FAREWELL ADDRESS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of serving in public office for 30 years, 22 of which have been in the United States Congress. I have met many wonderful people, cast some tough votes, and made some difficult decisions. It has been an honor, a challenge, a great responsibility, and I have enjoyed it immensely.

For this I thank the Lord, my family, my extended family, staff, supporters, constituents, and friends. I am thankful tonight that some of them are in the gallery: my wife, Libby; son, Jim; daughter, Ann; son, John; Betsy and Trey. I also have some staffers who stayed up late to be here: Chris, Mary, Alexandra, Brianna, and Natalie. I thank them for hanging in here with me.

Madam Speaker, in the words of the great philosopher Thomas Carlyle, who in his masterpiece “Sartor Resartus” said this: Sic vos non vobis. Thus we labor, but not for ourselves.

That is what I have tried to do as a Member of Congress, and tried to make a difference doing it.

I have often wondered what it would be like to cast my last vote. Today I have done that, and I wonder no longer.

In a minute, I will walk off the floor for the last time as a Member of Congress. I look forward to the next chapter in my life and the great things that lie ahead for our beloved country.

Once more, I thank God, my family, my staff, friends, and constituents. It truly has been an honor of a lifetime.

And now I end with this, that statement that thousands of Members before me have used:

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of serving in public office for 30 years, 22 of which have been in the United States Congress. I have met many wonderful people, cast some tough votes, and made some difficult decisions. It has been an honor, a challenge, a great responsibility, and I have enjoyed it. For this I thank the Lord, my family, extended family, staff, supporters, constituents, and friends.

The job of serving in Congress is misunderstood, maligned, and widely criticized but public service is a noble calling if one remembers the key words "Public" and "Servant" he will be appreciated. "Public" meaning you are accessible, you are seen, approachable, and available. "Servant" meaning you have not forgotten for whom you work and have not forgotten your job is to help those who you represent. In the words of the great philosopher Thomas Carlyle stated in his masterpiece Sartor Resartus, "sic vos non vobis." Thus we labor but not for ourselves.

Members of Congress have a lifestyle of airports, car rides, motel rooms, cell phones, laptop computers, and logistical houses of cards. Separation from family is routine. One cannot serve without a supportive spouse and family structure as well as a hardworking and dedicated staff. All must join together as a team. I have had great family support from Libby, Betsy and Trey, John, Ann, and Jim. My parents and all our staff has been there throughout my tenure.

I have often described congressional service as a three part job.

First there is Washington, D.C. work—committee hearings, legislation, debates, voting, interest groups, constituents, and dozens of others seeking your ear, favor, vote, attention, and attendance. The time passes quickly in the frenzy of the U.S. Capitol.

Second there are the home state demands. Primarily casework—fixing the problems people have with federal agencies. Helping the people who have been spun off of life's merry-go-round. For them we are their advocate—sometimes the first choice and sometimes that of last resort. Here again I have been blessed with a talented and empathetic staff who work through thousands of VA claims, Social Security issues, passport emergencies, and all sorts of things from a goat in the post office to a nuclear bomb off the shores of Tybee Island.

Another part of home state work is plant tours, school visits, civic club speeches. From the coastal beaches to the Vidalia onion fields, the military bases to the Okefenokee Swamp, we have enjoyed our visits to the 41 South-east Georgia counties that have been a part of Georgia's First Congressional District during my time in office.

Finally, the third part of serving in Congress is good old American politics. The campaign trail has elements of the above plus much, much more. No one is elected accidently or reluctantly. To elect the right to represent 710,000 people one must fully engage, shake all the hands, eat all the barbecue, and be sure your opponent has not made you look too bad on TV! It is spirited, emotional, and not for everyone, yet each year thousands of citizens run for office at the federal, state, and local level. I take each of them for stepping forward and trying to make a difference.

During my time in Congress, I have seen many changes. The rise and demise of the fax machine, the daily delivery of ice, the arrival of email and the Internet. When digital photography replaced traditional film and drastically reduced the cost of photographs, visual recording of events—both still shots and video—exploded. I was elected when cell phones were rare, and in 1995 I was given a smart phone which can do the functions of what rooms full of computers could not accomplish years ago.

I have participated in a number of high visibility, tough votes from impeachment to the war in Afghanistan, the Contract with America, Obamacare, censuring, bail-outs, and many cliff-hanger appropriations bills like the one we’ve debated today.

I served in Congress on September 11, 2001, when the world changed. I joined the masses as we exited the buildings, not realizing who the enemy was or the extent of the attacks. In our first chaotic briefing, we were told that 5 planes were involved and the fifth had crashed in Kentucky. Later that day when we returned to the Capitol steps to sing “God Bless America” I knew we had a more unified moment as an American citizen.

In the sensitivities that followed, we evacuated two other times for false alarms and once left our offices for weeks because of an anthrax attack. Today we are much safer because of the invaluable training that takes place at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick.

We have been able to move legislation of great importance to Georgia and the nation. From the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, the pond building program for our farmers, the Sidney Lanier Bridge, expanding access to Cumberland Island National Seashore, the fifth runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport and the southern terminal in Athens to better training, equipment, and facilities for our troops, expanding E-Verify, getting planes back in the air after September 11th, welfare reform and making Congress, agriculture, nutrition, health, education, and labor programs more efficient, we made a difference across a number of fronts.

At home, we sent the best and brightest to the military academies, attended rosebud plantings at Fort Stewart for soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice, opened four VA clinics, bolstered the research at colleges and universities all across Georgia, helped communities adversely impacted by shifts in our military’s footprint, and expedited assistance for areas ravaged by wildfires and floods.

Through it all, we have stuck to the principles on which I launched my first campaign: limited government, personal responsibility, the right to life, and an unabiding belief in the American Dream. I maintained a 100-percent anti-abortion, pro-life voting record, an A+ from the NRA, the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and a 96-percent lifetime rating with the American Conservative Union.

To my successor, Buddy Carter, and the 114th Congress, I have lots of advice but will do my utmost to not give it unless asked! However, I promise to be around for Mr. Carter the way former First District Congressmen Lindsay Thomas and Bo Ginn have been there for me.

Until I do retire I do have some unsolicited advice:

1. Remember we are a republic not a democracy. You are not sent to Washington to be a weather vane of popular opinion. You are expected to learn all about an issue. You must consider all arguments and consequences when formulating your decision to support or oppose.

2. Always be accessible for there is truly wisdom on the street “Pressing the flesh” is not just being in parades, it’s talking and listening to people. Do not let any well-intended friend, staff, or volunteer get between you and a constituent who wants to take you to task. Hear him out.

3. Engage with Members of Congress from all parties, philosophies, and geographic regions. Never pass up an opportunity to work with anyone who wants to make the world and America a better place. I did not always agree with my Ranking Members but we always had the highest degree of respect. I thank Jim Moran, Sam Farr, and Rosa Delauro.

4. Respect the institution. Anyone can go before someone, feign indignation, and make a one minute sigh denounce Congress. Yet as a Member, you can either be part of the problem or part of the solution. Choose wisely.

5. Be active—attend committee meetings, read testimonies and ask questions. Speak and negotiate on the floor, don’t be afraid to speak with Chris Matthews or Bill Maher. Whoever you are, return Stephen Colbert’s call. These will give you a full experience and make you a stronger Member.

6. It’s in America’s interest for you to know what is happening in the world. Visit our troops in the faraway and hostile countries in which they are preserving our freedom.

7. Control your time and schedule. Your first priority is family. That includes birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and much more. Don’t let your ambition get in the way of a school play.

8. Keep your mind in order and also your body and spirit. There are many Bible studies in Washington. Join one even before you get your committee assignments! Join the gym. The fellowship alone is worth it. Should you play on one of the sports teams, you can raise thousands upon thousands for charity. I would not trade my experiences on the baseball and football teams for anything I’ve done in Congress.

To sum it up, I will say this: as a teenager, I wanted a motorcycle. As I was trying to talk my parents into it I man gave me some good advice. He said motorcycles are all safer when you respect the bike. On the other hand, if you decide you are better than the bike, that’s when you will have a wreck. To new Members of Congress, be a Republican, don’t be afraid to stand with Chris Matthews or Bill Maher. Whoever you are, return Stephen Colbert’s call.

Let me conclude by thanking everyone who has been on the team with me. We had a great run, some wonderful experiences, some fun moments and helped a lot of people along the way.

Serving in Congress had always been a great run, some wonderful experiences, some fun moments and helped a lot of people along the way.
school, my older sister Barbara was in junior high. Junior high was big time, almost grown up stuff. We were sitting at our kitchen table one night she pulled out two pieces of paper and said ‘let’s write down the names of everyone you know. You can’t list mom or dad, they can’t help themselves.’ She won the contest but it was a life changing exercise. I became interested in knowing people and making friends. That along with my mother’s activism in the Clarke County Republican Party started this journey. I first ran for class president in the 7th grade. I lost to Susan Sims but the hook was set.

I’ve often wondered what it would be like to cast my last vote. Today I’ve done that. I wonder no longer. In a minute, I will walk off the floor for the last time as a Member of Congress. I look forward to the next chapter of my life and the great things that lie ahead for our beloved country. Once more, I thank God, my family, my staff, friends and constituents. It has been the honor of a lifetime.

So, I appreciate the statement that thousands of Members before me have used: Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRATULATING BILL LOCKYER
ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, who will be retiring in January after over 45 years of service. Bill is a native and long-time resident of Hayward, California, in the 15th Congressional District. He served as California State treasurer for the past 8 years, and prior to that he served as California’s attorney general, which I appreciated as a former prosecutor, especially the work he did on behalf of sexual assault victims. He also served 25 years in the State legislature and 4 years as Senate pro tem. He is known as a strong policymaker and a wise leader.

As treasurer, he served under two Governors and effectively managed California’s budget through the recession. He kept the economy growing through tough economic times, while maintaining key investments and expanding California’s 529 college savings program and expanding investments in renewable energy.

His leadership will be missed, but he leaves an incredible legacy for others to follow. And I want to thank Bill Lockyer for his remarkable career of public service and wish him; his wife, Nadia; and their children the best as he moves on to his next step in public service.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

(Mr. BENTIVOLIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Madam Speaker, over the last 2 years, I have had an opportunity that is rare. I was given the task of representing my community in the House of Representatives. During that time, it has been a privilege to see our democracy in action up close. It has been an honor to serve with all of you.

In this, my last message on the floor of Congress, I want to remind all of you that we are here to serve the people, not special interests. If I have made any impact on any of you, I hope it is this: the job of a Member of Congress is to protect our rights, not take them away.

I want to thank each and every Member of the House of Representatives for their support and their work. I would like to ask them to strive valiantly and dare greatly, and offer this last small piece of advice: Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

(Mr. TIERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise on this particular occasion to thank my family, my friends, my colleagues, and the voters of the Sixth Congressional District of Massachusetts for giving me the unbelievably wonderful opportunity to represent that district, here in this venerable body, the House of Representatives.

I have been privileged to witness history and to participate in its making. My focus has always been on social justice and opportunity for all. I know that we have worked assiduously to try to make that happen every day that I have served here.

I am also appreciative of the fantastic staff who have worked with me over the years, who have done so much to make sure that what we did reflected those values, and worked every day to make sure the constituents of the Sixth District were well served.

I also want to say that the delegation from Massachusetts deserves particular recognition on that. I am always appreciative of their support. And having served with the unbelievable legend, Senator Edward Kennedy, for years was a particular privilege.

Madam Speaker, from making college more affordable and accessible to making sure that people had the opportunity in the workforce to get the skills they needed to perform and have a job that paid them well enough to support their family, to making sure we had oversight in foreign affairs and to making sure when people are contracting on contingent operations that they take care not to have waste, fraud, and abuse in the work that is done; from watching the taxpayers’ dollars to making sure that people in this country are safe and that someone stood up not just for the banks and not just for the large corporations but for every single family in this country, making sure that their government worked for them, I have been proved, I have been honored, I have been privileged, and I thank, again, my constituents, my family, my friends, and all of my colleagues here in the House.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Clerk’s desk the bill (H.R. 3329) to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment. The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CHANGES REQUIRED TO SMALL BANK HOLDING COMPANY POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL FACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Board”) shall publish in the Federal Register proposed revisions to the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors (12 C.F.R. part 225 appendix C) that provide that the policy shall apply to bank holding companies and savings and loan holding companies which have pro forma consolidated assets of less than $1,000,000,000 and that:

(1) are not engaged in significant nonbanking activities either directly or through a nonbank subsidiary;

(2) do not conduct significant off-balance sheet activities (including securitization and asset management or administration) otherwise directly or through a nonbank subsidiary;

(3) do not have a material amount of debt or equity securities outstanding (other than trust preferred securities) that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(b) EXCLUSIONS.—The Board may exclude any bank holding company or savings and loan holding company, regardless of asset size, from the policy statement under subsection (a) if the Board determines that such action is warranted for supervisory purposes.

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 171(b)(5) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

(C) any bank holding company or savings and loan holding company having less than $1,000,000,000 in total consolidated assets that complies with the requirements of the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors of the Board of Governors (12 C.F.R. part 225 appendix C), as the requirements of such Policy Statement are amended pursuant to section 225 of this Act, or the inability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities,
Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, it has been a long day, and I believe the American people have seen the best of what America is in the vigorous debate and review of the future of this Nation. Yes, there were some positive aspects to the appropriations bill—the $5 billion in funding for Ebola treatment and the $2.2 billion for the rural development account which will help my constituents in Jacinto City, helping them rebuild a burned-down police station, which I hope to work on, and yes, the $18.1 billion for NASA, $383.7 million more than in 2014.

But I believe that out of good conscience, I would not want to stand in support of again going backwards in allowing banks to be engaged in derivatives and having American taxpayers pay for their actions. I believe in opportunities and banks and investment, but not the derivative work that causes them to be able to have the taxpayers pay for their mistakes.

Finally, I feel there is too much money in campaigns and politics; and now in this bill that will be signed by the President, $300,000 will be allowed to be given by one individual as opposed to the $97,000. Get money out of politics. Let's get back to legislating for the people, and we can all join together unified for good legislation.

CONGRATULATING ARNE AND ESTHER LARSEN

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, there are two kinds of people serving here in Congress—those who are here to serve the interests of the American people, and those who are here to serve the interests of the big banks and Wall Street speculators.

The big banks that forced the American people to bail them out in 2008 are even bigger today than they were before. This bill that passed today sets the American taxpayer up to bail them out yet again.

The passage of this bill brings us ever closer to the precipice of an economic disaster that will make the 2008 meltdown seem like a picnic.

FAREWELL

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in good times and bad, one constant remains here on Capitol Hill. The Congress of the United States continues to attract some of the brightest minds and most eager spirits our country’s colleges and universities can produce. They are our staff.

I want to acknowledge and express my deep gratitude to my staff members, especially Kent Keyser, my former chief of staff and now senior policy advisor; and Jim Zola, my chief counsel, both of whom have been by my side every step of the way. They are outstanding and dedicated individuals who deserve the highest praise for their selfless sacrifice and service in behalf of the people of southern West Virginia. Through the years, many too numerous to mention have served on my staff and then have moved on, putting the lessons they learned serving on my staff to work for our State and Nation.

In addition to Kent and Jim, those serving on my Washington staff include: David McMaster, chief of staff; Kate Denman, deputy chief of staff; Diane Luensmann, communications director; Andy Mollohan and Rachel Meyer, legislative assistants; Carol Wallace, projects director; Josh Sutherland, legislative correspondent; and Megan Price, staff assistant.

In my West Virginia offices: Kelly Dyke, my district director; and Debbie Workman,绝对是。在西维吉尼亚州，他们由Greg Crist, my district representative, and Laron Alexander, who serves on my staff through the House Wounded Warrior Program.

Those working on my Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff
I have traveled the Middle East extensively during my close to four decades in this body, including with President Clinton in that historic December 1988 codell to the Middle East when he became the first U.S. President to step foot on Palestinian soil. I have been with kings, emirs, presidents, prime ministers, militia chiefs, warlords, you name it, in this region, many times even when not in sync with our official U.S. policy. I have long advocated for Palestinian justice, humanity, and self-determination.

Madam Speaker, I do leave this body with a great sense of pride and a great sense of accomplishment in what we have been able to do together for the people of West Virginia.

I do appreciate my colleagues taking a moment to reflect with me on what truly has been a remarkable personal journey, a distinct honor, and a true privilege to serve the people. From elevator operator, mail carrier, assistant to the House Whip Robert Byrd in the Democratic cloakroom in the other body through those Watergate years, all through my 38 years in this august body, it has been both exciting and frustrating, full of fast-paced days and long nights, such as we have just been through this evening. It has been full of sometimes tears, sometimes laughter, and, indeed, it has been an experience that I have truly appreciated and have loved every minute of it.

I want to say in conclusion that I thank, first and foremost, of course, God. I thank my family for their support. This very day, as I speak, is a 10th anniversary of my dear wife, Melinda, and I, and we celebrate this anniversary knowing that it has been a great ride in this institution. My late father stood behind me all the way. My 89-year-old mother, now living in my hometown of Beckley, and my brother Ed and his wife, Vickie and family, have always been there for me. My three children, Rebecca and her husband, Michael; Nick III and Laura; and Suzanne Nicole have always been behind my career. And all three of my grandchildren, Madison Kaylee, Nick Joe IV, and Elliana, that is what it is all about, as we all know in this body, making this place a better place for our children and our grandchildren to live in.

My heartfelt thanks go out to the good people in West Virginia. I have been most proud to fight for our courageous coal miners, and I am very happy to see just this week that those war notices issued by the coal companies earlier this year will, fortunately, not be honored in most cases, and, fortunately, these coal miners will be able to keep holding their jobs.

I have been deeply proud to fight for our courageous coal miners. I have been deeply humble to serve and stand up for our American heroes, our veterans. West Virginia is a proud and patriotic State. I thank our working men and women, the backbone of our country, and our seniors who strengthen this Nation day after day with their continuing contributions. And may God bless our educators, our teachers who positively shape the future of our youth throughout eternity.

Madam Speaker, in concluding this chapter of my life, I offer my special heartfelt thanks to you, each of you in this body, my colleagues, for all the experiences, for representing the immense diversity of our country, and for the life lessons with the many trials and tribulations that you have shared and taught me. I truly have had the high honor of serving with dedicated public servants and their staffs who will ensure this country remains forever the best in the world.

Thank you and God bless this House of Representatives, and God bless our country.

UKRAINE FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT OF 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5859) to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, reserving the right to object, though I don’t intend to object, I would like to stand this evening and say, as cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus, along with my dear colleagues, Jim GERLACH of Pennsylvania, and the ranking member of the full committee, Congressman ELIOI ENGEL of New York, I stand in strong support of H.R. 5859, a measure that allows America to shine the hope of liberty to the distant land of Ukraine, a measure that we hope to send to the President’s desk very soon, and we need to move it tonight.

It is clear that Russia is actively fomenting upheaval and propagandizing in the West about its illegal invasion. It is an invasion, plain and simple, of a sovereign nation. The Kremlin’s designs don’t stop with Ukraine, and we see substantial pressure being placed on our NATO allies and other European friends. Liberty cannot bow to Putin’s aggression.

Six months ago, when Russia invaded Ukraine, 4,000 more Ukrainian lives were existing and have been taken. Just according to the U.N. 1,000 additional civilian lives have been lost since the cease-fire that was negotiated in September, and approximately 13 lives per day are being lost.

Since the cold war, a vision has emerged of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. That is within reach. Putin’s reckless aggression cannot stand. The United States cannot let the hope of liberty die, surely, in a land where its people have historically suffered more than any other place on Earth. The ravages of World War II still sting their memory and ours, and motivate our actions here tonight.

