially available; and

(3) the statute or regulation is consistent with obligations under relevant international treaties or agreements to which the United States is a party.

(c) PETITION PROCESS.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—The Governor of a State seeking to enforce a statute or regulation under subsection (b) shall submit a petition requesting the Secretary to review the statute or regulation.

(2) CONTENTS; DEADLINE.—A petition shall—

(A) be accompanied by the scientific and technical information on which the petition is based; and

(B) be submitted to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall make a determination on a petition under this subsection not later than 90 days after the date that the petition is received.

SEC. 11. APPLICATION WITH OTHER STATUTES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this Act shall be the exclusive statutory authority for regulation by the Federal Government of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this Act applies. Except as provided under section 5(a)(1)(A), any regulation in effect on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this Act relating to any permitting requirement for or prohibition on discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel to which this Act applies shall be deemed to be a regulation issued pursuant to the authority of this Act and shall remain in full force and effect unless or until superseded by new regulations issued hereunder.

SA 3904. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Reciprocal visas for Nationals of Republic of Korea

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(E)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 (a)(15)(E)(ii) is amended by inserting ''or of the Republic of Korea'' after ''Australia''.

(b) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—Section 214(g)(11)(B) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(11)(B)), is amended by inserting after ''10,500'' the following: ''for nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia and 15,000 for nationals of the Republic of Korea''.

SA 3905. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. TREATMENT OF AGREEMENTS FOR NURSING HOME CARE, ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, OR OTHER EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.

Section 1720(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) An agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) may not be treated as a Federal contract for the acquisition of goods or services and is not subject to any provision of law governing Federal contracts or the acquisition of goods or services.''.

SA 3906. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 163, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 164, line 3, and insert the following:

the uniformed services are increased by 1.8 percent for enlisted member pay grades, warrant officer pay grades, and commissioned officer pay grades below pay grade O–7.

(c) APPLICATION OF EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE LEVEL II CEILING ON PAYABLE RATES FOR GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS.—Section 203(a)(2) of title 37, United States Code, shall be applied for rates of basic pay payable for commissioned officers in pay grades O–7 through O–10 during calendar year 2015 by using the rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule in effect during 2014.

(d) INCREASE IN AMOUNT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 by section 421 for military personnel is hereby increased by $600,000,000.

SA 3907. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 577. PAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE FEDERALLY CONNECTED CHILDREN.

Section 8003(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by inserting ''and for the subsequent fiscal year'' before the period at the end.

SA 3908. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, GORDO ARMY RESERVE CENTER, GORDO, ALABAMA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Army may convey, without consideration, to the town of Gordo, Alabama (in this section referred to as the ''Town''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 3.79 acres and containing the Gordo Army Reserve Center located at 25226 Highway 82 in Gordo, Alabama, for the purpose of permitting the Town to use the parcel for municipal government purposes.

(b) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If the Secretary of the Army determines at any time that the real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance specified in subsection (a), all right, title, and interest in and to such real property, including any improvements thereto, shall, at the option of the Secretary, revert to and become the property of the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry onto such real property. A determination by the Secretary under this subsection shall be made on the record after an opportunity for a hearing.

(c) ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERATION OPTION.—In lieu of exercising the reversionary interest under subsection (b), if the Secretary of the Army determines that the conveyed property is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance, the Secretary may require the Town to pay to the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of the property, excluding the value of any improvements on the property constructed by the Town, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary of the Army shall require the Town to cover costs (except costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the Town in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the Town.

(e) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—

(1) CONSIDERATION.—Amounts received as consideration under subsection (c) shall be credited to the account established pursuant to section 572(b)(5) of title 40, United States Code, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such account.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—Amounts received as reimbursement under subsection (d) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover those costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(f) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Army.

(g) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Army may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3909. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 234. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED MATERIALS PERFORMANCE A CENTER WITHIN THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Center for Advanced Materials Performance was established in 2005.

(2) Since it was established, the National Center for Advanced Materials Performance has accelerated advancements in processing and fabrication technologies for the purpose of refining and enhancing the composite material property shared database process in partnership with the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Composite Materials Handbook–17 (CMH–17).

(3) Through the joint collaboration of the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration, National Center for Advanced Materials Performance reduces the time required for certification of new composite materials by a factor of four and the cost of certification by a factor of ten.

(4) The processes and procedures of National Center for Advanced Materials Performance to integrate matured materials ultimately benefit the Department of Defense and reduces Federal spending.

(5) According to the Air Force Research Laboratory, databases of the National Center for Advanced Materials Performance eliminate redundant materials qualification and increase material trade study efficiencies; two immeasurable benefits in times of fiscal austerity.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should consider the National Center for Advanced Materials Performance a center within the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation to complement the framework of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, improve national security, and reduce Federal spending.

SA 3910. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XIV, add the following:

SEC. 1412. ENHANCING DOMESTIC DEFENSE-RELATED PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES.

(a) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is the policy of the United States that, in order to ensure domestic manufacturing capabilities essential to national defense, the Federal Government should encourage and facilitate the development of a reliable domestic supply of minerals and metals necessary to defense-related production.

(b) ENCOURAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC DEFENSE-RELATED METALS AND MINERALS SUPPLY.—To implement the policy described in subsection (a), the Federal Government shall take such measures outlined in the Reconfiguration of the National Defense Stockpile Report, dated April 2009, as may be necessary to encourage and facilitate the development of adequate sources of domestic supply of metals and minerals necessary to defense-related production.

SA 3911. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Alternative Fuel Vehicle Development Act''.

SEC. 602. ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES.

(a) MAXIMUM FUEL ECONOMY INCREASE FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32906(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''(except an electric automobile)'' and inserting ''(except an electric automobile or, beginning with model year 2016, an alternative fueled automobile that does not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1))''.

(b) MINIMUM DRIVING RANGES FOR DUAL FUELED PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32901(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting '', except that beginning with model year 2016, alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1) shall have a minimum driving range of 150 miles'' after ''at least 200 miles''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the end the following: ''Beginning with model year 2016, if the Secretary prescribes a minimum driving range of 150 miles for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (a)(1), subparagraph (A) shall not apply to dual fueled automobiles (except electric automobiles).''.

(c) MANUFACTURING PROVISION FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking ''For any model'' and inserting the following:

''(1) MODEL YEARS 1993 THROUGH 2015.—For any model'';

(3) in paragraph (1), as redesignated, by striking ''2019'' and inserting ''2015''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2015.—For any model of gaseous fuel dual fueled automobile

manufactured by a manufacturer after model year 2015, the Administrator shall calculate fuel economy as a weighted harmonic average of the fuel economy on gaseous fuel as measured under subsection (c) and the fuel economy on gasoline or diesel fuel as measured under section 32904(c). The Administrator shall apply the utility factors set forth in the table under section 600.510–12(c)(2)(vii)(A) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(3) MODEL YEARS AFTER 2016.—Beginning with model year 2017, the manufacturer may elect to utilize the utility factors set forth under subsection (e)(1) for the purposes of calculating fuel economy under paragraph (2).''.

(d) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—Section 32905 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) ELECTRIC DUAL FUELED AUTOMOBILES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the manufacturer, the Administrator may measure the fuel economy for any model of dual fueled automobile manufactured after model year 2015 that is capable of operating on electricity in addition to gasoline or diesel fuel, obtains its electricity from a source external to the vehicle, and meets the minimum driving range requirements established by the Secretary for dual fueled electric automobiles, by dividing 1.0 by the sum of—

''(A) the percentage utilization of the model on gasoline or diesel fuel, as determined by a formula based on the model's alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(c); and

''(B) the percentage utilization of the model on electricity, as determined by a formula based on the model's alternative fuel range, divided by the fuel economy measured under section 32904(a)(2).

''(2) ALTERNATIVE UTILIZATION.—The Administrator may adapt the utility factor established under paragraph (1) for alternative fueled automobiles that do not use a fuel described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 32901(a)(1))''.

''(3) ALTERNATIVE CALCULATION.—If the manufacturer does not request that the Administrator calculate the manufacturing incentive for its electric dual fueled automobiles in accordance with paragraph (1), the Administrator shall calculate such incentive for such automobiles manufactured by such manufacturer after model year 2015 in accordance with subsection (b).''.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 32906(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 32905(e)'' and inserting ''section 32905(f)''.

SEC. 603. HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE FACILITIES.

Section 166 of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (b)(5), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) INHERENTLY LOW-EMISSION VEHICLES.—If a State agency establishes procedures for enforcing the restrictions on the use of a HOV facility by vehicles listed in clauses (i) and (ii), the State agency may allow the use of the HOV facility by—

''(i) alternative fuel vehicles; and

''(ii) new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles (as defined in section 30D(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).''; and

(2) in subparagraph (f)(1), by inserting ''solely'' before ''operating''.

SEC. 604. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) describes options to incentivize the development of public compressed natural gas fueling stations; and

(2) analyzes a variety of possible financing tools, which could include—

(A) Federal grants and credit assistance;

(B) public-private partnerships; and

(C) membership-based cooperatives.

SECTION 605. STUDY

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit a report to Congress that—

a. Describe the national security impact a robust natural gas refueling system would have on the country.

b. Analyses the possibility of the Department of Defense adopting the use of more natural gas vehicles if a robust natural gas refueling system existed; and

c. Describes the budgetary impact a robust natural gas refueling system would have on the Department of Defense if the Department used more natural gas vehicles

---

SA 3912. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON VALUE OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) military working dogs have been valuable to the Armed Forces in support of military training and combat operations;

(2) the military working dogs program covers a broad range of military missions, including security and patrol, explosives detection, search and rescue, and guard duties;

(3) military working dogs are expected to operate in the harshest of climates and support United States troops in combat;

(4) the joint nature of the military working dogs program requires a high level of interoperability, and the military working dog program should continue its current collaboration efforts in the field of training and research in order to better serve United States security and combat capabilities; and

(5) through a coordinated effort between the Department of Defense, Federal agencies, the veterinary community, universities, and other research centers, the military working dogs program will continue to provide useful mission support.

SA 3913. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 715, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

Subtitle F—Federal Purchase Requirement

SEC. 2851. FEDERAL PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.

Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''a number equivalent to'' before ''the total amount of electric energy'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term 'renewable energy' means electric or, if resulting from a thermal energy project placed in service after December 31, 2014, thermal energy generated from, or avoided by, solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity achieved from increased efficiency or an addition of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SEPARATE CALCULATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining compliance with the requirements of this section, any energy consumption that is avoided through the use of renewable energy shall be considered to be renewable energy produced.

''(B) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Avoided energy consumption that is considered to be renewable energy produced under subparagraph (A) shall not also be counted for purposes of achieving compliance with a Federal energy efficiency goal required under any other provision of law.''.

SA 3914. Mr. UDALL of Colorado submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. REVIEW AND REPORT ON TECHNOLOGIES USED TO TREAT CANCER.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council to conduct a review of the following:

(1) The range of technologies currently used to treat cancer, including emerging technologies used in the United States or abroad.

(2) The strategies and plans of the Department of Defense to treat cancer through the use of emerging technologies, including carbon ion therapy, and how those strategies and plans compare to the strategies and plans of the medical community at large.

(3) The feasibility and advisability of the Department entering into agreements with research partners outside the Federal Government, including institutions of higher

education, to study technologies used to treat cancer, including emerging technologies.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Research Council shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) and any recommendations that were identified during such review.

SA 3915. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2813. ACCEPTANCE OF IN-KIND GIFTS ON BEHALF OF HERITAGE CENTER FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES.—Subsection (c)(2)(A) of section 4772 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''accept funds from the Army Historical Foundation'' and insert ''accept funds and in-kind gifts, including services, construction materials, and equipment used in construction, from the Army Historical Foundation and industry donors''.

(b) REMOVAL OF CAP ON GIFTS.—Subsection (e)(1) of such section is amended by striking ''of a value of $250,000 or less''.

SA 3916. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X of division A, insert the following:

Subtitle I—Metal Theft Prevention Act

SEC. 1090. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2014''.

SEC. 1091. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle—

(1) the term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given the term in section 1016(e) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e));

(2) the term ''specified metal'' means metal that—

(A)(i) is marked with the name, logo, or initials of a city, county, State, or Federal government entity, a railroad, an electric, gas, or water company, a telephone company, a cable company, a retail establishment, a beer supplier or distributor, or a public utility; or

(ii) has been altered for the purpose of removing, concealing, or obliterating a name, logo, or initials described in clause (i) through burning or cutting of wire sheathing or other means; or

(B) is part of—

(i) a street light pole or street light fixture;

(ii) a road or bridge guard rail;

(iii) a highway or street sign;

(iv) a water meter cover;

(v) a storm water grate;

(vi) unused or undamaged building construction or utility material;

(vii) a historical marker;

(viii) a grave marker or cemetery urn;

(ix) a utility access cover; or

(x) a container used to transport or store beer with a capacity of 5 gallons or more;

(C) is a wire or cable commonly used by communications and electrical utilities; or

(D) is copper, aluminum, and other metal (including any metal combined with other materials) that is valuable for recycling or reuse as raw metal, except for—

(i) aluminum cans; and

(ii) motor vehicles, the purchases of which are reported to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (established under section 30502 of title 49); and

(3) the term ''recycling agent'' means any person engaged in the business of purchasing specified metal for reuse or recycling, without regard to whether that person is engaged in the business of recycling or otherwise processing the purchased specified metal for reuse.