By approving H.R. 5859, America sends a clear signal to the world that we are the standard bearer of liberty at home and abroad. I am very pleased to join my colleagues this evening.

I thank the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for sending the House this bill.

With that, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:


Section 8. Expanded military assistance for Ukraine.

Section 9. Support for Russian democracy and civil society organizations.

Section 10. Report on non-compliance by Energy projects in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. That policy shall be carried out through a comprehensive effort, in coordination with allies and partners of the United States, and includes economic sanctions, diplomacy, assistance for the people of Ukraine, and the provision of military capabilities to the Government of Ukraine that will enhance the ability of that Government to defend itself and to restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unlawful actions by the Government of the Russian Federation.


(a) Sanctions relating to the defense and energy sectors of the Russian Federation. the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation; or

(b) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(c) Foreign persons. The term "foreign person" means any individual or entity that is not a United States citizen, a permanent resident alien, or an entity organized under the laws of the Russian Federation or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling.

(d) Foreign financial institution. The term "foreign financial institution" means a financial institution -

(1) knowingly manufactures or sells defense articles transferred into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country;

(2) transfers defense articles into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country;

(3) brokers or otherwise assists in the transfer of defense articles into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country;

(4) knowingly, on or after the date that is 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President determines that the foreign person knowingly makes a significant investment in a special Russian crude oil project.

(5) Authorization for extension of licensing limitations on certain equipment. The President, through the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce or the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, as appropriate, may impose additional licensing requirements for or other restrictions on the export or reexport of items for use in the energy sector of the Russian Federation, including equipment used for tertiary oil recovery.

(a) Sanctions described. The sanctions the President may impose with respect to a foreign person under subsection (a) or (b) are the following:

(1) Export-import bank assistance. The President may direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States not to approve the issuance of any guarantee, insurance, extension of credit, or participation in the extension of credit in connection with the export of any goods or services to the foreign person.

(2) Procurement sanction. The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(3) Arms export prohibition. The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(4) Dual-use export prohibition. The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(5) Sanctions relating to the Energy Sectors of the Russian Federation. It is the policy of the United States to further assist the Government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity to deter the Government of the Russian Federation from utilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. That policy shall be carried out through a comprehensive effort, in coordination with allies and partners of the United States, and includes economic sanctions, diplomacy, assistance for the people of Ukraine, and the provision of military capabilities to the Government of Ukraine that will enhance the ability of that Government to defend itself and to restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unlawful actions by the Government of the Russian Federation.

(6) Sanctions described. The sanctions the President may impose with respect to a foreign person under subsection (a) or (b) are the following:

(1) Export-import bank assistance. The President may direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States not to approve the issuance of any guarantee, insurance, extension of credit, or participation in the extension of credit in connection with the export of any goods or services to the foreign person.

(2) Procurement sanction. The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(3) Arms export prohibition. The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(4) Dual-use export prohibition. The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

The term "defense service" means a project intended to extract crude oil from the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation in waters more than 500 feet deep;
(b) SANCTIONS RELATED TO THE ENERGY SECTOR.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL PROJECTS.—Except as provided in subsection (d), on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose 3 or more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that such person knowingly makes a significant investment in a Russian crude oil project.

(2) AUTHORIZATION FOR EXTENSION OF LICENSES ON CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.—The President, through the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce or the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, as appropriate, may impose additional licensing requirements for or other restrictions on the export or reexport of items for use in the energy sector of the Russian Federation, including equipment used for tertiary oil recovery.

(3) CONTINGENT SANCTION RELATING TO GAZPROM.—If the President determines that Gazprom is withholding significant natural gas supplies from member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or further restricting natural gas supplies from countries such as Ukraine, Georgia, or Moldova, the President shall, not later than 45 days after making that determination, impose any or all of the sanctions described in subsection (c) and at least one additional sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to Gazprom.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions the President may impose with respect to a foreign person under subsection (a) or (b) are the following:

(1) IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The President may prohibit the importation of goods from a foreign person to the United States; and

(2) PROCUREMENT SANCTION.—The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(3) PROPERTY TRANSFERS.—The President may prohibit the exportation or provision by sale, lease or loan, grant, or other means, directly or indirectly, of any defense article or defense service to the foreign person and the issuance of any license or other approval to the foreign person under section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778).

(4) DUAL-USE EXPORT PROHIBITION.—The President may prohibit the exportation of any license and suspend any license for the transfer to a foreign person of any item or the export of which is controlled under the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 et seq.) (as in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), or the Export Administration Regulations under subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, as amended).

(5) PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any property transactions of a foreign person with respect to which the foreign person has any interest;

(6) BANKING TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any transaction involving any financial institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and involve any interest of the foreign person.

(7) PROHIBITION ON INVESTMENT IN EQUITY OR DEBT OF A FOREIGN PERSON.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any United States person from transacting in, providing financing for, or otherwise dealing in:

(A) debt—

(i) of longer than 30 days’ maturity of a foreign person with respect to which sanctions are imposed under subsection (a) or of longer than 90 days’ maturity of a foreign person with respect to which sanctions are imposed under subsection (b); and

(ii) issued on or after the date on which such sanctions are imposed with respect to the foreign person;

(B) equity of the foreign person issued on or after that date.

(8) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA.—In the case of a foreign person who is an individual, the President may direct the Secretary of State to deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude from the United States, the foreign person, subject to regulatory exceptions to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement referred to in section 2 of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(9) SANCTIONS ON PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.—In the case of a foreign person that is an entity, the President may impose on the principal executive officer or officers of the foreign person, or on individuals performing similar functions and with similar authorities as such officers, any of the sanctions described in this subsection applicable to individuals.

(1) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA.

(2) IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under subsection (c)(5) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘good’ has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(2) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS.—The President shall not be required to apply or maintain the sanctions under subsection (a) or (b):

(A) in the case of procurement of defense articles or defense services under existing contracts, subcontracts, or other business agreements, including ancillary or incidental contracts for goods, or for services or funding (including necessary financial services) associated with such goods, as necessary to give effect to such contracts, subcontracts, or other business agreements entered into before the date on which the President publishes in the Federal Register the name of the foreign person with respect to which the sanctions are to be imposed;

(B) to—

(i) spare parts that are essential to United States products or production;

(ii) component parts, but not finished products, essential to United States products or production;

(iii) routine servicing and maintenance of United States products, to the extent that alternative sources are not readily or reasonably available;

(iv) to information and technology essential to United States products or production;

(v) to food, medicine, medical devices, or agricultural commodities (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8511)); and

(vi) to information and technology essential to United States products or production;

(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determination and the reasons for the determination;

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(4) TRANSACTION-SPECIFIC NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on the determination and the specific reasons for the determination that a waiver with respect to the transaction is necessary and appropriate.
SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN AND OTHER FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN DEFENSE- AND ENERGY-RELATED TRANSACTIONS.—The President may impose the sanction described in subsection (b) or (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out the purposes of this section.

(b) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section, and sanctions imposed under this section, shall cease to have effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, $125,000,000 for fiscal year 2016, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

SEC. 6. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide defensive articles, defense services, and training to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensives and facilitating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including through an agreement between the appropriate parties.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) FEDERAL AGENCY—The President may impose the sanction described in subsection (a) on a foreign financial institution that the President determines knowingly engages in, or after the date of the enactment of this Act, in significant defense- and dual-use transactions with a specially designated national and blocked persons pursuant to this section.

(B) FEDERAL AGENCY—The President may impose the sanction described in subsection (a) with respect to a foreign financial institution that the President determines that the foreign financial institution has, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, knowingly facilitated a significant financial transaction on behalf of any natural person included on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, pursuant to—

(1) this Act;

(2) Executive Order 13660 (79 Fed. Reg. 76,849, Dec. 17, 2014), or 13661 (79 Fed. Reg. 13,635), or 13662 (79 Fed. Reg. 16,169); or

(3) any other executive order directing the actions in this subsection.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the provisions of subsection (a) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, $125,000,000 for fiscal year 2016, and $125,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 to carry out activities under this section.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The sanctions imposed under this section shall be carried out from funds authorized to be appropriated to the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(e) PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Government of Ukraine should take all appropriate steps to protect civilians.
energy assistance plan designed to help Ukraine address the potentially severe short-term heating fuel and electricity shortages facing Ukraine in 2014 and 2015.

(2) E LEMENTS.—The plan required by subparagraph (A) should include strategies to address heating fuel and electricity shortages in Ukraine, including, as appropriate—
(i) the acquisition of short-term, emergency fuel supplies;
(ii) the repair or replacement of infrastructure that could impede the transmission of electricity and/or the transportation of fuel;
(iii) the prioritization of the transportation of fuel supplies to the areas where such supplies are needed most;
(iv) by this plan, emergency communications throughout national, regional, and local governments to manage the potential energy crisis resulting from heating fuel and electricity shortages;
(v) forming a crisis management team within the Government of Ukraine to specifically address the potential crisis, including ensuring coordination of the team’s efforts with the efforts of outside governmental and nongovernmental entities providing assistance to address the potential crisis; and
(vi) developing a public outreach strategy to facilitate public participation by the population and communication with the population in the event of a crisis.

(C) A SSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development are authorized to provide assistance in support of, and to invest in, long-term plans to increase energy production, including assistance to the voice, vote, and influence of the United States Government-supported broadcasting activities, and assist with the

(iv) modernize oil and gas upstream infrastructure; and
(v) improve energy efficiency.

(C) P RIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Secretary of Energy should, during fiscal years 2015 through 2018, work with international, bilateral agencies and nongovernmental organizations, to prioritize, to the extent practicable and as appropriate, the provision of assistance to Ukraine to—
(i) improve energy efficiency, increase energy efficiency, and improve energy efficiency in the areas where energy supplies produced in Ukraine, and reduce reliance on energy imports from the Russian Federation, including natural gas; and

(D) A UTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS .—There are authorized to be appropriated $500,000,000 in the aggregate for fiscal years 2016 through 2018 to carry out activities under this paragraph.

(3) S PORT FROM THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—The Overseas Private Investment Corporation shall—
(A) in accordance with its mission and statutory responsibilities, provide investments in projects to help improve energy efficiency, develop domestic oil and natural gas reserves, improve and repair electricity infrastructure, and develop renewable and other sources of energy in Ukraine; and

(B) implement procedures for expedited review and approval of applications by eligible investors (as defined in section 238 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2186)) for loans, loan guarantees, and insurance for such investments.

(4) S PORT BY THE WORLD BANK GROUP AND THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.—The President shall, to the extent practicable, and as appropriate, direct the President shall, to the extent practicable, and as appropriate, direct the United States Executive Directors of the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to encourage the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international financial institutions—
(A) to invest, and increase their efforts to promote investment in, projects to improve energy efficiency, improve and repair electricity infrastructure, develop domestic oil and natural gas reserves, and develop renewable and other sources of energy in Ukraine; and

(B) to stimulate private investment in such projects.

(D) A UTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS .—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to Congress a plan, including a cost estimate, for immediately and substantially increasing, and maintaining through fiscal year 2017, the quantity of Russian-language broadcasting into the countries of the former Soviet Union funded by the United States in order to counter Russian Federation propaganda.

(2) BROADCASTING INTO UKRAINE, GEORGIA, AND MOLDOVA.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall prioritize broadcasting into Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

(c) A DDITIONAL PRIORITIES.—In developing the plan required by subsection (a), the Chairman shall consider—

(1) near-term increases in Russian-language broadcasting for countries of the former Soviet Union (other than the countries specified in subsection (b)) and for Georgia, including—
(A) in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia; and

(2) increases in broadcasting in other critical languages, including Ukrainian and Romanian languages.

(d) BROADCASTING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘broadcasting’’ means the distribution of media content via radio broadcasting, television, internet-based platforms, among other platforms.

(e) A UTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be authorized to be appropriated to the Broadcasting Board of Governors $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018 to carry out activities under this section.

(f) S UMMARY OF FUNDING FOR BROADCASTING.—The total amount appropriated pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not exceed $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018.

SEC. 9. SUPPORT FOR RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) I N GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall—

(1) improve democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts in the Russian Federation;

(2) strengthen democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations in the Russian Federation;

(3) expand unfettered access to independent media of all kinds in the Russian Federation; and

(4) expand Internet access in the Russian Federation; and
Russian Federation has fully and completely National Intelligence and the Defense Threat under the INF Treaty. of interests of the United States to remain a complete and verifiable elimination of its States allies, to hold the Russian Federation subsection (d) a report that includes the fol-

fiscal years 2016 through 2018 to carry out the Secretary of State $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal year 2015 House concurrent resolution on the budget. aanalysis of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. For purposes of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, these revised aggregates and allocations are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the concurrent resolution on the budget, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, as adjusted. Sincerely, 

PAUL D. RYAN OF WISCONSIN, Chairman. 

BUDGET AGGREGATES

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ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

Protection of journalists and civil society activities who have been targeted for free speech activities.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018 to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a) to—

(c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Any assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be conducted in a transparent manner as possible, consistent with the nature and goals of this section. The President shall provide a briefing on the activities funded by this section at the request of the committees specified in subsection (c).

SEC. 10. REPORT ON NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INF TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:


(2) The President should demand of the Russian Federation the following:

(B) The President’s assessment as to whether the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(c) REPORT.—(1) 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 committees specified in subsection (a) 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 violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty; and

(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, including details on facilities that inspectors need access to, people inspectors need to talk with, how often they need to visit, 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) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this subsection are—

(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.

SEC. 11. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act shall be construed as an authorization for the use of military force.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE AGGREGATES AND ALLOCATIONS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Houses of Representatives,

Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 revised the statutory spending limits for fiscal year 2015 base discretionary appropriations in the amount of $321,272 million for defense programs and $492,356 million for non-defense programs. The levels set the base discretionary 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations at $1,013,628 million, which is the sum of the fiscal year 2015 defense and non-defense base discretionary spending limits in statute. Section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA) allows for adjustments to the base discretionary spending limits for certain purposes including overseas contingencies, disaster relief, and program integ-

(d) (y) a program initiative. On June 17, 2014, I issued an adjustment to the aggregates and allocations of the House concurrent resolution on the budget in the amount of $6,438 million in addi-

lional budget authority to accommodate disaster relief funding contained in H.R. 4903, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015, H.R. 83, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, contains $1,484 million in budget authority for program integrity initiatives, which is within the allowable limits for this purpose as established in section 251(b)(2)(B) and (C) of BBEDCA. Program integrity funding provides for agency activities to increase effi-

oticians, considered by the House subsequent to this filing, as applicable. For fiscal year 2015, aggregate levels of budget authority and outlays and the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations, included in the levels of the budget resolution found in the Statement published in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, are revised. Associated tables are attached.

The provisions of H. Con. Res. 25 (113th Congress) have been deemed to be in force by section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. This revision represents as an adjustment for purposes of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, these revised aggregates and allocations are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the concurrent resolution on the budget, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, as adjusted.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. RYAN OF WISCONSIN, Chairman. 

Attachment.
H.R. 4298. An act to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway”.

H.R. 2766. An act to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1006. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.

S. 1881. An act to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 1938. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for forms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

S. 2142. An act to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

S. 2270. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 2344. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

S. 2519. An act to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

S. 2521. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.


S. 2759. An act to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 10, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 5090. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the “Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building.”

H.R. 2678. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the “Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building.”

H.R. 3534. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the “Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office.”

H.R. 4939. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5501 Galena Avenue in Simi Valley, California, as the “Neil Havens Post Office.”

H.R. 2112. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the “National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office.”

H.R. 2223. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the “Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building.”

H.R. 78. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4130 Almeda Road in Houston, Texas, as the “George Thomas ‘Mickey’ Leland Post Office Building.”

H.R. 1707. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the “James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building.”

H.R. 5739. To amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.


H.R. 2266. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.
Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I will just say a couple words before I turn it over to the Chair and to my colleague from West Virginia.

When I think of MARY LANDRIEU, I think of the most tenacious person in the Senate standing here, holding court, fighting for her cause, fighting for her values, fighting for her State. I think particularly of the hard work she did on flood insurance, on this issue that was so critical to the State of Louisiana and very important to my State of Oregon and to our other States but particularly Louisiana. She was determined. Every time I was on the floor, she would say: JEFF, have you done this and JEFF, have you done that. She would grab someone else, and she would say: And now we have to do this. That is how legislation gets done. Senator LANDRIEU really drives things through the Senate. It is one thing to be here and express your ideas in kind of a social manner—well, wouldn’t this be nice or wouldn’t that be nice; it is another to stand here and say: I am going to make this happen because it is important to my constituents and important to our Nation. I have seen MARY LANDRIEU do that on issue after issue, and certainly for all who came in with my class 6 years ago, it has been a wonderful education on how to make maximum use and effectiveness from this privilege of serving in the Senate.

Thank you for everything you have done, MARY LANDRIEU. It is an honor to serve with you, and we are going to miss you greatly.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the Congressional Record may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators’ statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/congress_record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at “Record@Sec.Senate.gov”.

Members of the House of Representatives’ statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts.

The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the Congressional Record may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512–0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, Chairman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. All of us came here at one time or another, and the first impression you have is how they kind of ingratiating you and bring you into the
fold. I am often asked—I am sure most of our colleagues are asked the same question—whom do you consider your best and closest friend and whom do you associate with and whom do you feel comfortable with? In any category, without a doubt, it is always MARY LANDRIEU. We come from a similar background—rural States. We come from the same culture—hard-working people who basically don’t ask for an awful lot and give a lot more back. Both of us come from large Catholic families and we have a lot in common. We and our spouses have bonded, and we have done things together. That was the way I heard the place used to work, that you build relationships and there is camaraderie and you share dinners at people’s homes. It is such a different atmosphere when that happens because you really do forge a bond that is so much missing in this body.

Let me say one other thing. The greatest lesson in this whole election process we just had were the great people of Louisiana. They lost a champion. They lost a fighter. That is what Senator MERCURY said. There is nobody who said: I think you ought to be careful about that because I think MARY is interested. We knew there could be problems.

With that being said, the best thing to do is to go talk to MARY on this subject or issue, and we would work through it. We would compromise and bring everybody together? And MARY would say: We will work through it.

Coming from an energy State and MARY having an energy State and the two of us being Democrats, on our side sometimes our individual caucus is not as large as we would like for it to be—let’s put it that way—but we talk an awful lot about how we are moving an energy policy. As MARY said, we need it all in this country. We should be totally dependent on our energy. We shouldn’t be looking to other countries and buying their products and giving them the resources to be used against us, and we don’t have to do that. We can do it in a sensible and balanced way with the economy and the environment. MARY has always had the economy and environment first and foremost. That type of balance is hard to find, and it is definitely hard to find in Washington.

So I just want her to know that there is nobody who is going to miss MARY LANDRIEU more than I, being in this body, going shoulder to shoulder with her and trying to bring an even keel to this whole process.

MARY, I feel for the people of Louisiana. I truly do. I am hoping somebody can come along and have the same spirit and fight that you have, but no one is going to be able to replace you and what you have been able to do and what you have been able to make us aware of.

My little State was involved in helping Katrina, helping the State of Louisiana. The State of West Virginia came immediately. When that happened, we were so proud to be part of that, and we now have a lot of people from Louisiana living in West Virginia today because of that effort.

There has been a wonderful relationship and a wonderful friendship, but more importantly, there has been a wonderful person who has graced the Halls in this tremendous body for 18 years who will not be replaced in this Senate and this body. Again, the people of Louisiana should be extremely proud to have someone who has given every drop she has of public service for her State and never forgot where she came from. So with that, that is a tremendous tribute in itself.

I say to my dear friend, thank you for your service on behalf of the great State of Louisiana. Thank you for all the important work you have done for our country. God bless you, and I love you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, you can see that MARY LANDRIEU has a lot of friends on both sides of the aisle, and that is because MARY has stood up and been a mentor to many of us. She taught us how to fight for our own States because that is what she has done every day for Louisiana.

I was thinking about our States earlier. MARY mentioned in her talk about how Mississippi and Louisiana is at the bottom and how hard we fought for river issues and barge and locks and dams. We will actually have success at the end of the year with the RIVER Act, which is really important for other reasons, but we are going to finally start the funding for lock and dam improvements, and that kind of work would not have happened without MARY and the work and support she has provided with the RIVER Act. So a river doesn’t divide us, it unites us, and MARY is a uniter and brings people together on so many issues.

She said before that she was going to put some things on the RECORD about adoption, but I thought I would take the opportunity to fill people in.

First of all, MARY established the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. If you have not gone to some of the events where she literally brings the angels—people who have adopted children in the most dire circumstances—to Washington to celebrate these adoptions and talk about how the policy changes that need to be made.

Anyone who has adopted one of the foster kids or brought them into an office and adopted them—the reason you can do that is because MARY LANDRIEU has worked to make the foster care issue a very important one.

MARY doesn’t just fight for adopted kids at home, she fights for them all over the world. I would hate to be the bureaucrat in Guatemala when MARY LANDRIEU shows up to fight them off. I see her staff, and some of them were probably with her on that trip. I think she knew the name of every child who was waiting to be adopted in Guatemala.

How can we forget the meeting with the Russians when they started to use these poor little children as pawns in a political game? MARY stood up to them. As a result, as many of us know, MARY has now been banned from the country of Russia. I don’t think everybody knows that the reason she was banned was because she was fighting for these kids who were waiting to be adopted. Many of the parents are in my State, and they actually have siblings and they are trying to adopt the other sibling. That is a very sad story and MARY stood up for them. In the words of her dad, Putin didn’t like it, and so MARY was banned. I guess that is not the way she is going on vacation after we are done here.

The other thing about MARY I will never forget—how kind and sweet and fun she is for her friends in the Senate—is the time when we had a bet on the Saints-Vikings game in the playoffs. We bet some food from our States. If anybody remembers that amazing playoff game, the Vikings lost, and I had to wear a Drew Brees jersey and walk over to MARY’s office with a pot of gumbo, which is really hard to make. When I got there, half of her New Orleans press was there, and when she tried that gumbo, she said, this is Minnesota gumbo. This gumbo just needs something special. She got out an enormous bottle of hot sauce from her desk drawer—as only a Louisiana Senator would have—and dumped it in my Minnesota gumbo. That is the spice that MARY has added to all of our lives.

What we have learned from her we will never forget. As I said, she is a role model for so many of us on how to fight for our States.

We see it in the eyes of those little adopted children and the great success we are starting to see on the coast because of all the recovery you brought to your State. We know you will never be forgotten and we want you to keep fighting.

Thank you, MARY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I can’t leave the floor without speaking to MARY. MARY has been such an incredible inspiration to me. I have been in the Senate now for 13 months, and I have had a number of conversations with her, but the best way to teach somebody is to show somebody.

Senator LANDRIEU is prodigiously persuasive, tirelessly tenacious, doggedly determined. Just to watch Senator LANDRIEU show what every American should hope for in a Senator—someone who is unyielding in their work and service to them.
If you look at the myriad of interests in the State of Louisiana, I was amazed by what I saw firsthand. MARY stood up and fought for the people who were loud and ornery but still had a good cause as well as the people who were voiceless and humble. MARY stood up for them and would risk substance for some kind of celebrity. Senator LANDRIEU has done things against her political interests, but that were for the people. That is why I have a great deal of reverence for you and why I travel down to your State.

Now the Senator knows this because I must have said it hundreds of times when I was down in Louisiana, that is my ancestral State. I will end by saying this: My grandaddy was born in Monroe. He was born poor. As my family likes to say, he was so poor he couldn’t afford to be poor, he was poor, P-O. He was born to a single mama. He was born Black at a time of immense segregation, when people who walked the hallways of power couldn’t give a damn about him. He taught me love for your State, and more importantly, the urgency to stand up and fight for those people that most folks won’t fight for.

I am telling you right now, my grandaddy died during my first big election, but if he knew you, he would be so proud of your service.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. I wish to echo all the comments people said today, but I have to be honest. When I was elected, I was scared of MARY. People said very politely, and I don’t know how essential you were when my State had its back against the wall and crushed by a superstorm. When there were battles to get my State’s funding, and MARY had no skin in that game, my senior Senator mentioned you as a champion for New Jersey and that is what blows me away about you.

I yearn for a government that has moral courage, more than we have now, people who will risk popularity for policy. That will risk substance for some kind of celebrity. Senator LANDRIEU has done things against her political interests, but that were for the people. That is why I have a great deal of reverence for you and why I travel down to your State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. I wish to make some remarks about the Senator from Louisiana. I had the pleasure of serving as a member on the Homeland Security Appropriations Committee, and MARY LANDRIEU was the chairman. I wasn’t sure about what to expect when I joined that committee. I knew of MARY’s passion and her persuasion, and I was given the task of working on the immigration issue. She reached out. I thought, she is going to convince me out of just about everything. I will not be able to hold my own with her, but she was so gracious in terms of working together with me as we worked through some very tough issues.

She was a knowledgeable and effective leader. She couldn’t ask enough questions, couldn’t gain enough information, making wise decisions, given the limitations that we had relative to appropriations and given the process that, unfortunately, was not the way the Appropriations Committee should go forward. Nevertheless, working together on that and on a whole number of issues turned out to be a very pleasant experience because of the nature of the leader of the committee and their willingness to work together.

You get to learn something about someone when you spend 3 days trekking along the southern border and learning firsthand the challenges this country faces relative to dealing with immigration. Her passion for children and her Service has been talked about. I think the word that best describes MARY is passion. She has passion for the engagement in anything that she engages
in and doing it in a way that is relentless and reaches results. I think it is a great tribute to her character and to the kind of person she is.

One thing we will not be able to do is meet together somewhere in Russia. I have heard from Russia, and MARY has been banned from Russia. I was banned because I took significant exception to the Russian takeover of Crimea and its activities in Ukraine. I was surprised by that. MARY was banned for an unnecessary reason, and that was really helpful. But I know that in my Russian children who were trying to find adoptive parents. Obviously she was successful, and obviously she was as relentless there as she was on all the other issues because Russia saw that as a threat. Here is someone reaching out for all the right reasons and doing something for all the right reasons—passion for children and finding them a home.

I wish MARY the very best going forward in her next chapter of life. I can testify to personal experience that there is life after Congress, and it can be a pleasant life. Knowing you, you will be engaged in something very significant—whether for your State or your country. Your life of service, and your service, is recognized. So I wish the Senator from Louisiana the very best as she goes forward. It has been a pleasure working with her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY, the Senator from Virginia).

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to follow the comments of my friend, the Senator from Indiana, although I do think the RECORD should be corrected. I would say to my colleague I know this is a day to pay tribute, so I wish to echo some of the comments about her enormous heart and commitment. Again, I heard the comments about her family. Her family was kind to me. I wish to add my words of admiration for this great person. For this great person, for this great legislator. Just to tell a brief story, it was back in 2006, in a lameduck session just like this. The Democrats had won and were about to take over the Senate. The Democrats had just won and were about to take over the House—a different passage in time. But through it all, even in the minority, MARY LANDRIEU was moving a bill to open up for small businesses and make them into big ones because it is less headache for them but less opportunity for small businesses. MARY LANDRIEU stopped that practice and put a spotlight on it. It was an incredible experience. In fact, I think that showed me that each of us can make a difference.

I know what I was trying to do. One of the issues I got involved with was raising the surety bond issues and I didn’t see much chance of getting it done and MARY gave me the opportunity to get it done. She coached me on how to get it done, and that is now a permanent law of the land. We have a great legacy to help small businesses in this country, thanks to the leadership of Senator LANDRIEU. The people of Louisiana are the very best as she goes forward. It has been a pleasure working with her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, one of the truly nice things about serving in the Senate is the people we meet. Myrna and I consider Frank and MARY to be our friends. She is an incredible person and has given incredible service. I am sorry the people of Louisiana could not see MARY in our caucuses as she fought on different issues for the people of Louisiana. She did as an advocate on behalf of people who otherwise would not have had their voices heard. She did it in a very effective way.

I heard some of the conversations about what happened with Katrina and the people of New Orleans. MARY LANDRIEU brought us down to Louisiana for us to see firsthand. It was incredible for me, not to just see the physical devastation, but to meet with MARY LANDRIEU, we saw the people, we saw the spirit in the people, but we saw people who needed help. It is that type of emotional involvement that MARY gives to every cause she believes in.

So I want the Senator from Louisiana to know that I deeply respect your model of public service and the people you stood up for.

Senators LANDRIEU spoke about the adoption issue. She got into it because she has such a big family. I think I got into it because of her. She is pretty persuasive. We all feel better because of that. Senator LANDRIEU is the one who really led us in those efforts. What an incredible legacy.

I want to speak a minute about small businesses. Senator LANDRIEU chaired that committee during a particularly important time. I want to relate a couple of stories to my colleagues. There are many times I was in the Democratic caucus and we would be talking about an issue and Senator LANDRIEU would stand and say, well, how about small businesses? Under her leadership we brought some major initiatives to the floor to help small businesses because of MARY LANDRIEU and her ability to put together a common sense approach. And small businesses are the growth engine of America. That is how jobs are created and that is where innovation takes place. I can tell my colleagues—I worked with her. I know what we got done. I know how we took on our own governmental agencies to make sure they did right for small businesses and how we fought the bundling. Contract bundling is an incredible experience. I think it showed me that each of us can make a difference. I knew what I was trying to do. One of the issues I got involved with was raising the surety bond issues and I didn’t see much chance of getting it done and MARY gave me the opportunity to get it done. She coached me on how to get it done, and that is now a permanent law of the land. We have a great legacy to help small businesses in this country, thanks to the leadership of Senator LANDRIEU. The people of Louisiana are the very best as she goes forward.

I wish MARY the very best going forward in her next chapter of life. I can testify to personal experience that there is life after Congress, and it can be a pleasant life. Knowing you, you will be engaged in something very significant—whether for your State or your country. Your life of service, and your service, is recognized. So I wish the Senator from Louisiana the very best as she goes forward. It has been a pleasure working with her.
Over in the House, because of all of her momentum, I lost and that bill passed. Again, tens of thousands of new jobs fell to Louisiana through MARY LANDRIEU.

It was about a week later when I was out fishing and here comes MARY right toward me with her daughter in her riding outfit.

MARY said: I want to introduce you to Congressman MARKEY.

I said to her later: Well, you have to add a few additional words because your mother just defeated me quite badly just last week and passed a big bill for Louisiana, for whom your mother always calls her people, the people of Louisiana.

There isn’t anybody who understands better the spirit of legislating, about protecting your home State and respecting those who are maybe not in agreement with you but are not your enemy, but somebody whom you try to work with.

After the BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico I was the lead Democrat in the House on the Natural Resources Committee legislation over there, and MARY again was outraged that such damage could be done to her fishermen, to her tourism industry, to her people in Louisiana. She worked hard to make sure billions of dollars would ultimately go back into the Gulf to ensure that her fishermen, her tourism industry, and her people were protected.

Then, after having served in the House for 37 years, I arrived in the Senate with a great concern that a bill I had been working on in Massachusetts, which was the dramatic rise in the insurance rates for homeowners and businesses right along the coastline of Massachusetts, and I had to introduce legislation not only to work on the issue, but when I arrived in the Senate, MARY LANDRIEU was already here, already working on that bill, all ready to protect her homeowners, her small business people from outrageous increases in insurance rates that would have basically made their homes unaffordable.

Throughout my career, all I can tell my colleagues is one constant is this great, legendary legislator, somebody who embodies all the best of what this institution stands for. I just want to let her know how proud I have been to be able to serve with her here and how proud I am to be able to tell a story of the time when she just beat me flat-out because that is just how she plays. She plays it for her State every time, and no waiting if it is Louisiana. I know all the people of Louisiana know that about her.

So congratulations on your great career.

I yield the floor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, as I start my comments on the land title legislation before us, I would be remiss if I didn’t discuss the incredible work our chair MARY LANDRIEU has done on this legislation. As we just heard from the tribute to her service over the last few minutes, as the Presiding Officer said in his comments, if you Google “bipartisan,” there will be a picture, I think, that will show this title sort of embodies that. We owe great gratitude to Chairman LANDRIEU and to Ranking Member MURkowski for the incredible negotiation and work they have put into this package.

We stand on the cusp of passing one of the most significant pieces of public land legislation since the omnibus bill of 2009. I stand here to speak on behalf of this well-balanced package which is absolutely critical for jobs across the West and particularly from the perspective of my home State of New Mexico.

I want to say that absolutely none of this would be possible were it not for the years of effort and support from the local community who helped to craft this legislation. Thanks to their work, New Mexico’s critical public land-based economic engine will continue to grow and the energy, tourism, and sporting and recreation sectors.

The expanded New Mexico’s Wheeler Peak Wilderness Service units will continue to make New Mexico an unmatched destination for world travelers as well as to the local families who have known for centuries that New Mexico truly is the land of enchantment.

I wish to start by talking a little bit about a place that is located in the Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico.

This is a picture of Lobo Peak, which is part of this area called Columbine Hondo. Lobo Peak is 12,000 feet and change. It is quite a spectacular view—the kind of view most people associate with Montana or Colorado or Wyoming. The Sangre de Cristo mountains in northern New Mexico are unmatched or could match any of those mountain ranges in States found farther north in the Rockies.

Columbine Hondo has been managed as a wilderness study area since 1980. It is an area that is cherished by all who know it and is a key attraction for the local tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

When I was a young outfitter guide and the executive director of the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, Columbine Hondo was one of the spectacular destinations where our students backpacked and slept under the stars and learned to navigate in the backcountry. This area has some of the best elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep habitat around. People come from across the Nation to experience a true wilderness elk hunt in its aspen and fir forests.

Fishermen will tell you that it is home to some of the last, best habitat for our native Rio Grande cutthroat trout, which is, coincidentally, New Mexico’s State fish as well.

Columbine Hondo is home to the headwaters of the Red River and the Rio Hondo. There is nothing more precious in a State such as New Mexico than our water. Those are major tributaries of the Rio Grande. The snowmelt from Lobo Peak, seen here, and from Gold Hill provide critical irrigation water for the local family associations that carry on centuries-old agricultural traditions.

For millennia now, these mountains, rivers, and wildlife have supported New Mexico’s traditional communities. The first evidence of human habitation here stretches back 11,000 years. Nearby Taos Pueblo has been continuously inhabited for more than 1,000 years. Spanish settlers first came to the area in the 16th century. Hispanic families have relied on these mountains and their bounty for ways of life ever since.

Today Columbine Hondo is a central attraction to visitors to Taos County, where outdoor recreation and tourism drive the local economy and contribute to a 68,000-job-strong public land recreation industry in our State.

In addition to finally designating Columbine Hondo as a full-fledged wilderness area, this package would also expand the Wheeler Peak Wilderness by approximately 650 additional acres while modifying a boundary in order to create a loop trail accessible by mountain bikes along the Lost Lake Trail from Taos Ski Valley, to the East Fork Trail, to Red River.

This proposal has broad community support, including Taos Pueblo, many local government leaders, hunters, fishermen, business owners, land grant heirs, ranchers, acequia parciantes, conservationists, mountain bikers, veterans, and literally the list could go on and on.

In October, on my birthday—I could not have asked for a better birthday gift—I was able to join the Columbine Hondo Wilderness Coalition as well as regional stakeholders and local elected officials for a hike into the area to highlight the conservation and water initiatives they support. Local residents discussed why they support permanently protecting Columbine Hondo and what the area means to them and their livelihoods and their lives.

Esther Garcia, an acequia commissioner and the former mayor of Questa, expressed her support well when she said:

Columbine Hondo is very important to all of us. To preserve this beautiful wilderness area, we preserve our hunting, our pinon picking, our herb gathering.

I thank all of the residents of Taos County who have worked hard for decades literally decades—to make this wilderness area a reality.

Also included in this public land package is a provision to transition the
Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico to new management to increase public access. This proposal was developed after extensive input from local residents, sportsmen, business owners, elected officials, and is supported by a number of local councils of commerce. Together they decided that a national preserve, managed by the Park Service, with a mandate for hunting and fishing to remain central to the management of the area, was the best way to ensure expanded public access while preserving the incredible landscape for future generations.

As you can see from this photo, Valles Caldera is often called New Mexico’s Yellowstone for a reason. It is literally an area that was created as a collapsed supervolcano, where cinder cones rise up out of the high-elevation grassland and where the cinder cones and the mountains that encircle this collapsed crater are covered in Douglas-fir and fir and aspen forests. It is a spectacular landscape. The Caldera is home to crystal-clear trout streams and some of the best elk habitat in the country.

Since this area was transitioned to public ownership, the preserve has been managed by trustees, with generating enough revenue from user fees and other sources to make the preserve financially self-sustaining—literally the same model used for the Presidio in San Francisco, but, as you can see from San Francisco, that management regime has led to drastically limited public access, with relatively high entrance and permit fees, blocking many New Mexicans and other Americans out of this public land. By shifting to Park Service management, we can open the Valles Caldera to the public while conserving the incredible, really one-of-a-kind unique resources that are found here.

As someone who has been lucky enough to be an elk tag holder, the Valles Caldera, expanding hunting opportunities for the public is one of the primary reasons I am supporting this proposal. The preserve model ensures that hunting and fishing remain a central activity for the public to enjoy. National Park Service management will help balance expanded public access with conserving both the natural and the incredible cultural resources that are found in this area.

Part of a little management will also help bring more visitors and will raise the national profile of the preserve for visitors from outside New Mexico. The increase in visitors at the preserve is expected to bring more than 200 jobs and $35 million in wages to the local communities in the region. That is great news for places such as Los Alamos, Española, and Jemez Springs.

We have seen elsewhere how protecting public lands spurs economic development. According to Headwaters Economics, counties with protected Federal lands such as national parks and preserves saw a 345-percent increase in jobs over the last four decades, whereas rural counties without commensurate protected public lands saw job increases of only 83 percent in the same period.

I thank the local communities and all the elected officials who have worked with local residents to make this proposal possible. I thank Senator TOM UDALL and former Senator Jeff Bingaman for their leadership on this issue.

We all literally stand on the shoulders giants in this community effort, as it was Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico who helped pass the Wilderness Act and who first proposed National Park Service management of the Valles Caldera in the early 1960s. Additionally, as the son of a Navy sailor who literally saw the last of the aboveground atom bomb explosions and the first of the hydrogen bomb explosions firsthand, I am especially pleased to see that the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act, which was introduced by my colleague Montaner CANTWELL, is also included in this title. It will establish three different educational sites—one in Los Alamos, NM, one at Oak Ridge in Tennessee, and one at Hanford in Washington. Los Alamos, Hanford, and Oak Ridge are告诉我们 to our Nation’s nuclear history. These parks will conserve historic sites and artifacts that played a key role in the dawn of the nuclear era, while telling the story of the creation of the world’s first atomic bomb and exploring its consequence for our society and our world.