SEC. 1092. THEFT OF SPECIFIED METAL.

(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly steal specified metal—

(1) being used in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce; and

(2) the theft of which is from and harms critical infrastructure.

(b) PENALTY.—Any person who commits an offense described in subsection (a) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

SEC. 1093. DOCUMENTATION OF OWNERSHIP OR AUTHORITY TO SELL.

(a) OFFENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for a recycling agent to purchase specified metal described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 1091(2), unless—

(A) the seller, at the time of the transaction, provides documentation of ownership of, or other proof of the authority of the seller to sell, the specified metal; and

(B) there is a reasonable basis to believe that the documentation or other proof of authority provided under subparagraph (A) is valid.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth a requirement on recycling agents to obtain documentation of ownership or proof of authority to sell specified metal before purchasing specified metal.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY OF RECYCLING AGENT.—A recycling agent is not required to independently verify the validity of the documentation or other proof of authority described in paragraph (1).

(4) PURCHASE OF STOLEN METAL.—It shall be unlawful for a recycling agent to purchase any specified metal that the recycling agent—

(A) knows to be stolen; or

(B) should know or believe, based upon commercial experience and practice, to be stolen.

(b) CIVIL PENALTY.—A person who knowingly violates subsection (a) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $10,000 for each violation.

SEC. 1094. TRANSACTION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) RECORDING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a recycling agent shall maintain a written or electronic record of each purchase of specified metal.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth recording requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements described in paragraph (3) for the purchase of specified metal.

(3) CONTENTS.—A record under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the name and address of the recycling agent; and

(B) for each purchase of specified metal—

(i) the date of the transaction;

(ii) a description of the specified metal purchased using widely used and accepted industry terminology;

(iii) the amount paid by the recycling agent;

(iv) the name and address of the person to which the payment was made;

(v) the name of the person delivering the specified metal to the recycling agent, including a distinctive number from a Federal or State government-issued photo identification card and a description of the type of the identification; and

(vi) the license plate number and State-of-issue, make, and model, if available, of the vehicle used to deliver the specified metal to the recycling agent.

(4) REPEAT SELLERS.—A recycling agent may comply with the requirements of this subsection with respect to a purchase of specified metal from a person from which the recycling agent has previously purchased specified metal by—

(A) reference to the existing record relating to the seller; and

(B) recording any information for the transaction that is different from the record relating to the previous purchase from that person.

(5) RECORD RETENTION PERIOD.—A recycling agent shall maintain any record required under this subsection for not less than 2 years after the date of the transaction to which the record relates.

(6) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Any information collected or retained under this section may be disclosed to any Federal, State, or local law enforcement authority or as otherwise directed by a court of law.

(b) PURCHASES IN EXCESS OF $100.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a recycling agent may not pay cash for a single purchase of specified metal of more than $100. For purposes of this paragraph, more than 1 purchase in any 48-hour period from the same seller shall be considered to be a single purchase.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth a maximum amount for cash payments for the purchase of specified metal.

(3) PAYMENT METHOD.—

(A) OCCASIONAL SELLERS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for any purchase of specified metal of more than $100 a recycling agent shall make payment by check that—

(i) is payable to the seller; and

(ii) includes the name and address of the seller.

(B) ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.—A recycling agent may make payments for a purchase of specified metal of more than $100 from a governmental or commercial supplier of specified metal with which the recycling agent has an established commercial relationship by electronic funds transfer or other established commercial transaction payment method through a commercial bank if the recycling agent maintains a written record of the payment that

identifies the seller, the amount paid, and the date of the purchase.

(c) CIVIL PENALTY.—A person who knowingly violates subsection (a) or (b) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for each violation, except that a person who commits a minor violation shall be subject to a penalty of not more than $1,000.

SEC. 1095. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The Attorney General may bring an enforcement action in an appropriate United States district court against any person that engages in conduct that violates this subtitle.

SEC. 1096. ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An attorney general or equivalent regulator of a State may bring a civil action in the name of the State, as parens patriae on behalf of natural persons residing in the State, in any district court of the United States or other competent court having jurisdiction over the defendant, to secure monetary or equitable relief for a violation of this subtitle.

(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which an action under subsection (a) is filed, the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State involved shall provide to the Attorney General—

(1) written notice of the action; and

(2) a copy of the complaint for the action.

(c) ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION.—Upon receiving notice under subsection (b), the Attorney General shall have the right—

(1) to intervene in the action;

(2) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein;

(3) to remove the action to an appropriate district court of the United States; and

(4) to file petitions for appeal.

(d) PENDING FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS.—If a civil action has been instituted by the Attorney General for a violation of this subtitle, no State may, during the pendency of the action instituted by the Attorney General, institute a civil action under this subtitle against any defendant named in the complaint in the civil action for any violation alleged in the complaint.

(e) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing a civil action under subsection (a), nothing in this section regarding notification shall be construed to prevent the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State from exercising any powers conferred under the laws of that State to—

(1) conduct investigations;

(2) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(3) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

SEC. 1097. DIRECTIVE TO SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission, shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and policy statements applicable to a person convicted of a criminal violation of section 1092 of this subtitle or any other Federal criminal law based on the theft of specified metal by such person.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Sentencing Commission shall—

(1) ensure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements reflect the—

(A) serious nature of the theft of specified metal; and

(B) need for an effective deterrent and appropriate punishment to prevent such theft;

(2) consider the extent to which the guidelines and policy statements appropriately account for—

(A) the potential and actual harm to the public from the offense, including any damage to critical infrastructure;

(B) the amount of loss, or the costs associated with replacement or repair, attributable to the offense;

(C) the level of sophistication and planning involved in the offense; and

(D) whether the offense was intended to or had the effect of creating a threat to public health or safety, injury to another person, or death;

(3) account for any additional aggravating or mitigating circumstances that may justify exceptions to the generally applicable sentencing ranges;

(4) assure reasonable consistency with other relevant directives and with other sentencing guidelines and policy statements; and

(5) assure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements adequately meet the purposes of sentencing as set forth in section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 1098. STATE AND LOCAL LAW NOT PREEMPTED.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to preempt any State or local law regulating the sale or purchase of specified metal, the reporting of such transactions, or any other aspect of the metal recycling industry.

SEC. 1099. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3917. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 526. LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR CERTAIN EVENTS FOR WHICH LEAVE IS AVAILABLE UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993.

Section 701 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (i) and (j); and

(2) by adding after subsection (h) the following new subsection (i):

''(i)(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a member of the armed forces shall be entitled to not less than 12 weeks of leave for a reason or reasons as set out in section 102(a)(1) of the of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(1)) during any twelve-month period.