Finally, I would like to mention the provision in this package that will benefit New Mexico’s energy economy. It is one that I know Senator LANDRIEU was very supportive and excited about. It is a bill that I cosponsored, but it was authored by my colleague Senator TOM UDALL, who championed this effort to ensure that the Bureau of Land Management has the staff it needs to streamline the oil and gas drilling permit process, while at the same time strengthening the review system that helps them meet important environmental and safety standards.

Thousands of jobs and a sizable portion of our State’s economy are supported in New Mexico by the oil and gas industry. Increasing cooperation among Federal agencies and business is an important way to boost job creation, while at the same time expanding domestic production.

Like other Americans who value our shared lands as assets to be utilized, to be enjoyed, and to be passed along to future generations, these are all things worth fighting for. I am committed to carrying on my State’s rich conservation heritage, and this legislation makes an enormous contribution to that ever-evolving story.

I yield the floor to my colleague the Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I thank the Senator from New Mexico for his comments on the land portion of the national defense authorization. I very much appreciate the work he has done and his hard work fighting for the people of New Mexico since his time in the Senate.

We thank you very much for your leadership, Senator HINCHY.

Mr. President, 1 million people live in our great State and we are home to farmers, ranchers, working families, small business owners, and to bold sports men and women who explore until they are too exhausted to take another step.

Our lands are famous worldwide, from Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park to wild and scenic rivers such as the North Fork of the Flathead River. We attract the best explorers, the best hunters and anglers, and all those who simply want to get away from it all.

But our outdoors just aren’t for out-of-staters. Montanans deeply value our land. Many Montanans remember their first hunting trip. Many recall where they landed their first trout. I remember fishing with my father in the Bear Paw Mountains.

Montanans come with a lot of opinions, but one issue that unites us is taking care of our public lands and keeping our public lands in public hands. That is why I am proud to support the Montana lands bills that will probably be voted on tomorrow.

These bills are a product of years of negotiations. Ranchers and conservationists started working on the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act before I became Senator. These bills are a product of compromise led by folks on the ground—the folks who live and breathe Montana’s outdoors every day—and these bills are a product of Montana’s congressional delegation working together to move Montana forward.

We all know Congress fails to agree on much these days. Gridlock and roadblocks are common. Few people are willing to compromise, but when you give a little, you get a lot. That is how Montana’s lands bills became a part of this legislation.

These bills have been vetted on the ground by Montana ranchers such as Dusty Crary, Karl Rappold, and many others. They have been approved by concerned and negotiated for many years. They not only deliver on our promises to Montana’s ranchers but also to the outdoors men and women, business owners, and Native American tribes. They are Montana-made bills.

Take the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act for example. This bill protects public access along the Rocky Mountain Front for hunters, anglers,
outdoors men and women. The Front is a special place in Montana lore. It is where the Rocky Mountains shoot straight out from the plains into the sky. It is a breathtaking, magnificent sight.

It is an ecosystem like none other in the lower 48 States. The heritage act designates 208,000 Front acres as a conservation management area, adds another 67,000 acres to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and supports a noxious weed management plan.

At more than 1 million acres, it allows for continued grazing access for Montana ranchers, follows BLM recommendations on approximately 14,000 acres of wilderness study areas, and requires new assessments of oil and gas potential in two others.

Some will question the details of this bill and others in the package, but Montanans know how to responsibly manage our lands. We know what irresponsible development looks like.

Montana had a 30 years ago mining corporations pillaged our lands in their search for copper, silver, and other minerals. Not only did they turn our mountains inside out and pollute our waters, they ignored workers' rights and demanded influence over Montana's elected leaders.

In response, Montana passed legislation to limit corporate influence in the 1912. We followed that in the 1970s with one of the most progressive labor laws in the nation, and in the 1970s to limit corporate influence over our communities. That is why this bipartisan bill is supported by the local chamber of commerce and by the mayor of nearby Great Falls.

A fellow by the name of Max Baucus got his first taste of politics during that Constitutional Convention, the same Max Baucus who worked on and introduced the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act in 2011. Passing this land bill helps fulfill Max's legacy in Montana and honors the hard work of his staff and the bill's many supporters.

Before I introduced this bill, he received a letter from a rancher along the Front. Ben Pierce was his name. Ben told Max he wanted to see the Front remain a place with both well-managed working ranches and vibrant wildlife values.

Ben supported the bill because he knew that preserving the ranching culture was critical to Montana's economy and our way of life, but he also supported the bill because he knows we must preserve Montana's most special places.

That is because Montana's outdoor treasures are not only symbols of our heritage, they are also incredible economic drivers. Montana's outdoor economy, thanks to places such as Glacier National Park, creates 5,000 jobs and contributes nearly $6 billion to the State's economy every year. That is impressive in a State of just 1 million people.

From outdoor stores to park cafes, Montana's economy thrives when Montana's outdoors are preserved and accessible. Preservation and access are also the cornerstones of the North Fork Protection Act, another legacy of Senator Baucus. The bill permanently protects the American side of the North Fork of the Flathead River watershed by barring future mining or drilling.

Our Front is adjacent to Glacier National Park. It is bordered by snow-capped mountains, ringed by awe-inspiring valleys, and bisected by beautiful blue-green waters that are home to some of the Nation's best white-water rafting.

As Senator Gene wrote a book about the Rocky Mountain Front. In it he quoted another Montanan who said: "Some places on Earth should be left alone, even if solid gold lies beneath it them."

I couldn't agree more. Montana is home to sky-touching mountains and beautiful plains that roll on as far as the eye can see. It is home to many hard-working men and women and to Native Americans with deep connections to the land.

But it is the last best place because we are all of these things and because we are willing to work together to preserve and strengthen them.

I am very proud of this historic agreement, and today I am particularly proud to be a Montanan.

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.

Ms. HEITKAMP. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I was struck by the last two great speakers, Senator HEINRICH and Senator TESTER, showing us amazing pictures of the beauty of the Western part of our wonderful country. I thought, well, those are really beautiful pictures—not quite as beautiful as North Dakota, but we will acknowledge that these are areas that will open your soul, open your eyes, and make it possible for you to see the beauty that is this great country and the resilience of the people who settled in the areas of the West.

It made me think—and I think, more importantly, understand—that all of what we are in this country is possible because men and women, for centuries, have stepped up to serve our country and to serve our country in the Armed Forces.

I rise to talk about an issue that hasn't gotten as special attention in this country, this quiet thing that is going on in the VFW halls, the AMVETS, the DAVs, and the American Legion halls in my State.

I am talking about not only that kind of sacrifice but recognizing and Montanans' sacrifices this year. So I want to talk about North Dakotans because we are all extraordinarily proud of our States, but we
know in North Dakota that North Dakotans have always answered the call to serve, in particular, my friends within the Native American community, who have answered that call to service in record numbers. I have spent hours talking to Vietnam veterans—those brave servicemen who gave their lives—and their families. It is to honor all the veterans’ service, but particularly to recognize the families of those people in your State who lost their loved ones in service to their country.

For myself, I plan to host an event to honor all Vietnam veterans throughout North Dakota. Through this effort I hope to help make our Nation remember and never forget the needs of our Vietnam veterans. The Congress needs to make policy decisions so the VA can meet the needs of the next generation of veterans, but we can’t forget the unique needs of our Vietnam era veterans.

I have spent hours talking to Vietnam veterans—who tell me repeatedly: When I got out of the service, the last thing I thought about was going to the VA. And there are a lots of reasons for that. In the 1970s, the VA wasn’t a place people thought they could go for quality health care, where they thought they could go for help. They wanted to forget that part of their service. So a lot of those unseen wounds of servicemen from the Vietnam war went unhealed, and it manifests itself in a high rate of homelessness, a high rate of poverty, a high rate of substance abuse, and a high rate of despair.

We are seeing now that our Vietnam veterans—in both those who have lived incredibly fruitful lives and are now aging into the system—coming back to our VAs across the country, coming back to our community-based outreach clinics, coming back to our VA hospitals, and for the first time asking for access to service. They are finding they do not always see the level of service they are entitled to. I recently worked to restore and provide the appropriate paperwork so a Vietnam veteran who had clearly earned a Purple Heart actually received the benefits of a recipient of the Purple Heart in the VA. All of these issues will now begin to work their way through the VA. They will continue to work their way through our veterans service organizations.

I think it’s time to take a pause, as the President did in this proclamation. And to understand the basis of this, it was required by a bill similar to the one we are debating today—NDAA—to begin this commemoration. It was a mandate from this Congress—not this particular Congress, but from the U.S. Congress—to begin to have this ceremony.

I was struck by the fact that when our veterans have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, most of us have pictures in our offices. We have a poster or some kind of commemoration in our office of that sacrifice. Yet we have never seen that kind of commemoration or that kind of depiction for our Vietnam veterans. So along with the AMVETS in the great city of Bismarck, which has done tons of research in collecting pictures and collecting images of the 198 veterans, the 198 servicemen from North Dakota who lost their lives in Vietnam, I thought it an appropriate commemoration for the office to have something that we walk by every day and, therefore, say to the families of all these young men who are on this poster that every day we honor their sacrifice, we honor your loved ones, and we honor the fact that we will never know what these 198 young men could have been had they survived this war. We don’t know if they could have been standing here giving a speech instead of me. We don’t know if they would have been mayors of our small towns or the industrial leaders who invented a product as lucrative and as innovative as the Bobcat, which originated in North Dakota. It was invented in North Dakota and it is manufactured in North Dakota. We will never know.

But one thing we do know—the one thing we do know—about all of these men is they lost their lives and sacrificed to the greatest extent that one can sacrifice in honor and service of this country, and they deserve to have this period of remembrance. They deserve to have a recognition, and their families deserve to have the United States of America pause—pause for a period of time to say thank you from a grateful nation.

So posters like this will be in every one of my offices across North Dakota and certainly here in the Nation’s Capitol. I know for States such as that of the Presiding Officer’s State of Massachusetts, just looking at the numbers, it is probably not possible to have a photographic image of every Vietnam veteran or every person who served in Vietnam and who, unfortunately, lost their lives, but it is possible to have this period. It is possible to have a place of remembrance where they can be honored during this time period mandated by this body and approved
and proclaimed by the President of the United States. It is possible to have a place of honor and remembrance.

So I intend, over the next year, to come and talk a little bit about the lives of each one of these young men, to talk about the challenges of Vietnam veterans, to talk about what it is we need to do today to make up for past sins of this country in not recognizing this service. I challenge the other Members of this body to do the same thing during this period of remembrance. I would like to see the country and the world to think about not just the past but to think about the future; think about the amazing sacrifice of 198 North Dakotans who gave their lives in service to our State and in service to our country and for the betterment of all humankind.

With that, Mr. President, the challenge is issued. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 560, S. 1535.

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

The bill clerk reads as follows:

A bill (S. 1535) to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been referred from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1535

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act’’.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.
(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) International terrorism is a serious and deadly threat to the United States. United States citizens as well as foreign visitors to the United States.

(b) P URPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide legal framework for how such liability should function in the context of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5291 et seq.).

The decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in C手工lch, 705 F.2d 472 (D.C. Cir. 1983), which has been widely recognized as the leading case regarding Federal civil aiding and abetting and conspiracy liability, including by the Supreme Court of the United States, provides the proper legal framework for such liability.

(2) The Constitution confers upon Congress the power to provide for the punishment of new crimes.

(3) International terrorism is a serious and deadly threat to the United States. United States citizens as well as foreign visitors to the United States.

(4) Some terrorist organizations, acting through affiliated groups or individuals, raise significant funds outside of the United States for conduct directed and targeted at the United States.

(5) It is necessary to recognize the substantive causes of action for aiding and abetting and conspiring to violate the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5291 et seq.).

(6) The decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in C手工lch, 705 F.2d 472 (D.C. Cir. 1983), which has been widely recognized as the leading case regarding Federal civil aiding and abetting and conspiracy liability, including by the Supreme Court of the United States, provides the proper legal framework for such liability.

(7) The United Nations Security Council declared in Resolution 1373, adopted on September 28, 2001, that all countries have an affirmative obligation to ‘‘[r]efrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts,’’ and to ‘‘[e]nsure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice’’.

(8) Consistent with these declarations, no country should provide any form of support to, or knowledge or means to persons engaged in, the financing or sponsorship of terrorism, whether directly or indirectly.

(9) Persons, entities, or countries that knowingly or recklessly provide material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to persons or organizations that pose a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism that threaten the security of a foreign state or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States, necessarily direct their conduct at the United States, and should reasonably anticipate that the courts in the United States to answer for such activities.

(10) The United States has a vital interest in providing persons and entities injured as a result of terrorist acts committed within the United States with full access to the court system in order to pursue civil claims against persons, entities, or countries that have knowingly or recklessly provided material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to the persons or organizations responsible for their injuries.

(11) The United States has a vital interest in providing persons and entities injured as a result of terrorist acts committed within the United States with full access to the court system in order to pursue civil claims against persons, entities, or countries that have knowingly or recklessly provided material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to the persons or organizations responsible for their injuries.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide legal framework for how such liability should function in the context of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5291 et seq.).

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

(1) International terrorism affects the international community, and limiting international travel by United States citizens as well as foreign visitors to the United States.

(2) The Constitution confers upon Congress the power to provide for the punishment of new crimes.

(3) International terrorism is a serious and deadly threat to the United States. United States citizens as well as foreign visitors to the United States.

(4) Some terrorist organizations, acting through affiliated groups or individuals, raise significant funds outside of the United States for conduct directed and targeted at the United States.

(5) It is necessary to recognize the substantive causes of action for aiding and abetting and conspiring to violate the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5291 et seq.).

(6) The decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in C手工lch, 705 F.2d 472 (D.C. Cir. 1983), which has been widely recognized as the leading case regarding Federal civil aiding and abetting and conspiracy liability, including by the Supreme Court of the United States, provides the proper legal framework for such liability.

(7) The United Nations Security Council declared in Resolution 1373, adopted on September 28, 2001, that all countries have an affirmative obligation to ‘‘[r]efrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts,’’ and to ‘‘[e]nsure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice’’.

(8) Consistent with these declarations, no country should provide any form of support to, or knowledge or means to persons engaged in, the financing or sponsorship of terrorism, whether directly or indirectly.

(9) Persons, entities, or countries that knowingly or recklessly provide material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to persons or organizations that pose a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism that threaten the security of a foreign state or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States, necessarily direct their conduct at the United States, and should reasonably anticipate that the courts in the United States to answer for such activities.

(10) The United States has a vital interest in providing persons and entities injured as a result of terrorist acts committed within the United States with full access to the court system in order to pursue civil claims against persons, entities, or countries that have knowingly or recklessly provided material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to the persons or organizations responsible for their injuries.

(11) The United States has a vital interest in providing persons and entities injured as a result of terrorist acts committed within the United States with full access to the court system in order to pursue civil claims against persons, entities, or countries that have knowingly or recklessly provided material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to the persons or organizations responsible for their injuries.

SEC. 4. AIDING AND ABETTING LIABILITY FOR CIVIL ACTIONS REGARDING TERRORIST ACTS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2332 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

(1) the terms ‘‘aircraft sabotage’’, ‘‘extrajudicial killing’’, ‘‘hostage taking’’, and ‘‘material support or resources’’ have the meanings given those terms in section 1605A(h); and

(2) the term ‘‘terrorism and domestic terrorism’’, as those terms are defined in section 2331 of title 18.

(c) NON-APPLICABILITY OF LAW OF PRECLUSION.—Any civil action or claim that seeks recovery under this Act that was the basis of a civil action or claim previously dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction for failure to meet the requirements for an exception under section 1605A(a) or title 28 is not subject to dismissal under the law of preclusion.

(b) EFFECT ON FOREIGN SOVEREIGN IMMUNITIES ACT.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section affects immunity of a foreign state, as that term is defined in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code, from jurisdiction under other laws.

SEC. 5. PERSONAL JURISDICTION FOR CIVIL ACTIONS REGARDING TERRORIST ACTS.
Section 2334 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

(1) personal jurisdiction over the United States or any agency of the United States acting under color of legal authority.

(b) EFFECT ON FOREIGN SOVEREIGN IMMUNITIES ACT.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section affects immunity of a foreign state, as that term is defined in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code, from jurisdiction under other laws.

SEC. 6. LIABILITY FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN CIVIL ACTIONS REGARDING TERRORIST ACTS.
Section 2337 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

‘‘$2337. Suits against Government officials

‘‘No action may be maintained under section 2333 against—

(1) the United States;

(2) an agency of the United States; or

(3) an officer or employee of the United States or any agency of the United States acting under color of legal authority.”.

SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.
If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of any provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder
of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions and amendments to any other person not similarly situated or to other circumstances, shall not be affect

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.
The amendments made by this Act shall apply to any civil action—

(1) pending on, or commenced on or after, the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) arising out of an injury to a person, property, or business on or after September 11, 2001.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be considered; that a Schum

amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the committee substitute, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, 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?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4096) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) International terrorism is a serious and deadly problem that threatens the vital interests of the United States.

(2) The Constitution confers upon Congress the power to punish crimes against the law of nations and therefore Congress may by law impose penalties on those who provide material support to foreign organizations engaged in terrorist activity, and allow for victims of international terrorism to recover damages from those who have harmed them.

(3) International terrorism affects the interstate and foreign commerce of the United States by harming international trade, affecting stability, and limiting international travel by United States citizens as well as foreign visitors to the United States.

(4) Some foreign terrorist organizations, acting through affiliated groups or individuals, raise significant funds outside of the United States for conduct directed and targeted at the United States.

(5) It is necessary to recognize the substantive causes of action for aiding and abetting and conspiracy liability under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5201 et seq.), and the leading case regarding Federal civil aiding and abetting and conspiracy liability, including by the Supreme Court of the United States, provides the proper legal framework for what such liability should function in the context of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5201 et seq.).

(6) The United Nations Security Council declared in Resolution 1373, adopted on September 28, 2001, that all countries have an affirmative obligation to “[f]rain from providing support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts,” and to “[e]nsure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation, or commission of, or facilitates, terrorist acts abroad in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice”.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide civil litigants with the broadest possible basis, consistent with the Constitution and the United States relief against persons, entities, and foreign countries, wherever acting and wherever they may be situated, for material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to foreign organizations or persons that engage in terrorist activities against the United States.

SEC. 3. FOREIGN SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.

Section 1605A(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) The decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in Halberstam v. Welch, 705 F.2d 472 (D.C. Cir. 1983), is hereby overturned as to any civil action—

(A) any claim based upon the exercise or performance of, or the failure to exercise or perform, a discretionary function, regardless of whether the discretion is abused; or

(B) any claim arising out of malicious prosecution, abuse of process, libel, slander, misrepresentation, deceit, interference with contract rights, or any claim for emotional distress or derivative injury suffered as a result of an act which was an assault or battery in another country not similarly situated or to other circumstances, shall not be affected by the holding.

SEC. 5. PERSONAL JURISDICTION FOR CIVIL ACTIONS REGARDING TERRORIST ACTS.

Section 2334 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“2337. Suits against Government officials

“No action may be maintained under section 2334 against—

(1) the United States;

(2) an agency of the United States; or

(3) an officer or employee of the United States, or any agency of the United States, acting within the official capacity of the officer or employee under color of legal authority.”

SEC. 6. LIABILITY FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The amendment made by this Act shall apply to any civil action—

(1) pending on, or commenced on or after, the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) arising out of an injury to a person, property, or business on or after September 11, 2001.

The committee-reported amend in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1355), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise today on a very important bipartisan bill that has just been approved by this body unanimously, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA.

I thank my cosponsor and partner in this and many other issues, I am happy to say, Senator CORNYN, the Senator from Texas; and I thank Chairman LEAHY, our chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Under his leadership, it has twice been passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I feel so strongly about this bill because it would allow the victims of 9/11 to pursue some small measure of justice by giving them a legal avenue to hold foreign sponsors of terrorism accountable for their actions. This bill, quite simply, does right by the 9/11 victims.

We New Yorkers can never forget the terrible day 13 years ago when terrorists attacked our city and murdered more than 2,700 of our friends, neighbors, and relatives. We were shocked and our hearts were broken. The whole Nation mourned with us.

But I am proud to say that New Yorkers—Americans—came back stronger after the horrible attacks. I am also proud to say that Congress and Presidents Bush and Obama have been there to help New York heal, but never forget.

Preceding the first days after 9/11, it has always been the families of those we lost who have been at the vanguard of advocacy. The families have accomplished so much along the way in terms of remembrance, and justice and change in national security policies. I so salute them, not only those who worked with me on this legislation but all the families who have worked on so many bills.

When something so evil and so terrible befalls you—when you lose a loved one to an evil act of evil, such as was committed on 9/11/2001—the natural reaction is to curse the dark, to say: Why me? Why was this so unjust? But right now these families are being denied the ability to hold accountable foreign sponsors of terrorism because of a major loophole in our legal system.

The courts in New York have dismissed the 9/11 victims’ claims against certain entities alleged to have helped fund the 9/11 attacks. The courts are following what I believe is a nonsensical reading of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. But for the sake of these families, I want to make clear, without a shadow of a doubt, that actions by foreign states will be held accountable if they are found to be sponsors of heinous acts such as 9/11.

Our bipartisan legislation that Senator CORNYN and I have so proudly to support closes loopholes and amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act to allow victims and their families to sue foreign states and financial partners of terrorism.

Terrorists need an unfathomable amount of hate in them—but they also need a great deal of money and material support—to carry out attacks such as what occurred on 9/11. And, unfortunately, some countries provide that lifeblood with no legal repercussions.

For countries to aid the evil of terrorism and walk away scot-free while families suffer silently every day with the loss of loved ones is wrong, it is unfair, and it is unjust. It adds insult to an unimaginable injury to these families.

JASTA, our bill, hopefully to become law soon, will finally help the victims of 9/11 pursue justice by allowing them to sue countries that fund terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda. The Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act has been amended, and amended again, in its relatively short life, in order to continue to strike the proper balance between our interests abroad and the rights of our citizens to obtain redress when they are a victim of wrongdoing, no matter who the perpetrator is.

Specifically, our bill brings the Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act closer to that balance by ensuring that victims of terror inside the United States receive the same protections of victims outside the United States; that liability clearly exists for aiders and abettors of terrorism; and that foreign states that commit terrorist acts can be held accountable under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Cognizant of that ideal balance I just mentioned, we have extended legal protections for victims and expanded liability in a very focused way.

In response to concerns from the business community as well as Members of Congress, we have made substantial changes to the bill so that those who are liable under the changes to the Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act are only the really bad actors.

We have worked hard so this bipartisan bill enhances the original aim of the Foreign Service Immunity Act: to create a uniform and predictable means for protecting the immunity of sovereign states with limited exceptions that are consistent with our own national, as well as international, norms.

JASTA is a long overdue fix—a responsible fix—to a law that has extended too large a shield to foreign actors who finance and enable terrorism on a massive scale. The victims of 9/11 and other terrorist attacks have suffered such pain—physical pain and heartache—but they will not be denied justice.

The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act will take measured steps toward making sure these bad actors are held accountable and that victims can pursue justice where justice is to be had. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see that it becomes law.

I know Senator CORNYN will want to say a few words, but first I wish to enter into a colloquy with my friend from Texas because it is important to underscore one point: The purpose of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act is to hold foreign sponsors of terrorism that target the United States accountable in Federal courts.

One thing that has come up in our discussions of this bill is whether the bill’s provisions would extend civil liability under the Anti-Terrorism Act to situations where someone has been forced to make payments or provide aid to a foreign terrorist organization under genuine duress or, for example, as ransom payments for the release of someone taken hostage. This type of conduct is outside the scope of traditional aiding and abetting liability, and our bill does not seek to change that.

I recognize Senator CORNYN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I thank the senior Senator from New York, my friend, Senator SCHUMER, for working on this bipartisan legislation. It is a good example of the kinds of things we can do working together. Even though he and I come from different parts of the country and different political parties, he has been a good partner on a number of things we have worked together on, and I am hoping we are setting in place some good habits that will continue on in the next Congress.

I am hoping we are setting in place some good habits that will continue on in the next Congress.
I agree with Senator SCHUMER that JASTA is a good example of the kind of good work we can do together to solve problems facing our Nation. This bill passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee without opposition because of the careful work we were able to do to ensure the bill accomplished its goals while addressing concerns about unintended consequences.

So I appreciate our work together and look forward to continuing both for the duration of the 113th Congress and the 114th Congress.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank Senator CORNYN for his good work.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SCHATZ. 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. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent to strike the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

DODD-FRANK

Mr. SCHATZ. The House is now considering the funding bill for fiscal year 2015, and the risks of not passing it are extremely high. But tucked into this must-pass bill is yet another attempt by Republicans in the House of Representatives to gut Dodd-Frank. What is really scary about this is that this is just the beginning. We can expect much more of this in the 114th Congress.

Dodd-Frank was designed to reduce the systemic risks that large banks posed to our financial system. It was meant to prevent another taxpayer bailout of these massive institutions that were and continue to be too big to fail. By chipping away at Dodd-Frank we are once again letting special interests prevail over the safety of the financial system and protection for consumers.

There were many roots of the financial crisis, but economists agree that the unregulated and pervasive trading of derivatives was a major contributing factor. We permitted financial institutions to gamble and regulators looked the other way. When these financial institutions made bad bets and nearly took down the financial system, we had to bail them out on the taxpayers’ dime. Working families losing their homes leveraged FDIC-insured deposits and their access to the Federal Reserve for speculative trade. In part, Dodd-Frank accomplished this through the swap push-out rule. The swap push-out rule, which is section 716 of Dodd-Frank, makes federally insured institutions move their swap trades into a separate uninsured entity that does not have access to the Federal Reserve discount window or any other fed assistance. These trades are incredibly complex and risky, and there is no public policy justification for the government to effectively subsidize them.

Before we even passed section 716, the biggest financial institutions were able to water it down. They wanted exemptions for swaps for “hedging purposes” which could be interpreted to mean a wide range of activity. But that was not enough. Now they want to do away with section 716 by making the exemptions so broad that the rule becomes meaningless.

Let’s be very clear. This change primarily benefits the five biggest financial firms in the country. They account for well over 90 percent of swap transactions. These activities net them over $1 billion in profits. Before the crisis, swaps brought in over $7 billion. One of these firms actually wrote the language in the House bill. These financial institutions know what they are doing, and they are doing it fine. They know that when something as important as funding of the government is on the line, they can convince Republicans to slip their priorities into the bill at the last hour. But again, this is just the beginning. Make no mistake about it. This portends much worse things when it comes to the Republicans taking over the majority in the Senate and the 114th Congress.

This is a big problem because we have been down this path before. We know where it leads. We let risk build in our financial system before, and the fallout was disastrous for our economy and the well-being of working families. It is on us to hold back against special interests. We have a responsibility to protect the public from this attempt to roll back Dodd-Frank. We cannot take our eye off the ball. We have to continue to guard against systemic risks in our financial system, and we have to put a stop to the practice of holding the government hostage over the pet issues of special interest groups.

The House is in a recess subject to the trigger at the Bank of New York Mellon. One example is to round up votes for the omnibus spending bill which contains this provision. But they have another option. They can strip this provision. If they find that they don’t have sufficient votes, they don’t have to pass a 3-month continuing resolution. They can simply remove this provision from the omnibus bill which was negotiated in good faith with both parties in both chambers. Remove this provision, and I have no doubt we will have a resounding victory in both Chambers. We should remove section 716, and pass the omnibus properly.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. I really appreciate the words of Senator SCHATZ, which are spot-on. People are so frustrated right now with Congress, and it does not help when you have people in power who, in the process of trying to figure out why common Americans of all backgrounds are frustrated with Congress. It is because people are frustrated with business as usual here in the Senate and the House. In this case, as Senator SCHATZ points to, here we are at the end of the 113th Congress facing a $1 trillion spending bill—a bill with funding that is critical to our national defense. It is critical to the health and well-being of Americans. It is critical to the strength of our country.

I know the sincerity and passion with which Senate and House negotiators have been working to get this done. They have been focusing on making sure the American public has those critical services that we need. I give a big shout-out to many of the leadership in this body for working on it. Senate leaders should get credit, also—BARBARA MIKULSKI for holding the line on so many critical priorities, for putting the $1 trillion dollar spending plan some very important items that should arouse the gratitude of many people. They also stood up against, fought, and prevented from getting into this some very extreme proposals. But to the people watching this unfold in New Jersey, in Hawaii, and across this country, what they are also seeing, unfortunately, is a bill passed with policies pushed by very connected special interests—special interests with armies of high-paid lobbyists looking out for their own protection. There are special interests with armies of high-paid lobbyists looking out for their own protective and looking to roll back commonsense protections for people who cannot hire those high-priced lobbyists or make donations to political candidates and elected officials.

This omnibus—this CRomnibus, as it is called—is a jagged, bitter pill for anyone to swallow.

I will start with the provision that Senator SCHATZ mentioned, the provision that is rolling back aspects of Dodd-Frank. Risky transactions involving asset-backed derivatives were at the heart of a 2008 fiscal crisis. Economists at the Federal Reserve and Bank of Dallas estimated that the financial crisis cost the United States between $6 and $14 trillion. This amounts to $50,000 to $120,000 for every U.S. household or the equivalent of 40 to 90 percent of 1 year’s economic output.

I don’t need economists to describe the pain that Americans felt. I saw it myself. I felt it as a mayor of a big city in America—Newark, NJ—New Jersey’s largest city. When the Nation goes through a recession, rural and urban areas, vulnerable populations, people living at the margins go through a cataclysmic depression. Many Americans,
even today, remain unemployed or underemployed and are still struggling to make ends meet because of the risky behaviors we saw within the financial industry.

Now, Dodd-Frank—this Wall Street protection provision, as passed to enhance consumer protection and improve guards against risky activities so we, as a country, do not go through this again. Dodd-Frank is not perfect. I am the first to admit there are ways to change it and improve it and implement it, frankly, that still have yet to be fully implemented.

Changes to financial regulations should be done through a much more transparent process and in the public eye. We should openly debate these issues on the floor of the House and the Senate. It should not be done like this was, behind closed doors and definitely through what they call a must-pass omnibus bill. This is wrong.

Here we are in the last moments on an omnibus bill with a provision which goes to the heart of protecting American taxpayers from the risky, reckless schemes that helped to launch the crisis in the first place.

This provision is literally called the Prohibition Against the Federal Government Bailouts of Swap Entities, which ensures taxpayer dollars will not be used for the more risky Wall Street speculation and gambling. It looks to make sure that Americans are on the hook for risky gambling, when few people seeking to make extraordinary gains.

I am outraged. I am frustrated that we are not on the floor debating this, and, instead, are having this put into a bill that everyone says must pass.

There are arguments on both sides that we should have business. If the provisions of Dodd-Frank come up, we should discuss them. The public should see it and know about it.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask my colleagues and the safety community, our economy from the failures of 2008 again. Dodd-Frank is not perfect. I am the first to admit there are ways to make it even better, but the American people deserve better. We should do better.

I object to so much being put in this body for a little over 12 months, and the way we are doing this is offensive. The American people deserve better. We should do better.

I think the Presiding Officer would agree with me that, the fellows provincially and no debate.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask my colleagues that join me in thanking my State Department foreign policy fellow, Kelly McKellogg Swain, for her exemplary service to the State Department foreign policy and to wish her well as she returns to the State Department as her fellowship in my office comes to an end.

I think the Presiding Officer would agree with me that, the fellows program we have here in this Senate is so valuable. We get people who are real experts in their areas from the State Department foreign policy that they will have an individual on their staff who will have a better working understanding as to
how the Senate operates so that the Senate and the State Department can work closer together on the foreign policy considerations of our country. That has certainly been my experience during this past year with Kelly.

Kelly is an incredibly valuable member of my staff, advising us on so many important issues that we have to deal with, and she has really stepped in to be a valuable member of my staff.

The uncertain working hours has placed a strain on her family, and I thank her very much for being willing to entertain these long hours. I wish to take this opportunity to thank her husband Brian and son Finley for sharing her with the Senate.

Kelly has been a key member of my foreign policy and national security team over the last year. Before she joined my office, she was the Deputy Director in the Office of Public Affairs in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

She brought her expertise in matters pertaining to East Asia and the Pacific, and her expertise and counsel has been critical to me. Over the last 2 years, I have chaired the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

This has been a particularly busy year, as President Obama has moved forward on his policy to rebalance Asia, and Asia is critically important to the United States for our security interests, our economic interests, and our environmental interests. Kelly has been an extremely important part of our team, working on the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee in carrying out that responsibility during this past year.

Kelly’s hard work enabled us to hold five subcommittee hearings ranging from “Economic Engagement in the Asia-Pacific,” to “Combating Force Labor and Modern Day Slavery in East Asia and the Pacific.” In addition to developing and executing my subcommittee agenda, she ensured that I was up-to-date on the latest regional developments and more than adequately prepared for office visits with foreign officials on my trips to the region. So she gave me the expertise I needed.

During this past year, we have had significant challenges in East Asia. We have had maritime security issues involving China and Vietnam. We have had the current crisis in Hong Kong. We have had North Korea and the problems it has created. We have had the relationship between two of our close allies that have been strained—Japan and the Republic of Korea. In each of these instances, Kelly gave me the type of help I needed so the Senate was properly exercising its functions on foreign policy.

Kelly’s outstanding work does not stop there. When my foreign policy adviser went on maternity leave this summer, Kelly stepped into that role. Within the first few weeks of her expanded role, Malaysian Air flight 17 was shot down in Ukraine, Israel and Hamas went to war, and militants for the Islamic State in Iraq and ISIL terrorist groups were expanding their siege over Iraq and Syria. All that happened when my staff person went on maternity leave, and Kelly stepped right in and took on the responsibilities and helped our office meet our responsibilities. This summer was a particularly busy and challenging time around the world, and Kelly rose to the occasion. This fall I had a chance to get to know Kelly even better when I went to the United Nations General Assembly in my capacity as the United Nations delegate. I represented the Senate along with Senator JOHNSON at the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Kelly not only accompanied me for the trip and prepared me for all of my high-level meetings, but she also became one of my closest trusted advisers as I told my colleagues just a little while ago, as I walked through the halls of the United Nations, my ego was a little bit affected because more people knew Kelly than knew me, but that was all right. She was incredibly important to me in carrying out my responsibilities in the U.S. delegation to the United Nations.

While Kelly came to the Senate with a background in East Asia and Pacific matters, she has demonstrated to me and to the Senate, too, that her foreign policy expertise extends to the entire region. My staff and I will miss Kelly’s calm demeanor, sense of humor, and extraordinary work ethic. She has been a tremendous asset not just to my office but to the Foreign Relations Committee and the entire Senate. I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Kelly for her long service to our Nation. We are fortunate to have such people devote their life to public service. It has been incredibly helpful to us in the Senate and I know she is going to go back to the State Department and continue to serve her country. I thank her.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assitant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the nomination of Ms. Colvin be recommitted to the Senate Committee on Finance.

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

NOMINATION OF CAROLYN COLVIN

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to take a few minutes to speak about the nomination of Carolyn Colvin to be Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

In recent weeks a number of disturbing facts have come to light about Ms. Colvin and her tenure as the Acting Social Security Commissioner. These revelations coupled with the fact that there is an ongoing investigation of the conduct of people in her immediate office, raise serious questions about whether she is qualified to serve in this position.

Let me make one thing clear. My doubts about Ms. Colvin’s nomination have nothing to do with partisanship. I, along with 20 of my colleagues on the Finance Committee, voted to report her nomination out of the committee in September. At that time I believed she had the necessary qualifications for the job and saw no reason to oppose her nomination. I have to say I liked her personally, but as I said, some time has come to light that are extremely disconcerting.

Just days before Ms. Colvin appeared before the Finance Committee, we became aware of allegations concerning potential waste and mismanagement at the SSA, as well as allegations regarding the possible coverup of that waste and mismanagement. Several sources, including the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and individual whistleblowers reported that SSA had, over a 6-year period, burned through $300 million in a failed attempt to develop and implement the Disability Claims Processing System.

These sources derived their information from a report issued in June by a private contractor commissioned by SSA. This report was subsequently provided to Congress by SSA whistleblowers.

According to the report, mismanagement and poor planning at the SSA stalled the development of the DCPS. This, in turn, resulted in the substantial waste of taxpayer dollars.

Once again, the amount was, I am informed, roughly $300 million. These allegations were just breaking when Ms. Colvin appeared before the Finance Committee, but I did mention them during the hearing.

I think, as we have learned more details about the failure surrounding the DCPS, the picture has only gotten even cloudier. At a minimum, these allegations call into question the quality of SSA’s overall management and the leadership skills of those managing the agency. It certainly calls into question their commitment to preventing waste and preserving SSA’s already scarce resources.

Sadly, it gets worse. On July 23, 2014, the Senate Committee on Finance sent a letter to Ms. Colvin that raised even more issues about the failures of SSA, partially under Ms. Colvin’s leadership as Acting Commissioner, including possible actions by agency officials designed to intentionally mislead Congress and the IG’s office about the deficiencies and the development of the DCPS. Indeed, the allegation is that Congress may have been intentionally misled so as to facilitate approval of Ms. Colvin’s nomination to be the next Social Security Administration Commissioner.

Subsequently, on November 18, 2014, a press release from the House Ways
and Means Subcommittee on Social Security indicated that the “results of a criminal investigation regarding the implementation of DCPS is still pending.”

In addition, whistleblowers have informed the Senate Finance Committee that the ongoing IG investigation has centered on high-level officials at the SSA, including members of Ms. Colvin’s immediate office, and that alleged criminal conduct may extend to irregularities in the award of contracts for that project. This is a serious problem. I do not know how the Senate can with good conscience vote to confirm anyone with this type of ongoing investigation going on around their immediate office. It may very well turn out that Ms. Colvin did nothing wrong, but we need to know for sure.

This is a very important position. That is why I, along with all of the Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee, sent a letter to Ms. Colvin asking for more details about the DCPS and her office’s conduct. She has since responded claiming that she is not responsible for any mismanagement of the DCPS project and that she committed no criminal conduct. As I said, that may very well be the case. I hope it is. But the specter of an ongoing investigation still hangs over her nomination; therefore, I do not believe the Senate should proceed toward confirming her until this matter is resolved. I want to be fair here: this is an important problem that needs to be resolved.

I want to make one thing clear: This is more about just mismanagement of funds or bureaucratic incompetence; this is about an ongoing investigation of people in Ms. Colvin’s direct office for contract issues and allegations that they purposefully misled Congress in order to move her nomination through.

Once again, this is not partisan. I supported Ms. Colvin’s nomination in committee and continue to believe she has the right credentials and experience for this important job. Of course, if these allegations prove to be true, my assessment of her qualifications will most certainly change.

Put simply, with this investigation—which may very well have a criminal element to it—still ongoing, I cannot support moving forward on Carolyn Colvin’s nomination. I hope this matter can be resolved quickly and cleanly, but until such time, I plan to vote against confirming her as the new Social Security Commissioner unless we resolve these matters beforehand.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Warner). 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.
process of trying to get their money back. That is certainly a problem and increasing the expense of providing health care. But the other aspect of that is often the hospital’s money is tied up for 2 years, held by CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—what is an urgent need to improve the Medicare RAC Program. I have requested from HHS a timeline and objectives, measurable objectives, to address the RAC problems and the appeals backlog that is in existence now.