''(2) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a member of the armed forces shall be entitled to not less than 26 weeks of leave for the reason set out in section 102(a)(3) of the of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(3)) during any twelve-month period.

''(3) Leave under this subsection is in addition to other leave authorized under this section.

''(4) Leave authorized by this subsection may not be—

''(A) accumulated; or

''(B) paid for as unused accrued leave upon discharge as otherwise provided for in section 501 of title 37.''.

SA 3918. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. REPORT ON TREATMENT OF INFERTILITY OF MILITARY FAMILIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of providing access to reproductive counseling and treatments for infertility, including in vitro fertilization, to members of the Armed Forces and the dependents of such members.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of treatment options for infertility available at military medical treatment facilities throughout the military health system.

(2) An identification of factors that might disrupt treatment for infertility, including availability of options, lack of timely access to treatment, change in duty station, or overseas deployments.

(3) The number of members of the Armed Forces who have used specific treatment options for infertility, including in vitro fertilization.

(4) The number of dependents of members who have used specific treatment options for infertility, including in vitro fertilization.

(5) An identification of treatment options for infertility currently covered by private health plans that are not provided by the military health care system.

(6) An estimate of the cost to the Department of providing access to additional counseling and treatment options for infertility to members and dependents of members.

(7) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 3919. Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 557. MODIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF APPLICABILITY OF REVISIONS TO PRELIMINARY HEARING REQUIREMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.

Section 1702(d)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 958; 10 U.S.C. 802 note) is amended by striking ''and shall apply'' and all that follows and inserting a period.

SA 3920. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 528, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 1268. RECIPROCAL VISA FOR NATIONALS OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(E)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E)(iii)) is amended by inserting ''or of the Republic of Korea'' after ''Australia''.

(b) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—Section 214(g)(11)(B) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(11)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) The applicable numerical limitation referred to in subparagraph (A) is, for each fiscal year—

''(i) 10,500 for nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia; and

''(ii) 15,000 for nationals of the Republic of Korea.''.

SA 3921. Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 715, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 2842. WEIGHT LIMITATIONS FOR NATURAL GAS VEHICLES.

Section 127 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) NATURAL GAS VEHICLES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to allow a vehicle, if operated by an engine fueled primarily by natural gas, to exceed any vehicle weight limit under this section by an amount that is equal to the difference between—

''(1) the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle; and

''(2) the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.''.

SA 3922. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 708. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES UNDER TRICARE.—Section 1077 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g)(1) Subject to paragraph (4), in providing health care under subsection (a), the treatment of developmental disabilities (as defined by section 102(8) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002(8))), including autism spectrum disorder, shall include behavioral health treatment, including applied behavior analysis, when prescribed by a physician or psychologist.

''(2) In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that—

''(A) except as provided by subparagraph (B), behavioral health treatment is provided pursuant to this subsection—

''(i) in the case of such treatment provided in a State that requires licensing or certification of applied behavioral analysts by State law, by an individual who is licensed or certified to practice applied behavioral analysis in accordance with the laws of the State; or

''(ii) in the case of such treatment provided in a State other than a State described in clause (i), by an individual who is licensed or certified by a State or accredited national certification board; and

''(B) applied behavior analysis or other behavioral health treatment may be provided by an employee, contractor, or trainee of a person described in subparagraph (A) if the employee, contractor, or trainee meets minimum qualifications, training, and supervision requirements as set forth in applicable State law, by an appropriate accredited national certification board, or by the Secretary.

''(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting or otherwise affecting the benefits provided to a covered beneficiary under—

''(A) this chapter;

''(B) title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

''(C) any other law.

''(4)(A) Treatment may be provided under this subsection in a fiscal year only to the extent that amounts are provided in advance in appropriations Acts for the provision of such treatment for such fiscal year in the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account.

''(B) Funds for treatment under this subsection may be derived only from the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account.''.

(b) DEFENSE DEPENDENTS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACCOUNT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established on the books of the Treasury an account to be known as the ''Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account'' (in this subsection referred to as the ''Account'').

(B) SEPARATE ACCOUNT.—The Account shall be a separate account for the Department of Defense, and shall not be a subaccount within the Defense Health Program account of the Department.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The Account shall consist of amounts authorized to be appropriated or transferred to the Account.

(3) EXCLUDED SOURCES OF ELEMENTS.—Amounts in the Account may not be derived from transfers from the following:

(A) The Department of Defense Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund under chapter 56 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) The Coast Guard Retired Pay Account.

(C) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations, Research, and Facilities Account.

(D) The Public Health Service Retirement Pay and Medical Benefits for Commissioned Officers Account.

(4) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts in the Account shall be available for the treatment of developmental disabilities in covered beneficiaries pursuant to subsection (g) of section 1077 of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)). Amounts in the Account shall be so available until expended.

(5) FUNDING.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense for the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account, $20,000,000.

(B) TRANSFER FOR CONTINUATION OF EXISTING SERVICES.—From amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program for fiscal year 2015, the Secretary of Defense shall transfer to the Defense Dependents Developmental Disabilities Account $250,000,000.

SA 3923. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 3924. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3923 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

SA 3925. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 3926. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

SA 3927. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3926 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3925 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''4'' and insert ''5''.

SA 3928. Mr. PRYOR (for Ms. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. STUDY OF ELECTRIC RATES IN THE INSULAR AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN.—The term ''comprehensive energy plan'' means a comprehensive energy plan prepared and updated under subsections (c) and (e) of section 604 of the Act entitled ''An Act to authorize appropriations for certain insular areas of the United States, and for other purposes'', approved December 24, 1980 (48 U.S.C. 1492).

(2) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—The term ''energy action plan'' means the plan required by subsection (d).

(3) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term ''Freely Associated States'' means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(4) INSULAR AREAS.—The term ''insular areas'' means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) TEAM.—The term ''team'' means the team established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, within the Empowering Insular Communities activity, establish a team of technical, policy, and financial experts—

(1) to develop an energy action plan addressing the energy needs of each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States; and

(2) to assist each of the insular areas and Freely Associated States in implementing such plan.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL UTILITY ORGANIZATIONS.—In establishing the team, the Secretary shall consider including regional utility organizations.

(d) ENERGY ACTION PLAN.—In accordance with subsection (b), the energy action plan shall include—

(1) recommendations, based on the comprehensive energy plan where applicable, to—

(A) reduce reliance and expenditures on fuel shipped to the insular areas and Freely Associated States from ports outside the United States;

(B) develop and utilize domestic fuel energy sources; and

(C) improve performance of energy infrastructure and overall energy efficiency;

(2) a schedule for implementation of such recommendations and identification and prioritization of specific projects;

(3) a financial and engineering plan for implementing and sustaining projects; and

(4) benchmarks for measuring progress toward implementation.