Another concern in addition to the RAC audits is the Federal Government’s inflexible supervision rules. CMS passed a rule that was delayed but now ultimately put in place. It requires that all hospital routine health care settings that occur in a hospital—that includes things such as a drug infusion or blood infusions, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation—that they require supervision. That is just not an option in many small hospitals in rural settings. There is a lack of understanding and a lack of common sense as to what a small hospital in a small town faces when CMS puts this regulation in place. They make it difficult for those hospitals to continue to provide those necessary services.

Fortunately, we have had some success in addressing this issue. Congress passed legislation that prevents the Federal Government from enforcing that regulation through the near future. I have introduced original legislation to make that change, that regulatory prohibition, permanent. I will reintroduce that legislation in January in the new Congress as we try to capitalize upon the temporary success we have had for now buck this regulation from CMS to make it permanent so that when the temporary prohibition expires that we will have the opportunity to keep them from reintroducing that provision.

I will say that hospital administrators and employees, when I have a conversation with them, the discussion typically involves serious and strong opposition to a number of proposals that come from the Obama administration each year.

One of those is to change the number of miles that you must be apart from another hospital in order to qualify to be a critical access hospital. It is a program under Medicare and Medicaid Services that allows for a reimbursement that is more based upon cost than otherwise would be the case.

Also the administration has continued to propose a 1-percent reduction in the funding for those critical access hospitals.

Those are pretty much life-and-blood issues for community hospitals across Kansas and around the country. That critical access hospital designation in receiving that cost-based reimbursement means that a hospital with few patients, one that doesn’t have hundreds of patients each day, can still be reimbursed at a rate in which they can almost make ends meet, that they can almost break even, whereas the reimbursement that is there any profit or extra revenue generated from that so-called cost-based reimbursement.

Cutting reimbursements to the hospitals, removing the critical access designation, I have little doubt but that it would eliminate many, if not most, of those hospitals currently in that critical access hospital program. There would be no place else for them to go, no other category within Medicare that would allow them to survive. I believe the number now is 88 of Kansas’s 128 hospitals are those critical access hospitals.

The other topics of conversation that arise in those conversations in visiting with hospital administrators at a hospital—the physician, the nurses, the physical therapists, the CEO of the hospital, the trustees, the board of directors of the hospital—is the Affordable Care Act.

Again, we symbolically say we care a lot about rural health care providers, but the reality is the Affordable Care Act is creating significant problems, challenges, for the survival of hospitals, particularly the smallest hospitals in my State and across the country.

The Kansas Hospital Association projects that the Affordable Care Act will cost Kansas health care providers approximately $1.3 billion in Medicare funding over the next 10 years. These Affordable Care Act cuts include reductions to hospitals’ Medicare reimbursements and a payment called disproportionate share that the hospital receives in order to cover the high level of uninsured patients. These cuts are taking place on top of what Congress and the President agreed to under sequestration—a 2-percent across-the-board cut—that many, if not all, of our providers are now receiving. So what was supposed to be cost-based reimbursement, which nearly never covered the cost, is being reduced by another 2 percent as a result of sequestration. Again, this is something this Congress—and if not this Congress, the new Congress that begins in January—needs to deal with, the issue of sequestration.

For this and for other reasons sequestration is a significant problem. While I certainly support the reduced spending aspects—what the goal was of sequestration—the idea that we would do across-the-board cuts is irresponsible. We ought to be establishing the priorities—the things Congress, on behalf of the American people, thinks are the most important and beneficial to the citizens of the country that are allowed for under our Constitution. Those are the things we ought to be funding, as compared to taking a step back and just having automatic cuts because we don’t have the ability to decide in a responsible way what we can afford and what we cannot afford.

Further, I would say the Affordable Care Act forced States to adopt—the original bill as passed—an expansion of Medicaid. The U.S. Supreme Court, in its 2012 ruling, indicated that Medicaid expansion was optional, not mandatory under the Constitution. So that portion of the Affordable Care Act was determined to be unconstitutional.

States are now faced with the difficult decision that involves Medicaid and long-term costs associated with potential expansions, and hospitals face tremendous uncertainty about how they will care for an increased number of patients while they are already absorbing the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid cuts. So States are struggling to figure out what to do about expansion of Medicaid.

Hospitals are suffering from the consequence of not having additional Medicaid dollars. That is on top of the cuts that occur as a result of changes in Medicare. Really, in most hospitals across my State, two components are important: Medicaid and Medicare cover a significant portion of the number of patients that are admitted to a hospital, and in many instances there are not many private pay patients who have their own health insurance to add additional revenue to the hospital’s revenue stream.

This scenario of Medicare and Medicaid both creating problems, being squeezed from both programs, presents significant problems for rural hospitals. Again, those reimbursements—Medicare and Medicaid—make up about 60 percent of those hospitals’ revenues.

The Affordable Care Act also put hospitals in the difficult position of having to balance increased regulatory burden with reduced revenues. So in addition to the Medicare-Medicaid pressure, there is also the problem of increasing costs associated with more and more regulations emanating from the Department of Health and Human Services and other places across the Federal Government at the same time the reimbursement rates are declining. So increased cost, reduced revenue—again, a significant problem.

In 2011, the average Medicare payment margin for hospitals in Kansas was a negative—not enough to cover the cost—4.9 percent. These losses have to be offset somewhere, and that often results in a reduction in staffing. It sometimes means a reduction of services. The end result is a hospital that is not always able to meet the needs of their citizens—their patients.

In many instances it is the hospital that may be among the largest employers in a county or community in our State. In addition to reduced staffing, an inability to buy equipment, and reducing certain specialty programs offered at the hospital, we are also seeing
a significant depletion in their cash reserves and a freeze on capital expenditures. This circumstance is just not sustainable, and so we are seeing hospitals close.

Since about 1990, the number of rural hospitals across the country has remained stable at around 2,000, but last year 15 rural hospitals closed. We have to be concerned there are more to follow. This is an alarming trend. These hospitals play a vital role in health care in their communities. It can determine whether a community has a future—whether individuals and families will decide to live there. The loss of a hospital has huge ripple effects and it harms patients. Their primary purpose is to save lives and improve health care, but it is also a tremendous loss to the community itself.

I outlined problems that I believed would occur for hospitals with the passage of ObamaCare long before the law became law. I also would say it doesn’t mean that there aren’t significant improvements to be made to our health care delivery system, but I think the reality is that the Affordable Care Act causes more problems—significantly more problems—than those it solves.

Many Kansas hospitals struggle to meet the needs of the aging population in their States and the Affordable Care Act cuts are an exacerbation of their circumstance. Again, the Affordable Care Act promise of If you like your plan, you can keep it. If you like your health insurance plan, you can keep it. If you like your physician, you can keep him or her. That didn’t turn out to be true.

In fact, if you liked your policy, you were probably not able to keep it, and that something else now—that replacement policy—often involves increased copayments and deductibles. That certainly is a problem for the policyholder and likely it is a problem for the business and their employees. But we may have forgotten it is a huge problem for the health care provider.

Almost every hospital I have visited, now that the Affordable Care Act is being implemented, will tell me about the increasing amount of unpaid hospital bills—the amount of money that is owed that is attempting to be recovered. The reason that occurs is because the copayments and deductibles are so significantly higher than patients don’t have the ability to pay a $5,000 copayment or even a $1,000 copayment. So the hospital’s bad debt is increasing because patients don’t have the necessary amount of money to pay for their portion of what their health care insurance policy now requires of them.

Again, this comes from a law that was described to us as going to increase the affordability and the availability of health care. I guess what I would point out is, in the circumstance we are now in, the policies are so expensive, so much more costly both in premiums and copayments and deductibles, that the affordability is a problem again and not just for the patient, not for the policyholder but for the hospital that is now left holding the bag because so many of their patients can’t pay the copayments or the deductibles.

When the Affordable Care Act passed, the President’s Office of the Policy Chief Actuary noted that the cuts would cause as many as 15 percent of hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies to be unprofitable by 2019. While in time it may have seemed a long time away, 2019 is now just about 5 years away. If ObamaCare remains in place, the estimated percentage of unprofitable providers is projected to increase, reaching roughly 28 percent in 2020 and 40 percent in 2050. So by 2050 25 percent of the hospitals, health care providers, will be unprofitable, and by 2050 40 percent—nearly half—of the health care providers will be unprofitable.

Again, the financial burden of the community, if you can’t make it on the revenue that comes from patients, from providing health care to individuals, often the option is to increase taxes, that something else to something to keep your hospital doors open. That ought not be the consequence of legislation passed by Congress—to require taxes to be raised for a Federal program called Medicare because it is failing to meet the needs of American citizens, our patients. These providers, our hospitals, just simply can’t sustain in the circumstance they find themselves in. The Affordable Care Act has put us on a path that I think is dangerous for individuals, for businesses, and now for the health care providers themselves.

In addition to the bad debt experience, many of the new health care plans have limited or restricted provider networks, so that a local hospital may be eliminated from their network. This means that while under their prior insurance policy they could see a hometown physician or be admitted to their hometown hospital, because of these network restrictions they must go somewhere out of town to access health care. This again is a terrible consequence for the individual, for the patient, but also something that drives revenues away from the hometown provider, much to the detriment of every-body who would want to make certain that provider, that doctor, remains in the community and that the hospital doors remain open.

There is lots of evidence that the problems we are facing are real. There is demand attention. Access to affordable health care is something that still deserves our attention. I look forward to trying to make certain we have that opportunity. Again, that is nothing that happens in the next few days, but we have a responsibility to see that the things that are reducing the access to affordable health care are addressed. The efforts that resulted from the Affordable Care Act are exacerbating the problem, not solving the problem.

I look at elections as like a new year. There is this optimism that maybe something good can come from a new Congress; that we can establish our New Year’s resolutions and we can begin working, and I certainly make the offer to my colleagues throughout the Senate—all 99 of my colleagues—to be someone who wants to be problem solving and find solutions, and working together to make sure those health care providers that are so important to our lives, our safety, to our health, are around for a long time to come and that the community—political decisions depend upon those hospitals—those 128 hospitals in my home State—have a viable future.

We have to get the regulatory environment under control, we have to resolve the problems created by the Affordable Care Act, and we need to make certain that health care is an opportunity for people who live in places across my State to still have the opportunity to see the hometown physician, to have a prescription filled by the hometown pharmacist, to make certain those hometown hospital doors remain open for today and for future generations of communities across my State.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Senate this afternoon, 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. KING. If ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## CYBERSECURITY ACT

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 490, S. 1353.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1353) to provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity, and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1353

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Cybersecurity Act of 2013”.

TABLE OF CONTENTS: The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. No regulatory authority.

### TITLE I—PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION ON CYBERSECURITY

Sec. 101. Public-private collaboration on cybersecurity.
TITLE II—CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 201. Federal cybersecurity research and development.


TITLE III—EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 301. Cybersecurity competitions and challenges.

Sec. 302. Federal cyber scholarship-for-service program.

Sec. 303. Study and analysis of education, accreditation, training, and certification of information infrastructure and cybersecurity professionals.

TITLE IV—CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS

Sec. 401. National cybersecurity awareness and preparedness campaign.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CYBERSECURITY MISSION.—The term ‘‘cybersecurity mission’’ means the full range of government activities that encompass the full range of threat reduction, vulnerability reduction, deterrence, international engagement, incident response, resiliency, and recovery, including policy development, including computer network operations, information assurance, law enforcement, diplomacy, military, and intelligence missions as such activities relate to the security and stability of cyberspace.

(2) INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘‘information infrastructure’’ means the underlying framework that information systems and assets rely on to process, transmit, receive, or store information electronically, including programmable electronic devices, communications networks, and industrial or supervisory control systems and any associated hardware, software, or data.

(3) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term ‘‘information system’’ has the meaning given that term in section 502 of title 44, United States Code.

SEC. 3. NO REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to confer any regulatory authority on any Federal, State, tribal, or local department or agency.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION ON CYBERSECURITY

SEC. 101. PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION ON CYBERSECURITY.

(a) CYBERSECURITY.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (15) through (22) as paragraphs (16) through (23), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

‘‘(15) an ongoing basis, facilitate and support the development of a voluntary, industry-led set of standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure as defined under paragraph (10);’’

(b) SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS.—Section 2 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

‘‘(c) CYBER RISKS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (c)(15), the Director—

‘‘(A) shall—

‘‘(i) coordinate closely and continuously with relevant private sector personnel and entities, critical infrastructure owners and operators, sector coordinating councils, Information Sharing and Analysis Centers, and other relevant industry organizations, and incorporate industry expertise;

‘‘(ii) consult with the heads of agencies with national security responsibilities, sector-specific agencies, State and local governments, the governments of other nations, and international organizations;

‘‘(iii) identify a prioritized, flexible, repeatable, performance-based, and cost-effective approach, including security measurements and controls, that may be voluntarily adopted by owners and operators of critical infrastructure to help them identify, assess, and manage cyber risks;

‘‘(iv) include methodologies—

‘‘(I) to identify and mitigate impacts of the cybersecurity measures or controls on business confidentiality;

‘‘(II) to protect individual privacy and civil liberties;

‘‘(v) incorporate voluntary consensus standards and industry best practices;

‘‘(vi) align with voluntary international standards to the fullest extent possible;

‘‘(vii) prevent duplication of regulatory processes and prevent conflict with or superseding of regulatory requirements, mandatory standards, and related processes; and

‘‘(viii) include such other similar and consistent elements as the Director considers necessary.

‘‘(B) the extent to which the Director’s facilitation of the development of such standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure as defined under paragraph (10) is not duplicative of private sector efforts.

‘‘(C) how to develop a triennial research and development plan that would identify and prioritize near-term, mid-term, and long-term research in computer and information science and engineering to meet the objectives under paragraph (1), including research in the areas described in section 4(a)(1) of the Cybersecurity Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)).

‘‘(D) how to develop a triennial research and development plan that would—

‘‘(1) identify a prioritized, flexible, repeatable, performance-based, and cost-effective approach, including security measurements and controls, that may be voluntarily adopted by owners and operators of critical infrastructure to help them identify, assess, and manage cyber risks;

‘‘(2) provide to the Institute for the purpose of the activities described in subsection (c)(15) shall not be used by any Federal, State, tribal, or local department or agency to regulate the activity of any entity;

‘‘(3) definitions.—In this subsection:

‘‘(A) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘‘critical infrastructure’’ means the term in section 1016(e) of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

‘‘(B) SECTOR-SPECIFIC AGENCY.—The term ‘sector-specific agency’ means the Federal department or agency responsible for providing institutional knowledge and specialized expertise as well as leading, facilitating, or supporting the security and resilience programs and associated activities of its designated critical infrastructure sector in the all-hazards environment.’’.

(c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that assesses—

(A) the progress made by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in facilitating the development of standards and procedures to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure in accordance with section 2(c)(15) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act, as added by this section;

(B) the extent to which the Director’s facilitation of the development of such standards and procedures to be voluntary and led by industry representatives;

(C) the extent to which sectors of critical infrastructure (as defined in section 1016(e) of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))) have adopted a voluntary, industry-led set of standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure in accordance with such section 2(c)(15);

(D) the extent to which the decisions of sectors of critical infrastructure (as defined in subparagraph (C)) to adopt or not to adopt the voluntary standards described in subparagraph (C) are based on—

(i) the use of specific solutions;

(ii) the use of specific solutions; or

(iii) that information or communications technology products or services be designed, developed, or manufactured in a particular manner.

(E) how to support privacy in conjunction with improved security;

(F) how to address the growing problem of insider threats;

(G) how improved consumer education and digital literacy initiatives can address human factors that contribute to cybersecurity;

(H) how to protect information processed, transmitted, or stored using cloud computing or transmitted through wireless services; and

(I) any additional objectives the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in coordination with the head of any relevant Federal agency and with input from stakeholders, including appropriate national laboratories, industry, and academia, determines appropriate.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal cybersecurity research and development plan shall identify and prioritize near-term, mid-term, and long-term research in computer and information science and engineering to meet the objectives under paragraph (1), including research in the areas described in section 4(a)(1) of the Cybersecurity Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)).

(B) PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS.—In developing, implementing, and updating the Federal cybersecurity research and development plan, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall work in close cooperation with industry, academia, and other interested stakeholders to ensure to the extent possible, that Federal cybersecurity research and development is not duplicative of private sector efforts.

(3) TRIENNAL UPDATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal cybersecurity research and development plan shall be updated triennially.

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit the plan, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and the Comptroller General shall submit a report, which summarizes the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1), to—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 201. FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) FUNDAMENTAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in coordination with the heads of any relevant Federal agency, shall build upon programs and plans in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act to develop a Federal cybersecurity research and development plan to meet objectives in cybersecurity, such as—

(A) how to design and build complex software-intensive systems that are secure and reliable when first deployed;

(B) how to test and verify that software and hardware, whether developed locally or obtained from a third party, is free of significant known vulnerabilities;

(C) how to test and verify that software and hardware obtained from a third party correctly implements stated functionality, and only that functionality;

(D) how to guarantee the privacy of an individual, including that individual’s identity, information, and lawful transactions when stored or transmitted over networks;

(E) how to build new protocols to enable the Internet to have robust security as one of the key capabilities of the Internet;

(F) how to determine the origin of a message transmitted over the Internet;

(G) how to support privacy in conjunction with improved security;

(H) how to address the growing problem of insider threats;

(I) how improved consumer education and digital literacy initiatives can address human factors that contribute to cybersecurity;

(J) how to protect information processed, transmitted, or stored using cloud computing or transmitted through wireless services; and

(K) any additional objectives the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in coordination with the heads of any relevant Federal agency and with input from stakeholders, including appropriate national laboratories, industry, and academia, determines appropriate.

(b) SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS.—Section 2 of the USA PATRIOT Act (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesigning paragraphs (15) through (22) as paragraphs (16) through (23), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

‘‘(15) an ongoing basis, facilitate and support the development of a voluntary, industry-led set of standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure (as defined under paragraph (11));’’

(c) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report, which summarizes the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1), to—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

December 11, 2014

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

December 11, 2014

SEC. 302. Federal cybersecurity competitions and challenges.

Sec. 303. Study and analysis of education, accreditation, training, and certification of information infrastructure and cybersecurity professionals.

Sec. 401. National cybersecurity awareness and preparedness campaign.
each updated plan under this section to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(b) CYBERSECURITY PRACTICES RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall support research that—

(1) develops, evaluates, disseminates, and integrates new cybersecurity practices and concepts into the core curriculum of computer science programs and of other programs where graduate students have a substantial probability of developing software after graduation, including new practices and concepts relating to secure coding education and improvement programs; and

(2) develops new models for professional development of faculty in cybersecurity education, including secure coding development.

(c) CYBERSECURITY MODELING AND TEST BEDS.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall conduct a review of cybersecurity test beds in existence on the date of enactment of this Act to inform the grants under paragraph (2). The review shall include an assessment of whether a sufficient number of cybersecurity test beds are available to meet the research needs under the Federal cybersecurity research and development plan.

(2) ADDITIONAL CYBERSECURITY MODELING AND TEST BEDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Director of the National Science Foundation, after the review under paragraph (1), determines that the research needs under the Federal cybersecurity research and development plan require the establishment of additional cybersecurity test beds, the Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, may award grants to institutions of higher education or research and development non-profit institutions to establish cybersecurity test beds.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The cybersecurity test beds under subparagraph (A) shall be sufficiently large in order to model the scale and complexity of real-time cyber attacks and defenses on real world networks and environments.