(e) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary establishes the team and annually thereafter, the team shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing progress made in fulfilling its charge and in implementing the energy action plan.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report submitted by the team under subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a summary of the report of the team.

(g) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY REQUIRED.—The energy action plan shall not be implemented until the Secretary approves the energy action plan.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT.

Section 6 of Public Law 94–241 (90 Stat. 263; 122 Stat. 854) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d)'' and inserting ''December 31, 2019''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the third sentence of paragraph (2), by striking ''not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection'' and inserting '' 'ending on December 31, 2019' '';

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

SA 3929. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. BENNET)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; as follows:

On page 22, strike lines 11 through 24, and insert the following:

(d) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, may waive the applicability to any national security system, as defined in section 3542 of title 44, United States Code, of any provision of this Act if the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, determines that such waiver is in the interest of national security. Not later than 30 days after making a waiver under this subsection, the Director of National Intelligence or the Secretary of Defense, or their respective designee, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a statement describing the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

SA 3930. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. AYOTTE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans; as follows:

On page 16, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING.—For any year that the Department of Defense is required to submit a performance plan for reduction of resources required for data servers and centers, as required under section 2867(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note), the Department of Defense—

(i) may submit to the Administrator, in lieu of the multi-year strategy required under subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(II) the report on cost savings required under section 2867(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note); and

(ii) shall submit the comprehensive inventory required under subparagraph (A)(i), unless the defense-wide plan required under section 2867(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (10 U.S.C. 2223a note)—

(I) contains a comparable comprehensive inventory; and

(II) is submitted under clause (i).

SA 3931. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents; as follows:

On page 25, line 16, strike ''agency'' and insert ''agent''.

On page 28, line 2, strike ''agency'' and insert ''agent''.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.), add the following:

''SEC. 226. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(2) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.—The term 'collective bargaining agreement' has the meaning given that term in section 7103(a)(8) of title 5, United States Code.

''(3) EXCEPTED SERVICE.—The term 'excepted service' has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

''(4) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE.—The term 'preference eligible' has the meaning given that term in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code.

''(5) QUALIFIED POSITION.—The term 'qualified position' means a position, designated by the Secretary for the purpose of this section, in which the incumbent performs, manages, or supervises functions that execute the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity.

''(6) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE.—The term 'Senior Executive Service' has the meaning given that term in section 2101a of title 5, United States Code.

''(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

''(1) ESTABLISH POSITIONS, APPOINT PERSONNEL, AND FIX RATES OF PAY.—

''(A) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may—

''(i) establish, as positions in the excepted service, such qualified positions in the Department as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity, including positions formerly identified as—

''(I) senior level positions designated under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code; and

''(II) positions in the Senior Executive Service;

''(ii) appoint an individual to a qualified position (after taking into consideration the availability of preference eligibles for appointment to the position); and

''(iii) subject to the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), fix the compensation of an individual for service in a qualified position.

''(B) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection applies without regard to the provisions of any other law relating to the appointment, number, classification, or compensation of employees.

''(2) BASIC PAY.—

''(A) AUTHORITY TO FIX RATES OF BASIC PAY.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall fix the rates of basic pay for any qualified position established under paragraph (1) in relation to the rates of pay provided for employees in comparable positions in the Department of Defense and subject to the same limitations on maximum

rates of pay established for such employees by law or regulation.

''(B) PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS.—The Secretary may, consistent with section 5341 of title 5, United States Code, adopt such provisions of that title as provide for prevailing rate systems of basic pay and may apply those provisions to qualified positions for employees in or under which the Department may employ individuals described by section 5342(a)(2)(A) of that title.

''(3) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION, INCENTIVES, AND ALLOWANCES.—

''(A) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION BASED ON TITLE 5 AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may provide employees in qualified positions compensation (in addition to basic pay), including benefits, incentives, and allowances, consistent with, and not in excess of the level authorized for, comparable positions authorized by title 5, United States Code.

''(B) ALLOWANCES IN NONFOREIGN AREAS.—An employee in a qualified position whose rate of basic pay is fixed under paragraph (2)(A) shall be eligible for an allowance under section 5941 of title 5, United States Code, on the same basis and to the same extent as if the employee was an employee covered by such section 5941, including eligibility conditions, allowance rates, and all other terms and conditions in law or regulation.

''(4) PLAN FOR EXECUTION OF AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress with a plan for the use of the authorities provided under this subsection.

''(5) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to impair the continued effectiveness of a collective bargaining agreement with respect to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department that is a successor to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department covered by the agreement before the succession.

''(6) REQUIRED REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.

''(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed report that—

''(1) discusses the process used by the Secretary in accepting applications, assessing candidates, ensuring adherence to veterans' preference, and selecting applicants for vacancies to be filled by an individual for a qualified position;

''(2) describes—

''(A) how the Secretary plans to fulfill the critical need of the Department to recruit and retain employees in qualified positions;

''(B) the measures that will be used to measure progress; and

''(C) any actions taken during the reporting period to fulfill such critical need;

''(3) discusses how the planning and actions taken under paragraph (2) are integrated into the strategic workforce planning of the Department;

''(4) provides metrics on actions occurring during the reporting period, including—

''(A) the number of employees in qualified positions hired by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

''(B) the placement of employees in qualified positions by directorate and office within the Department;

''(C) the total number of veterans hired;

''(D) the number of separations of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

''(E) the number of retirements of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

''(F) the number and amounts of recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives paid to employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

''(5) describes the training provided to supervisors of employees in qualified positions at the Department on the use of the new authorities.

''(d) THREE-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—The probationary period for all employees hired under the authority established in this section shall be 3 years.

''(e) INCUMBENTS OF EXISTING COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual serving in a position on the date of enactment of this section that is selected to be converted to a position in the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion.

''(2) SUBSEQUENT CONVERSION.—After the date on which an individual who refuses a conversion under paragraph (1) stops serving in the position selected to be converted, the position may be converted to a position in the excepted service.

''(f) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the National Protection and Programs Directorate shall submit a report regarding the availability of, and benefits (including cost savings and security) of using, cybersecurity personnel and facilities outside of the National Capital Region (as defined in section 2674 of title 10, United States Code) to serve the Federal and national need to—

''(1) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

''(2) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E)—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) any position established as a qualified position in the excepted service by the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002;''.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 225 the following:

''Sec. 226. Cybersecurity recruitment and retention.''.

SEC. 4. HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Homeland Security Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORY; DATA ELEMENT CODE; SPECIALTY AREA.—The terms ''Cybersecurity Work Category'', ''Data Element Code'', and ''Specialty Area'' have the meanings given such terms in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify all cybersecurity workforce positions within the Department;

(B) determine the primary Cybersecurity Work Category and Specialty Area of such positions; and

(C) assign the corresponding Data Element Code, as set forth in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards which is aligned with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) EMPLOYMENT CODES.—

(A) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish procedures—

(i) to identify open positions that include cybersecurity functions (as defined in the OPM Guide to Data Standards); and

(ii) to assign the appropriate employment code to each such position, using agreed standards and definitions.