(C) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall evaluate the efficacy of grants awarded under this subsection in meeting the objectives of the Federal cybersecurity research and development plan under subsection (a) no later than 2 years after the review under paragraph (1) of this subsection, and periodically thereafter.

(d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER RESEARCH INITIATIVES.—In accordance with the responsibilities under the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)(B)), through existing programs and activities, the Director shall support research that will lead to a scientific foundation for the field of cybersecurity, including research that increases understanding of the underlying principles of securing complex inter-networked systems, develops repeatable experimentation, and creates quantifiable security metrics.

SEC. 202. COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH CENTERS.

Section 4(b) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “the research areas” and inserting the following: “improving the security and resiliency of information infrastructures, reducing cyber vulnerabilities, and anticipating and mitigating consequences of cyber attacks on critical infrastructure, by conducting research in the areas’’;

(2) by striking “the center” in paragraph (4)(D) and inserting “Center”; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(K) the capability of the applicant to conduct research in a secure environment;”

(H) the applicant’s affiliation with private sector entities involved with industrial research described in subsection (a)(1);”

(I) the capability of the applicant to conduct research programs of the Federal Government;”

(2) students enrolled in grades 9 through 12;

(3) students enrolled in a postsecondary program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree at an institution of higher education; and

(4) students enrolled in a postbaccalaureate program of study at an institution of higher education;

(5) universities of higher education and research institutions;

(6) veterans; and

(7) relevant nonprofit organizations; and

(8) international partners of the United States.

SEC. 301. CYBERSECURITY COMPETITIONS AND CHALLENGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may support, as appropriate, competitions and challenges under subsection (a)(1) of the National Competitions and Challenges Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)(B)), through existing programs and activities, the Director shall support research that will lead to a scientific foundation for the field of cybersecurity, including research that increases understanding of the underlying principles of securing complex inter-networked systems, develops repeatable experimentation, and creates quantifiable security metrics.

(b) P ARTICIPATION.—Participants in the competitions and challenges under subsection (a)(1) of this Act may include—

(1) Federal agencies;

(2) non-profit institutions;

(3) State, local, or tribal governments; and

(4) other areas of the Federal Government to the winners of the Federal scholarship-for-service program.

(c) AFFILIATION AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Competitions and challenges under this section may be carried out through affiliation and cooperative agreements with—

(1) Federal agencies;

(2) non-profit institutions;

(3) State, local, or tribal governments; and

(4) other areas of the Federal Government.

(d) SEC. 302. FEDERAL CYBER SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM.

(c) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Competitions and challenges under this section may be carried out through affiliation and cooperative agreements with—

(1) Federal agencies;

(2) non-profit institutions;

(3) State, local, or tribal governments; and

(4) other areas of the Federal Government.

(d) SEC. 302. FEDERAL CYBER SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the
under this section and on hiring and retaining those individuals in the public sector workforce.

SEC. 302. STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF EDUCATION, ACCREDITATION, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS.

(a) STUDY.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall undertake to enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of how academic, academic, and private-sector education, accreditation, training, and certification programs for the development of professionals in information infrastructure and cybersecurity. The study shall include—

(1) a comprehensive survey of the current and future capacity of United States institutions of higher education, including private-sector partnerships to assess progress toward improving cybersecurity education; and

(2) an examination of the sources and availability of cybersecurity talent, a comparison of the costs and benefits of engaging Federal Government and private sector, an examination of the current and future capacity of United States institutions of higher education, including education and training activities, with those skills sought by the Federal Government, State and local entities, and the private sector.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Science Foundation, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall undertake to enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of—

(1) an evaluation of the state of cybersecurity education at institutions of higher education in the United States;

(2) an assessment of whether existing government, academic, private-sector, and industry education, accreditation, training, and certification programs provide the knowledge and skills described in paragraph (1); and

(3) an evaluation of the methods to mitigate and remediate vulnerabilities.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Director, in cooperation with relevant Federal agencies and other stakeholders, shall develop and implement a strategic plan to develop cybersecurity education and training programs at all education levels to prepare skilled cybersecurity and computer science workers for the private sector and Federal, State, and local government.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director shall transmit the strategic plan under subsection (c) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 303. CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS.

(a) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (referred to in this section as the ‘‘Director’’), in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall continue to coordinate a national cybersecurity awareness and preparedness campaign, such as—

(1) a campaign to increase public awareness of cybersecurity, cyber safety, and cyber ethics, including the use of the Internet, social media, e-commerce, and other media to reach the public; and

(2) a campaign to increase the understanding of cybersecurity and privacy policies and to ensure that the Nation’s critical infrastructure versus the costs of failure to do so; and

(b) the methods to mitigate and remediate vulnerabilities.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Director, in cooperation with relevant Federal agencies and other stakeholders, shall develop and implement a strategic plan to develop cybersecurity education and training programs at all education levels to prepare skilled cybersecurity and computer science workers for the private sector and Federal, State, and local government; and

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director shall transmit the strategic plan under subsection (c) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask consent to engage in a colloquy with Senator ROCKEFELLER, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, regarding important aspects of S. 1333, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014.

Yesterday I held a hearing on the importance of improving information sharing between agencies on cybersecurity. As I said yesterday, law enforcement, the intelligence community, Treasury, and financial regulators each may have different missions, but in addressing cyber security concerns they all must be united in what some call a ‘‘whole government’’ approach. Cyber security is one of the most important issues facing the financial system and I hope next Congress can work together to pass a comprehensive cyber security bill. I thank my colleague, the Senator from West Virginia, for his work on this important matter and for strengthening the public-private cooperation on cyber security with this bill.

However, I would like to ensure that the language in this bill does not have
unintended consequences on the abilities of financial regulators to effectively oversee our financial system. As chairman of the Banking Committee, I am mindful of the importance of strong regulators examining and supervising our financial institutions. This is particularly important in the case of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the agency that was created in 2010 to police areas of the financial market that previously were not regulated at the federal level, as well as the prudential regulators. A provision in S. 1333 states that information shared with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (known as NIST), may not be used by a government agency to regulate the activity of any entity. However, other existing statutes and regulations provide government agencies with the authority to require entities they regulate to provide them with information. Moreover, a regulatory agency may discover such information on its own, through the entity, or through other sources. For example, a bank regulatory agency may discover cyberthreat information during a routine examination of a bank and, might want to use existing legal authority to require the bank to adjust its systems to protect against future cyberthreats. I seek clarification from the Senator from West Virginia with respect to the provision in the proposed legislation.

Can my colleague from West Virginia confirm that this provision is not intended to prohibit an agency from taking regulatory action, if the agency independently obtains such information pursuant to other statutory or regulatory authority, even if a regulated entity has shared this information with NIST?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I thank Senator JOHNSON for his interest and support for this legislation and for his shared interest in strengthening cyber security. I also thank my colleague from South Dakota for drawing attention to the potential impact of this provision on financial regulatory authorities under the Banking Committee's jurisdiction, including those of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the prudential regulators. I would like to assure the Senator that the consensus-based voluntary process for developing cybersecurity standards established in Title I of this bill is not intended to alter or limit financial regulatory agencies’ regulatory authority in any way. Title I, particularly new section (e)(2) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act, encourages private entities to participate in NIST's standards development process, but is in no way a “safe harbor” for participants who are subject to the jurisdiction of financial regulatory agencies. An entity that participates in the standards development process established in Title I is still fully subject to the regulations, supervision, and other requirements of its financial regulatory agency. Sharing information with NIST as part of the process established in Title I is not a valid basis for withholding information from a regulator, including information about cyber threats.

NIST is the federal government’s premier science and standards agency. It is not a regulatory agency, nor is it a national or homeland security agency. NIST's unique role is to bring together knowledgeable players from government and industry and to build consensus around common technical standards. NIST has no authority to require any private entity to follow standards it develops. The cybersecurity standards development process established in Title I is therefore not a rulemaking process. It in no way imposes new or duplicative regulations on entities that are subject to the authority of financial regulatory agencies, and it in no way disturbs or diminishes agencies’ authority to exercise their important oversight duties. It is unusual for an agency to prohibit an agency from taking a regulatory action, such as an action to require an individual entity to protect against future cyber threats, if the agency independently obtains such information pursuant to other statutory or regulatory authority—even if an entity has shared this information with NIST. Nothing in this bill is intended to modify, limit, or otherwise affect the authority of the federal financial regulators under any other provision of law.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his work on this important matter and for working with me to clarify the scope of this bill.

Mr. KING. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to, the Rockefeller-Thune substitute be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4097) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to. (The amendment is printed in today's Record under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 1333), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. KING. 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. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I asked unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks about Senator Coburn. Tom Coburn is one of the more remarkable Senators who have served in this body—certainly since I have been here. He is a man with absolute courage, conviction, and dedication to make this country better. He didn’t come here to go through the job and go through the motions; he came here to invest his great skills and his great intellectual ability and to pour his drive and effort into making America a better place. It is very special. It is unusual, I have not seen anything like it, as I said, since I have been here.

I always had great reluctance to disagree or oppose anything Tom offered. They were not always perfect, but basically I opposed them so seldom because I agreed with him time and time again. I always hated to vote no because I knew he had studied the issue, understood it, and was doing what he believed was right.

His whole philosophy and approach to government, had it been more effectively followed by other Members of this body, would have led us to a better country. To support what he said, I think in a way, was supporting high ideals for America.

I want to say I am going to miss him. People have no idea how many times he has stopped or altered bad legislation to make it better and less problematic and more principled. He believes that ours is a constitutionally limited government, limited government, and he didn’t just believe that, he acted on it and has acted on it consistently.

I understand, and I have no doubt of this—we don’t need to run a test—but I understand and have no doubt that he has offered more amendments since I have been in the Senate than any other Senator. They have been amendments to stop waste, fraud, and abuse, to make the government more efficient, leaner, to consolidate multiple programs that should be consolidated for efficiency.

He has worked across the aisle on a host of issues. He has sought bipartisan support for matters that are small and large. It is remarkable. I have to say that the fact that we are going to lose someone who is of great value. He would easily have been reelected had he run again.

I remember him saying one time—and this is his philosophy—if you want to be reelected, don’t worry about being reelected, just do the right thing, and you won’t have any difficulties. He never had any difficulties in his election, because people trusted him. They
knew every day, night and day, long hours, whatever, he was working to ad-

cvance the common interest of our country. They trusted that he was not 
seduced, bought out, compromised by the powers that be in Washington, DC, 
and he remained true to those who sent him here.

I would say this: Part of the strength he has—as a matter of fact, maybe the 
greatest part of his strength he has is his faith. He is intelligent, sophisti-
cated, knowledgeable, a scientist, a doctor, but a man of simple Christian 
faith which impacts his life as much as anybody in this body. He understands 
the true meaning of life, and he gives himself to others in a most remarkable 
way.

Thank you and colleagues for the opportunity for me to share these re-
marks. We are going to miss our friend Tom Coburn, who is going to object to 
those bills that require a lot of effort to make them better or stop some that 
are so bad they cannot be passed. A lot of us are going to have to pick up the 
slack.

May I, Tom would say, “What are you doing down here, Jeff, wasting time 
talking about me when you ought to be studying this bill and finding some of 
the bogus spending that is in it? You should be spending your time fixing it.”

But every now and then I think we should stop and recognize an extraor-
dinary life and an extraordinary Senator.

I wanted to share these remarks. I thank the Chair and 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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

CLAY HUNT SAV ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, Clay Hunt is a marine veteran who com-
mitted suicide in March of 2011 at the age of 28. Clay enlisted in the Marine 
Corps in May of 2005 and deployed to the Al Anbar Province near Fallujah in 
January of 2007. He was shot in the wrist by a sniper’s bullet that barely 
missed his head, and it earned him the Purple Heart.

Clay recuperated at Twentynine Palms, CA, and then graduated from 
Marine Corps scout sniper school in March of 2008, and he was redeplo-
yed in southern Afghanistan a few weeks later. His unit returned to the United 
States in late October 2008 and he was honorably discharged from the marines 
in April 2009.

After he returned home, Clay suf-
fected from post-traumatic stress dis-
order, PTSD. He struggled for many years and he struggled with inadequate 
care from his local VA hospital before taking his own life.

The Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act passed the House of Representa-
tives a little while ago this week. I be-
lieve this is an important piece of legis-
lation. I serve on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee and we had 
thecommunity related to suicide preven-
tion, suicide among our veterans, a few 
weeks back, and it is so clear in Kansas 
about veterans and their families deserve some-
thing much more than we are able to 
provide—than we are providing now—and 
this legislation which will help in that 
respect deserves swift passage by the U.S. Senate.

This bill, the Clay Hunt Suicide Preven-
tion Act, would be instrumental in 
developing a VA system capable of of-
fering first-class, first-rate mental 
health care services as well as utilizing 
the expertise of outside organizations 
to provide support for those struggling 
with the invisible wounds of service.

The legislation would require third 
parties to conduct an annual evalua-
tion of suicide prevention programs 
within the Department of Veterans Af-
fairs and within the Department of De-
defense. It would also provide for a new 
Web site that would offer veterans in-
formation regarding available mental 
health care services, and it would cre-
der an evidence-based training pro-
gram for VA psychiatrists. There is a 
tremendous shortage of VA profes-
sionals that this would help alleviate, 
and it will improve the exchange of 
training, best practices, and other re-
sources among the VA veterans service 
organizations and not-for-profit mental 
health organizations to enhance the co-
operation of their efforts in suicide 
prevention.

During that Veterans’ Affairs Com-
mittee hearing on November 19, last 
month, we were honored to hear Clay’s 
story from his mom, Susan Selke. 
Susan shared her son’s story of reliving 
the traumatic experiences of war and 
his disappointment when the VA failed 
offer him the care he needed to treat 
his stress disorder.

In fact, it was one of the most com-
pelling—again, I have served on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee since I 
came to Congress, and this mother’s 
testimony was one of the most impor-
tant pieces of information I have heard 
from a witness during the committee 
hearing. What she indicated was that 
in her belief—and she indicated that 
she believed her son thought this as 
somehow—somehow it was the VA, 
she believed it was the VA bureaucracy, its culture, its failure of leadership, its service to the VA as 
compared to its service to veterans 
many times over many years. We often 
be moan bureaucracy among all Federal 
agencies, but it is especially important 
at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 
because while it is easy to talk about 
the bureaucracy, the paperwork, the 
shuffling, the falling through the cracks, this mother’s testimony about 
the death of her son indicated that it is 
not just about bureaucracy, it is not 
just about paperwork, it is just about 
a culture. Those circumstances contributed to the death of a human 
being. In this case it contributed to the 
death of one who served our country 
nobly.

We can bemoan the bureaucracy, but we need to remember that it is 
that circumstance that causes the loss of life. Suicide is something that needs 
to be addressed. We need to have a con-
certed effort, and legislation that is 
pending before the Senate that needs to be passed before this Senate 
concludes is one step we can take to 
make certain there are less cir-
cumstances in which a soldier or a vet-
eran commits suicide.

It is clear we have a problem. It is 
critical that the VA follow through on 
its commitment and its responsibilities 
to our Nation’s veterans. It is critical 
that they must follow through to those 
veterans who are just returning home, 
those who have been home a long time, 
and to their families who need to have 
the love and support and care of the VA 
and the American people. We have 
to keep working to find solutions to 
the problems of mental health of 
men and women and veterans now face, 
and we must hold the VA accountable 
for their responsibilities when it comes 
to providing for the needs of those vet-
ers. And that care and treatment 
must be provided in a timely, high 
quality, and in a specialized way that 
meets the needs of each individual vet-
eran and their family.

My presence on the Senate floor this 
evening is to highlight the importance of the Clay Hunt Suicide Preven-
tion Act, to pay honor and tribute to Clay Hunt and to his family, 
and to the hundreds of individuals and 
families across the country who have 
faced similar circumstances, and call 
us to the point that we recognize that 
steps taken today can make certain 
there are no more Clay Hunts, no more 
mothers who face the circumstance of 
the loss of their son, and that America 
lives up to its commitment to those 
we have called to duty.

I urge my colleagues to make certain 
that this legislation passes the U.S. 
Senate before we recess for this holiday 
period.
Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. 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.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS
JAY ROCKEFELLER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to share a few remarks as we mark the end of the long tenure of Senator Jay Rockefeller and his service to his country and to the Senate. He has served in the Senate for 30 years. He served two terms as Governor of West Virginia, and served as Secretary of State, and in the House of Delegates.

He came to the State of West Virginia as a young VISTA volunteer. I have heard him tell the story about that, how he really wanted to participate and reach out and help others. He came to West Virginia as a young man and stayed. He worked with people in a small farming community. His heart was right to try to be helpful. He came from a prestigious family, but he wanted to help others.

He has been a remarkable Member of the Senate for now 30 years. He has a brilliant mind, capable of grasping all sorts of thoughts, but he also has the ability to delight in little things. One of those is sports. He has a tremendous capacity to have in that brain of his sports triva. He likes the Atlanta Falcons and the Atlanta Braves. He knows Southeastern Conference football. I have been pleased to be able to chat with him on occasion on the floor.

It just goes to show a lot of times people don’t realize that we get along pretty well. I think we may disagree on issues, but we care about one another. Jay Rockefeller has always been nice to me. He has always been a friend. He has always been courteous. He has always been collegial to me, and I have appreciated that over the years. So I wish to thank him for his service to his country, his commitment to others, and I wish him Godspeed in his further endeavors.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to share a few thoughts about the service in the country of our good friend and colleague Saxby Chambliss.

Saxby is one of the best liked and most respected Senators in this body. Every Member knows him. Every Member likes him. Every Member respects him. I truly share that view. And on matters particularly related to national security, intelligence issues, and terrorism, I consistently want to know what Saxby has to say about it.

He has done a whole lot of things in this Senate. He has been a participant and a contributor on many issues. He worked really hard to try to create a bipartisan solution to our debt crisis. That didn’t quite develop, but it was a positive part of discussion this Senate went through.

What I really want to say is that as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and having been a longtime Member of the House Intelligence Committee, and here in the Senate, he has become the go-to person with regard to the sensitive issues relating to the security of our country. I consistently have looked to him because I trust his judgment, trust his mind, and trust his wisdom to help sort through all the political news articles and debates and hot issues, and to distill down to the bottom of what is important, what we should be focused on, and what the right thing to do is.

Truly, he has been a remarkable Senator. We are going to miss Saxby. I am going to miss Saxby, as so many of us will. He is the son of an Episcopal priest and minister. He is a man of faith. He has a delightful wife, Julianne. My wife is a good judge of character and she thinks Julianne hung the Moon, and that is so true. They are a great family and great partners.

Saxby has given so much to the Senate. Georgia has produced some great Senators, particularly Senators known for their commitment to national security and the defense of America: Richard Russell, for whom the Russell Senate Office Building is named; Sam Nunn, who was so long a leader in the Congress with regard to national defense.

Saxby Chambliss is in that category. That is the kind of Senator he has been—from defending America to helping his colleagues sift through difficult issues and make good, wise decisions. It has been a great pleasure for me to serve with him. I wish him every success in his future endeavors.

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.

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

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

HOURS OF SERVICE REGULATIONS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, at this time of year, Thanksgiving and holidays that see a lot of Americans are on our roads. A lot of us know that Americans are on the roads because my colleagues and I travel using the highways of our States so frequently.