(B) CODE ASSIGNMENTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assign the appropriate employment code to—

(i) each employee within the Department who carries out cybersecurity functions; and

(ii) each open position within the Department that have been identified as having cybersecurity functions.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF CYBERSECURITY SPECIALTY AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date on which the employment codes are assigned to employees pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B), and annually through 2021, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need in the Department's cybersecurity workforce; and

(B) submit a report to the Director that—

(i) describes the Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) substantiates the critical need designations.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Director shall provide the Secretary with timely guidance for identifying Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas of critical need, including—

(A) current Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with acute skill shortages; and

(B) Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas with emerging skill shortages.

(3) CYBERSECURITY CRITICAL NEEDS REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Specialty Areas of critical need for cybersecurity workforce across the Department; and

(B) submit a progress report on the implementation of this subsection to the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STATUS REPORTS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) analyze and monitor the implementation of subsections (c) and (d); and

(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of such implementation.

SA 3932. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CRAPO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, 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 ''Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, a federally recognized Indian tribe with tribal headquarters at Fort Hall, Idaho—

(A) adopted a tribal constitution and bylaws on March 31, 1936, that were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 30, 1936, pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.) (commonly known as the ''Indian Reorganization Act'');

(B) has entered into various treaties with the United States, including the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger, executed on July 3, 1868; and

(C) has maintained a continuous government-to-government relationship with the United States since the earliest years of the Union;

(2)(A) in 1867, President Andrew Johnson designated by Executive order the Fort Hall Reservation for various bands of Shoshone and Bannock Indians;

(B) the Reservation is located near the cities of Blackfoot and Pocatello in southeastern Idaho; and

(C) article 4 of the Second Treaty of Fort Bridger secured the Reservation as a ''permanent home'' for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes;

(3)(A) according to the Executive order referred to in paragraph (2)(A), the Blackfoot River, as the river existed in its natural state—

(i) is the northern boundary of the Reservation; and

(ii) flows in a westerly direction along that northern boundary; and

(B) within the Reservation, land use in the River watershed is dominated by—

(i) rangeland;

(ii) dry and irrigated farming; and

(iii) residential development;

(4)(A) in 1964, the Corps of Engineers completed a local flood protection project on the River—

(i) authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 170); and

(ii) sponsored by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7;

(B) the project consisted of building levees, replacing irrigation diversion structures, replacing bridges, and channel realignment; and

(C) the channel realignment portion of the project severed various parcels of land located contiguous to the River along the boundary of the Reservation, resulting in Indian land being located north of the Realigned River and non-Indian land being located south of the Realigned River;

(5) beginning in 1999, the Cadastral Survey Office of the Bureau of Land Management conducted surveys of—

(A) 25 parcels of Indian land; and

(B) 19 parcels of non-Indian land; and

(6) the enactment of this Act and separate agreements of the parties would represent a resolution of the disputes described in subsection (b)(1) among—

(A) the Tribes;

(B) the allottees; and

(C) the non-Indian landowners.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to resolve the land ownership and land use disputes resulting from realignment of the River by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in subsection (a)(4)(A); and

(2) to achieve a final and fair solution to resolve those disputes.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ALLOTTEE.—The term ''allottee'' means an heir of an original allottee of the Reservation who owns an interest in a parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the allottee; and

(B) located north of the Realigned River within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.

(2) BLACKFOOT RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT NO. 7.—The term ''Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7'' means the governmental subdivision in the State of Idaho, located at 75 East Judicial, Blackfoot, Idaho, that—

(A) is responsible for maintenance and repair of the Realigned River; and

(B) represents the non-Indian landowners relating to the resolution of the disputes described in section 2(b)(1) in accordance with this Act.

(3) INDIAN LAND.—The term ''Indian land'' means any parcel of land that is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes or the allottees;

(B) located north of the Realigned River; and

(C) identified in exhibit A of the survey of the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Survey of the Blackfoot River of 2002 to 2005'', which is located at—

(i) the Fort Hall Indian Agency office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(ii) the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

(4) NON-INDIAN LAND.—The term ''non-Indian land'' means any parcel of fee land that is—

(A) located south of the Realigned River; and

(B) identified in exhibit B, which is located at the areas described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(C).

(5) NON-INDIAN LANDOWNER.—The term ''non-Indian landowner'' means any individual who holds fee title to non-Indian land and is represented by the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for purposes of this Act.

(6) REALIGNED RIVER.—The term ''Realigned River'' means that portion of the River that was realigned by the Corps of Engineers during calendar year 1964 pursuant to the project described in section 2(a)(4)(A).

(7) RESERVATION.—The term ''Reservation'' means the Fort Hall Reservation established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

(8) RIVER.—The term ''River'' means the Blackfoot River located in the State of Idaho.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) TRIBES.—The term ''Tribes'' means the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

SEC. 4. RELEASE OF CLAIMS TO CERTAIN INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN OWNED LANDS.

(a) RELEASE OF CLAIMS.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) all existing and future claims with respect to the Indian land and the non-Indian land and all right, title, and interest that the Tribes, allottees, non-Indian landowners, and the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may have had to that land shall be extinguished;

(2) any interest of the Tribes, the allottees, or the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribes or allottees, in the Indian land shall be extinguished under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the ''Indian Trade and Intercourse Act'') (25 U.S.C. 177); and

(3) to the extent any interest in non-Indian land transferred into trust pursuant to section 5 violates section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the ''Indian Trade and Intercourse Act'') (25 U.S.C. 177), that transfer shall be valid, subject to the condition that the transfer is consistent with all other applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary may execute and file any appropriate documents (including a plat or map of the transferred Indian land) that are suitable for filing with the Bingham County clerk or other appropriate county official, as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. NON-INDIAN LAND TO BE PLACED INTO TRUST FOR TRIBES.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the non-Indian land shall be considered to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes.

SEC. 6. TRUST LAND TO BE CONVERTED TO FEE LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer the Indian land to the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for use or sale in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 shall use any proceeds from the sale of land described in subsection (a) according to the following priorities:

(A) To compensate, at fair market value, each non-Indian landowner for the net loss of land to that non-Indian landowner resulting from the implementation of this Act.

(B) To compensate the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 for any administrative or other expenses relating to carrying out this Act.

(2) REMAINING LAND.—If any land remains to be conveyed or proceeds remain after the sale of the land, the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 may dispose of that remaining land or proceeds as the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 7. EFFECT ON ORIGINAL RESERVATION BOUNDARY.

Nothing in this Act affects the original boundary of the Reservation, as established by Executive order during calendar year 1867 and confirmed by treaty during calendar year 1868.

SEC. 8. EFFECT ON TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act extinguishes or conveys any water right of the Tribes, as established in the agreement entitled ''1990 Fort

Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement'' and ratified by section 4 of the Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–602; 104 Stat. 3060).

SEC. 9. EFFECT ON CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), nothing in this Act affects the obligation of Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 to maintain adequate rights-of-way for the operation and maintenance of the local flood protection projects described in section 2(a)(4) pursuant to agreements between the Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7 and the Corps of Engineers.

(b) RESTRICTION ON FEES.—Any land conveyed to the Tribes pursuant to this Act shall not be subject to fees assessed by Blackfoot River Flood Control District No. 7.

SEC. 10. DISCLAIMERS REGARDING CLAIMS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects in any manner the sovereign claim of the State of Idaho to title in and to the beds and banks of the River under the equal footing doctrine of the Constitution of the United States;

(2) affects any action by the State of Idaho to establish the title described in paragraph (1) under section 2409a of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Quiet Title Act'');

(3) affects the ability of the Tribes or the United States to claim ownership of the beds and banks of the River; or

(4) extinguishes or conveys any water rights of non-Indian landowners or the claims of those landowners to water rights in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

SA 3933. Mr. PRYOR (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2673, to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel; as follows:

Beginning on page 8, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 9, line 23, and insert the following:

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

SA 3934. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1360, to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, 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 ''Improper Payments Agency Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DISTRIBUTION OF DEATH INFORMATION FURNISHED TO OR MAINTAINED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''may'' and inserting ''shall''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and to ensure the completeness, timeliness, and accuracy of,'' after ''transmitting'';

(B) by striking paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) and inserting the following:

''(3)(A) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide for the use of information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection in accordance with subparagraph (B), subject to such safeguards as the Commissioner of Social Security determines are necessary or appropriate to protect the information from unauthorized use or disclosure, by any Federal or State agency providing federally-funded benefits or administering a Federal program for such benefits, including the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system for ensuring proper payment of those benefits, through a cooperative arrangement with the agency (that includes the agency's Inspector General) or with an agency's Inspector General, if—

''(i) under such arrangement the agency (including, if applicable, the agency's Inspector General) provides reimbursement to the Commissioner of Social Security for the reasonable cost of carrying out such arrangement, including the reasonable costs associated with the collection and maintenance of information regarding deceased individuals furnished to the Commissioner pursuant to paragraph (1), and

''(ii) such arrangement does not conflict with the duties of the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (1).

''(B) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide for the use of information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection, through a cooperative arrangement in order for a Federal agency to carry out any of the following purposes, if the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) are met:

''(i) Operating the Do Not Pay working system established by section 5 of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012. Under such arrangement, the agency operating the working system may compare death information disclosed by the Commissioner with personally identifiable information reviewed through the working system, and may redisclose such comparison of information, as appropriate, to any Federal or State agency authorized to use the working system.

''(ii) To ensure proper payments under a Federal program or the proper payment of federally-funded benefits, including for purposes of payment certification, payment disbursement, and the prevention, identification, or recoupment of improper payments.

''(iii) To carry out tax administration or debt collection duties of the agency.

''(iv) For use by any policing agency of the Federal Government with the principle function of prevention, detection, or investigation of crime or the apprehension of alleged offenders.

''(4) The Commissioner of Social Security may enter into similar arrangements with States to provide information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection, for any of the purposes specified in paragraph (3)(B), for use by States in programs wholly funded by the States, or for use in the administration of a benefit pension plan or retirement system for employees of a State or a political subdivision thereof, if the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A) are met. For purposes of this paragraph, the terms 'retirement system' and 'political subdivision' have the meanings given such terms in section 218(b).

''(5) The Commissioner of Social Security may use or provide for the use of information regarding all deceased individuals furnished to or maintained by the Commissioner under this subsection, subject to such safeguards as the Commissioner of Social Security determines are necessary or appropriate to protect the information from unauthorized use or disclosure, for statistical purposes and research activities by Federal and State agencies if the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A) are met. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'statistical purposes' has the meaning given that term in section 502 of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002.''; and

(C) in paragraph (8)(A)(i), by striking ''subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (3)(A)''.

(2) REPEAL.—Effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments made by this subsection to paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (8) of section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)) are repealed, and the provisions of section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 605(r)) so amended are restored and revived as if such amendments had not been enacted.

(b) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—Section 6103(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking ''Secretary of Health and Human Services'' each place it appears and inserting ''Commissioner of Social Security''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''such Secretary'' and all that follows through ''deceased individuals.'' and inserting ''such Commissioner pursuant to such contract, except that such contract may provide that such information is only to be used by the Social Security Administration (or any other Federal agency) for purposes authorized in the Social Security Act or this title.''.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF DEATH DATA.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall conduct a review of potential alternative sources of death data maintained by the non-Federal sources, including sources maintained by State agencies or associations of State agencies, for use by Federal agencies and programs. The review shall include analyses of—

(A) the accuracy and completeness of such data;

(B) interoperability of such data;

(C) the extent to which there is efficient accessability of such data by Federal agencies;

(D) the cost to Federal agencies of accessing and maintaining such data;

(E) the security of such data;

(F) the reliability of such data; and

(G) a comparison of the potential alternate sources of death data to the death data distributed by the Commissioner of Social Security.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to Congress on the results of the review and analyses required under paragraph (1). The report shall include a recommendation by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget regarding whether to extend the agency access to death data distributed by the Commissioner of Social Security provided under the amendments made by subsection (a)(1) beyond the date on which such amendments are to be repealed under subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE SHARING AND USE OF DATA BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CURB IMPROPER PAYMENTS.

The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note) is amended—

(1) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) The death records maintained by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.''; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) USE OF DEATH AND PRISONER INFORMATION.—The Commissioner of Social Security, and the head of any other agency that obtains information on deaths or incarcerated individuals directly from the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to an agreement under section 205(r) or sections 202(x) and 1611(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r), 405(x), 1382(e)) or the Department of the Treasury's Do Not Pay program, shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements of this section as such requirements relate to payments or to identifying, preventing, or recovering improper payments in the case of deaths or incarcerated individuals. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed as exempting the Commissioner of Social Security or the head of any other agency that obtains information on deaths or incarcerated individuals directly from the Commissioner of Social Security under an agreement under section 205(r) or sections 202(x) and 1611(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r), 405(x), 1382(e)) or the Department of the Treasury's Do Not Pay program from being subject to any improper payment reporting requirement of the Director of the Office of Management.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 7. IMPROVING THE USE OF DEATH DATA BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

''(a) PROMPT REPORTING OF DEATH INFORMATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a procedure under which each Secretary shall, promptly and on a regular basis, submit to the Commissioner information relating to the deaths of individuals. The Commissioner shall, to the extent feasible, provide for the use of death information submitted under this subsection for the purpose specified in clause (i) of section 205(r)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(3)(B)).

''(b) GUIDANCE BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—

''(1) GUIDANCE TO AGENCIES.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, and in consultation with the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency and the heads of other relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance for each agency or component of an agency that operates or maintains a database of information relating to beneficiaries, annuity recipients, or any purpose described in section 205(r)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(3)(B)) for which improved data matching with databases relating to the death of an individual (in this section referred to as 'death databases') would be relevant and necessary regarding implementation of this section to provide such agencies or components access to the death databases no later than 6 months after such date of enactment.

''(2) PLAN TO ASSIST STATES AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall develop a plan to assist States and local agencies, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, in providing electronically to the Federal Government records relating to the death of individuals, which may include recommendations to Congress for any statutory changes or financial assistance to States and local agencies and Indian tribes and tribal organizations that are necessary to ensure States and local agencies and Indian tribes and tribal organizations can provide such records electronically. The plan may include recommendations for the authorization of appropriations or other funding to carry out the plan.

''(c) REPORTS.—

''(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON IMPROVING DATA MATCHING REGARDING PAYMENTS TO DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, and in consultation with States and local agencies, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, shall submit to Congress a plan to improve how States and local agencies and Indian tribes and tribal organizations that provide benefits under a federally-funded program will improve data matching with the Federal Government with respect to the death of individuals who are recipients of such benefits.

''(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and for each of the 4 succeeding years, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report regarding the implementation of this section. The first report submitted under this paragraph shall include the recommendations of the Director required under subsection (b)(2).

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'Indian tribe' and 'tribal organization' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).''.

SEC. 4. AVAILABILITY OF THE DO NOT PAY INITIATIVE TO THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AND STATES.

Section 5 of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note), as amended by section 3, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''BY AGENCIES''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''States and any contractor, subcontractor, or agent of a State, and the judicial and legislative branches of the United States (as defined in paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 202(e) of title 18, United States Code), shall have access to, and use of, the Do Not Pay Initiative to verify payment or award eligibility for payments (as defined in section (2)(g)(3) of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002, 31 U.S.C. 3321 note) when, with respect to a State, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that the Do Not Pay Initiative is appropriately established for that State and any contractor, subcontractor, or agent of the State, and, with respect to the judicial and legislative branches of the United States, when the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that the Do Not Pay Initiative is appropriately established for the judicial branch or the legislative branch, as applicable.''; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) may include States and their quasi-government entities, and the judicial and legislative branches of the United States (as defined in paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, of section 202(e) of title 18, United States Code) as users of the system in accordance with subsection (b)(3).''.

SEC. 5. DATA ANALYTICS.

Section 5 of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note), as amended by sections 3 and 4, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) REPORT ON IMPROPER PAYMENTS DATA ANALYSIS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Improper Payments Agency Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2014, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report which shall include a description of—

''(1) data analytics performed as part of the Do Not Pay Initiative for the purpose of detecting, preventing, and recovering improper payments through pre-award, post-award pre-payment, and post-payment analysis, which shall include a description of any analysis or investigations incorporating—

''(A) review and data matching of payments and beneficiary enrollment lists of State programs carried out using Federal funds for the purposes of identifying eligibility duplication, residency ineligibility, duplicate payments, or other potential improper payment issues;

''(B) review of multiple Federal agencies and programs for which comparison of data could show payment duplication; and

''(C) review of other information the Secretary of the Treasury determines could prove effective for identifying, preventing, or recovering improper payments, which may include investigation or review of information from multiple Federal agencies or programs; and

''(2) the metrics used in determining whether the analytic and investigatory efforts have reduced, or contributed to the reduction of, improper payments or improper awards.''.

SA 3935. Mr. BURR (for Mr. PRYOR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 479, recognizing Veterans Day 2014 as a special ''Welcome Home Commemoration'' for all who have served in the military since September 14, 2001; as follows:

In the 6th whereas clause of the preamble, strike ''marines'' and insert ''Marines''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Assessing and Enhancing Protections in Consumer Financial Services.''

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public

Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Fulfilling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 18, 2014, at 11 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Tax Audits of Large Partnerships.''

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jennifer Winkler, a member of my staff, be given floor privileges during the course of H. Res. 124.

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

N O T I C E

Incomplete record of Senate proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

FRANCINE BERMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE GARY D. GLENN, TERM EXPIRED.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTORIA ANN HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2016, VICE JAMES PALMER, TERM EXPIRED.

ERIC P. LIU, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 27, 2017, VICE LAYSHAE WARD, TERM EXPIRED.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

JOSEPH PIUS PIETRZYK, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2017. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DEBORAH WILLIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE CAROL M. SWAIN, TERM EXPIRED.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

DALLAS P. TONSAGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 21, 2020, VICE JILL LONG THOMPSON, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MARIO CORDERO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

THO DINH–ZARR, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018, VICE DEBORAH HERSMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARIA ECHAVESTE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

BRIAN JAMES EGAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, VICE HAROLD HONGJU KOH, RESIGNED.

PAUL A. FOLMSBEE, OF OKLAHOMA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALI.

MARY CATHERINE PHEE, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

RICHARD RAHUL VERMA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

ALLISON BECK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR, VICE GEORGE H. COHEN, RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

EARL L. GAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, VICE CHRISTINE M. GRIFFIN.

THE JUDICIARY

JOAN MARIE AZRACK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE JOANNA SEYBERT, RETIRED.

ALFRED H. BENNETT, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE KENNETH M. HOYT, RETIRED.

LORETTA COPELAND BIGGS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE JAMES A. BEATY, JR., RETIRED.

ELIZABETH K. DILLON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE SAMUEL GRAYSON WILSON, RETIRED.

GEORGE C. HANKS, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE NANCY FRIEDMAN ATLAS, RETIRED.

JOSE ROLANDO OLVERA, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE HILDA G. TAGLE, RETIRED.

JILL N. PARRISH, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, VICE DEE V. BENSON, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. RONALD P. CLARK

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. HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, September 18, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADAM M. SCHEINMAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

BATHSHEBA NELL CROCKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ERIC ROSENBACH, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARK WILLIAM LIPPERT, OF OHIO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ALFONSO E. LENHARDT, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KEVIN F. O'MALLEY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

D. NATHAN SHEETS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ROBERT W. HOLLEYMAN II, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ELIZABETH SHERWOOD–RANDALL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CHARLES H. FULGHUM, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS FRIEDEN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on September 18, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

RHEA SUN SUH, OF COLORADO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, VICE THOMAS L. STRICKLAND, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

ALISON RENEE LEE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE CAMERON M. CURRIE, RETIRING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.