We know as parents, as family members, that in the back of our minds when a son or daughter is driving, there is a tiny bit of apprehension and anxiety about safety. It is safety not only concerning people on our roads but also on our railways. As a member of the commerce committee, where the Presiding Officer served, I know he has young children and he probably has the same apprehensions and anxieties that
all of us share when our family members are driving, particularly late at night, early in the morning, hours when weariness, fatigue, and tiredness are one of the main enemies—particularly when the weather is bad.

That is why I am self-assured, so soon to be under debate, has many good provisions, but it also has a provision that is antithetical and deeply destructive to the principle of road safety because it affects truck drivers who are on the road for long periods of time. I am referring to section 133 of Division K, a paragraph. I am here to talk about it, to ask that my colleagues oppose it. If there is any way to strip it from the bill, I urge that it be done. It is a provision that is virtually incommunicable to the average American on the roads or in their homes as to what it means and what its ramifications are and what its consequences may be to their safety and the safety of others in their families on the road.

The fact is that nearly 4,000 people who are killed each year in truck crashes and the nearly 100,000 each year who are injured show the toll of fatigue and weariness of our truck drivers.

According to NHTSA, truck crash injuries in fact increased by 40 percent between 2009 to 2012. We all have seen the consequences of fatigue on the roads when we drive—the truck driver who may pull his rig in front of us or slide over into our side of the road, not because he is not well trained, experienced, able. In fact, the vast majority of truck drivers are experienced and able and well trained and extraordinarily prudent in the way they drive. But fatigue is an enemy to them as it is to all of us who drive. Many of the headlines we have seen recently have concerned hours of service regulations governing truck drivers, as many truck crashes involve tired truck drivers. There have been adopted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, rules that have been implemented to curb the number of fatigued truck drivers on our roads, implemented after years of rulemaking and analysis and study and even litigation. They are fact-based rules. They are supported by science. They are rules that move American roads and drivers in the right direction, truly, literally on the right path.

I am not the only one who supports these rules. They are supported by the Secretary of Transportation. Secretary Foxx is to be commended for his steadfast, strong, courageous defense of these rules. His integrity and intellect in support of these rules I greatly appreciate. But he is not alone in this, not by a long shot.

The Teamsters and the United Transportation Union, they have inspired me to be as passionate and steadfast, as I am on these rules. They are not alone either. Law enforcement, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Troopers Coalition, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association all support these rules.

These are also supported by consumer and public health groups and safety groups such as Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways, the Consumer Federation of America, the American Public Health Association, the John Lindsey Foundation, Truck Safety Coalition, KidsAndCars.org, the Trauma Foundation, and Public Citizen. These are the preeminent public and safety consumer advocacy groups in this country. They all support these rules. Tragically and unfortunately, there are organizations representing victims such as Parents Against Tired Truckers and Roadsafe America which also have been inspired to support these rules. I say tragically and unfortunately, because none of us welcomes the fact that there are victims of crashes resulting from tired truckers. Most regretful are the truckers themselves, which is why they are supporting these rules. But the families and loved ones of victims support the rules, and even many trucking companies like those represented by the Trucking Alliance support these rules.

The fact is there is good reason for the rules and there is good reason to strip this provision that negates, in effect, undercuts, and eviscerates these rules, section 133 of Division K. There is good reason. The 2005 study conducted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration demonstrated that before the current rules were implemented, 65 percent of drivers reported feeling drowsy while driving and 48 percent admitted to falling asleep while driving at some point the previous year.

But under the current rules, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration says that it will save 19 lives, prevent about 1,400 crashes, 560 injuries each year, see an estimated $280 million in savings from fewer large truck crashes, and see $470 million in savings from improved driver health. These are dry, abstract statistics, but they measure compelling losses in human lives and in dollars.

Unfortunately, the folks who want to stop these rules almost always use the omnibus appropriations bill as a home to take a shot at these provisions that may be coming over from the House later today. In addition, while the rules are blocked, the language in the House bill would also require that this issue be studied further. The rules have already been studied a lot. If there is a need for further study, fine. I am completely on board with study and factfinding. But in the meantime, let's keep the rules as they are, as prescribed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. They are in the business of safety. They have said these rules are necessary. Let's keep the rules implemented, but we can study them. If we are going to make any changes, it should be done with proper analysis and debate—not in a spending bill. It ought to be in the committee with jurisdiction, the commerce committee, where I serve.

In the Senate subcommittee held a hearing on truck safety and this issue featured prominently. We gave everyone a chance to testify, to debate all points of view. Until then, the only discussion was in the context of appropriations and spending bills, not in the context of real policy.

The hearing I highlighted some real issues. First, with these changes, drivers will be able to drive nearly 80 hours a week. In other words, if this provision is adopted, if the rules are rolled back, drivers will be able to drive nearly 80 hours a week and hundreds more a year.

It is more likely that trucking companies will push their drivers to drive more than 80 hours a week, because otherwise they won’t do the business. If the rules are implemented to curb the number of fatalities and the consequences of fatigue on the roads for long periods of time. I am hereby rezoned to the right path.
truck drivers. Let’s give them the same attention and care as we would want for our families during this season, on the roads, while they are driving late at night, maybe in bad weather, because there are going to be storms as there are inevitably, in December, January, and February.

But every day, every season, these rules deserve to be in place. That is why this provision, which would roll back those rules—making changes en-dangering of ordinary Americans on the road—is so antithetical to safety and such an anathema to the values of saving and preserving life and increasing the safety of our drivers on the road.

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.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to speak on the bill we are on—the National Defense Authorization Act—by taking a look at the condition of the world today. This is an important time to do it, as we enter the end of this year and begin to look forward to the new year. We should take a moment to take a snapshot of the world and the threats that exist around us and the complexities in the world because I think they are directly connected to what our military capabilities are going to need to be in the 21st century.

I note that the tendencies have often been on a number of occasions, even in my lifetime, where we have tried to take, for example, what is known as a peace dividend—the end of the Cold War, for example, and then again after the events of 9/11—it is the idea that somehow the threats around the world and the challenges we face have somehow ebbed and it is time to nation build at home. I am always in favor of nation building at home. The problem is that today, now, in the 21st century much more than ever, there is no such thing as a remote problem. There is no such thing as an issue that is of major importance abroad that doesn’t somehow impact us here at home. This has always been true, but it has never been more true than it is today because of the global nature of our economy.

As we look around the world—and I want to take a brief moment to go over some of the parts of the world—we start to see what the need for American leadership is and the need for a strong, national defense capability on the part of the United States and how important it is in this new global economy.

Let’s begin by looking at the Middle East, the most troubled region of the world, and that has been true for a very long time. We begin by talking about the negotiations that are going on with Iran. Look, I would hope—we all do, I think—to wake up one day to the news that Iran has decided to walk away from the negotiations with a very clear objective; that Iran agrees to, ultimately it is the Supreme Leader’s decision. I hate to say this, but they are not going to agree to any sort of deal that is good for the nuclear capability. Whether he will ever actually build the weapon—it may not be something they have decided yet, but the ability to build that weapon—I have no doubt that is what they want.

I have no doubt—and I believe the administration knows this to be true—that they have gone into these negotiations with a very clear objective; that is, I want you, we need to do in the short term—whatever that may be, as long as they are not irreversible—and at some point in the future they will restart the weapons program. It is going to be easier for Iran to restart the weapons program than it is going to be for the United States and the nations of the world to reimpose sanctions. So I think they have figured that out, and that is what their mandate has been. But even that has its limits because when we look to these negotiators—and there is a history of this, when we look to these negotiators—there have been times in the past when Iranian negotiators might have agreed to something at the table, but then they have to come back and say we the offer when they take it to the Supreme Leader, he says no.

We have to understand that the Supreme Leader is an isolated individual. This is not a person who travels the world or interacts with other national leaders of other nations. This is a person who is an ideologue, a religious fanatic. And I don’t care what the negotiators agree to or what the President of Iran agrees to, ultimately it is the Supreme Leader’s decision. I hate to say this, but they are not going to agree to any sort of deal that is good for the national security of the United States. I believe that to be true, and we need to be prepared for that.

I hope one of the first things we take up when we return in January of this year, in the new Congress, will be a bill to require congressional authorization for any deal, and I think we should also consider putting in place sanctions for the day when that deal fails.

Let’s talk about those negotiations that are going on—and Iran has already acquired a concession on the part of the West that they
We also can't anticipate the alliances that ISIL might make. We have to understand what is happening. As they make these gains—or supposed gains—they have also become very good at propaganda. They are convincing you with locally based, inclusive groups in the United States—that they are the preeminent jihadist group on the planet, that they are the most successful jihadist group on the planet, that they will inevitably succeed, and that what is being taught in Gaza—teaches people that not only is it right, it is heroic to kill Jews and to be an anti-Semite.

They are convincing people to abandon other groups and join them. They are convincing donors to stop giving money to other groups and give to them. We don’t know what this is going to develop into, but we can foresee in the very near future where other groups begin to align themselves with them just to remain relevant.

By the way, as a side note, there is an additional danger to ISIL’s spread, and that is that the other jihadist groups in the world, who are now losing donors and losing recruits, are now feeling an urgency to go out and carry out some spectacular attack, such as here in the homeland against American interests or air travel somewhere. They see ISIL as saying if you want to do a spectacular attack because they need to do something to reattract donors and reattract members.

But back to my original point. The danger is that these new groups, in order to remain relevant and not lose their fighters, may decide they are going to pledge their allegiance to ISIL. The host of groups already exploring that are dangerous—the Taliban in Afghanistan, the Taliban in Pakistan, the Haqqani Network that is in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, and there are other groups in north Africa as well that at least nominally have pledged some level of allegiance and support for what ISIL is doing. We need to understand that a year ago, if I had stood on this floor and said we need to take ISIL seriously, no one would have known what I was talking about. That is how quickly this threat has spread, and we have no idea what it can morph into in the next few years, not to mention the next few months.

There is one additional point I wish to make. The city of Mosul has a university with a significant research capability. In fact, just yesterday I read a very curious about is that ISIL is not using that university and its research capabilities to develop rockets or, God forbid, chemical weapons or even a dirty bomb. That is something to keep an eye on in the months and weeks to come. That is another example of the complex national security threats our Nation faces.

Our ally Israel—their struggles and their challenges are well documented. It begins with Iran. We have talked about the fact that single greatest threat facing Israel today is the prospect of a nuclear Iran and what it would mean to Israel’s security in the long term. They face a very difficult challenge with the Palestinian Authority.

There was a poll I read about this morning that talked about a large majority of people—Palestinians—who believe that the right to exist as a Jewish state. It has infiltrated throughout Europe, and we are starting to see it rear its ugly head in academia here in the United States.
We should not let that stand. We should speak out against it and condemn it for what it is.

As if the Middle East were not complicated enough, we turn our focus to Europe and the threat Russia now poses. I believe that many of us have been complacent for a half a year. Mitt Romney, the former Governor of Massachusetts, the Republican Presidential nominee, said that Russia was our most serious geopolitical threat in the short term. He was universally mocked by elites and the press, even by some here in Washington—many here in Washington. It turns out he was right, as were many of us who were saying the same thing.

The truth is that Vladimir Putin many years ago declared that the United States was a threat to Russia. Russia, many years ago concluded that the United States was to be reestablished as a world power and that the only way he could achieve that was by confronting the United States and being seen as a counterweight to an United States on the global stage, and we see that in place after place. In international forums, when it comes to Syria, on issues after issue Russia is against us because Putin believes it gives them relevancy on the global stage. But there is a second issue and do not take this lightly. We don’t spend all day obsessed about Russia. We don’t spend all night thinking the Russians are going to invade us. But they do. There is a subset of the Russian Government who believe the United States wants to get into a military conflict with them, and they increasingly believe that now more than ever. We can see it in the military moves they are making. These are not just provocations. This is an all-out change to their defense posture, to their defense theory, a defense theory that is increasingly looking like a Cold War one, a defense theory that is increasingly looking like they need to see the United States and the ability to prevent a U.S. first strike or to somehow be able to react to a U.S. first strike.

I know for us it sounds absurd that the United States would ever launch a nuclear attack against Russia. But there are Russian leaders at very high levels that believe that is plausible, and we are seeing it rear its head in every part of the world. Not a day goes by that there is not a report of a Russian intrusion here or a submarine appearing off of our coast. I ask: What is Russia banking on? They are banking on the sanctions which have been imposed will not be sustained; that eventually, after a couple of years, Europe will say: OK. It is time to accept what we have done to Russia and that sanctions will be lifted. In fact, that is what Putin is probably telling his inner circle and the people around him: Don’t worry. We are going to get through this. These sanctions will eventually be lifted off of us, and everything will be back to normal.

But those sanctions are hurting right now. I would hope those sanctions don’t fall apart. I would hope the European nations understand what a direct threat this poses to them if Russia could just invade a country and take it over. But time will tell.

I think a strong American leadership is important. I think the cohesion of NATO is critical. That is why it is so important that we focus on our defense capability.

But that is Putin telling everyone around him: Don’t worry about these sanctions. They are going to be gone in a while. We will get through this.

Interestingly, to give some insight into Putin, the inner circle around him, the elites who are closest to him, they are being shielded from the impact of these sanctions to a certain point. In fact, one of the people, Igor Sechin, who was specifically sanctioned by the sanctions that were passed here and in Europe—he actually convinced Putin to indict an energy rival of his, take his property and his business away from him and give him as compensation. That is how cynical this has become.

So the elites that surround and are closest to Putin, they are being protected by the impact of the sanctions. The Western elite is paying a terrible price, not the least of which are the people.

I also think there is clear evidence that Putin is increasingly isolated in terms of whom he listens to, whom he takes advice from, and whom he consults with, and it is going to have a devastating impact on Russia. Next year their economy is predicted to contract. Yet despite this—just to give a true indication of where Russia is headed and to give insight as to where we should be headed—contraction of their economy, despite the collapse of oil prices which has been devastating to their economy, Putin just announced budget cuts throughout every part of their government. Except for one—the one part of the budget they are holding harmless—military spending. I hope that gives some insight as to where they are heading.

My last point on Russia is they are increasingly present in the Western Hemisphere. They are actively seeking lease agreements in Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Cuba to be able to have naval assets and aircraft stationed in our own backyard, in the Western Hemisphere. We need to talk about Asia for a moment, another place that poses some very significant national security and military implications for the United States.

I talked about North Korea earlier. I think it bears repeating. North Korea does not have a government. It is a nation or is a territory governed by a criminal syndicate run by an insane and erratic leader—but an insane and erratic leader with nuclear weapons, an insane and erratic leader who is developments, long-range missiles, and an insane and erratic leader that may end up overestimating his military capabilities, miscalculating,
trigger a dispute with South Korea that could quickly escalate and implicate the United States, which has a very strong and important military and defense agreement arrangement with South Korea and our allies in the southern part of China and the Philippines.

Let's focus on a moment on China. First of all, we cannot ignore their aggressive territorial claims against both the Philippines and Japan. Interestingly, they picked on the Philippines first, a nation that doesn't have much of a military to speak of. This is the first nation they have gotten into a sort of conflict with, but they have them also with Japan and with Vietnam, and they have been pretty aggressive about it. To understand that, we have to understand a little bit about history.

For thousands of years, China was the dominant nation in that region. For the Western Hemisphere, the United States was the dominant nation, and their increasing assertiveness is an indication that they believe it is time to go back to normal, which is their dominance of the region. Their dominance, by the way, doesn't mean they are not going to invade the Philippines. They are not going to invade Japan.

What they believe is that all these countries should be tributary states, that all these countries should fold under China's leadership, that all these countries should recognize China is big and they are small, and they should listen to China's directives and orders.

So we see the silk road initiative. We see them trying to come up with an alternative to the other global institutions that have served the world so well since the end of World War II. They want to displace the United States and the global order that existed since the end of World War II with their own order, run by China to China's advantages, and that begins with territorial claims.

They say that if you have a chance to see in some Chinese passports, they have a map that indicates the nine-dash line. The nine-dash line is what they think the world looks like in terms of territory. If we look at what that means, they basically believe the entire South China Sea is their territory. That is why they have made these aggressive moves against these islands.

Let me tell you how the strategy works.

They send fishermen to these areas to fish or others to exploit resources. The other countries send out their coast guard to defend it. They send out their coast guard or navy to push back. They say: We are going to fight against it; there is nothing you can do about it.

Eventually what they want these nations to conclude is: There is no point in fighting China because we can't win. The United States is not going to come to our defense. So we might as well cut a deal with them and accept their dominance.

That is their plan, slowly but surely to change the facts on the ground, to assert themselves, to convince these other countries there is nothing they can do about it. They can't count on the United States anymore, and even if they can count on the United States, China. We will do whatever you want and cave. That is their plan and they are carrying it out.

They have also shown their true colors in Hong Kong. When the agreement was signed over here, the United Kingdom to the Chinese, one of the things that was important in that agreement was autonomy; that Hong Kong couldn't have its own foreign policy, but it could have its own money. That is what they want to prove to us. What they hope is that the United States goes: Look. If one day they can do it, we can do it. That is their plan, slowly but surely, the Chinese can destroy one of our expensive naval carriers. The Chinese could destroy one of our expensive naval capabilities. That is what they want to be able to prove to us. What they hope is that the calculation will be is that the United States goes: Look. If one day China invades Taiwan, there is nothing we can do about it because we are not going to lose two aircraft carriers over a conflict.

So that is why they are investing so much in these deniability capabilities.

They are also investing in space warfare, the ability to blow up our satellites because they know how dependant we are on this technological advantage. So China is racing to militarize space. It is a very serious threat to keep an eye on.

A couple more points on the military. I will close by talking about the Western Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere poses its own set of challenges as outlined earlier.

Let's start with Venezuela. We took up a bill this week on Venezuela. It was an important bill and I am glad we passed it. It is on the way to the President's desk. It sanctions human rights violations.

The government of Venezuela is not an ally of the United States. They vote against this country in every international forum they can. They actively undermine U.S. national security interests. They are serial human rights violators. The President has indicated he is going to sign it, and I think they are going to have a real impact.

But Venezuela is headed for catastrophe. This is a rich country, by the way, headed toward economic catastrophe. Basic goods such as toothpaste and toilet paper are unavailable in Venezuela. The Venezuelan economy today resembles the Cuban economy. By the way, there is no embargo against Venezuela. It just shows socialism doesn't work. They have run out of things to give away. This is not a democracy. Venezuela is no longer a democracy. They have something called the National Electoral Commission, and they are actively, as we speak, trying to replace people not loyal to the government on that commission with people loyal to the governing party.

The second thing I predict you are going to see is that the current President of Venezuela, Maduro, is going to move up the elections to July or June of this year because he knows the longer this crisis goes on, the less and less popular the government party is going to be. So I predict that the Venezuelan elections are going to be a disaster, but I also predict financial disaster.

In fact, here is a curious thing that we received calls about in the last few days. Venezuela is now begging the Petrocaribe nations, the Mercosur nations, and the Andean nations for aid. They are running out of cash. In fact, they are begging the Venezuelan Government and every other country for aid. In fact, they are going to the Petrocaribe nations and saying: Instead of paying us back in products, they have tested supersonic missiles fired off their ships designed to penetrate U.S. missile defenses.

Here is why they develop these: They want us to know that if we were to somehow encroach upon these territories, if there was a conflict in Asia and the Andean nations and militarily, the Chinese can destroy one of our aircraft carriers. The Chinese could destroy one of our expensive naval capabilities. That is what they want to be able to prove to us. What they hope is that the calculation will be is that the United States goes: Look. If one day China invades Taiwan, there is nothing we can do about it because we are not going to lose two aircraft carriers over a conflict.

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A couple more points on the military. I will close by talking about the Western Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere poses its own set of challenges as outlined earlier.
Talking about Cuba—a nation I talk a lot about because my parents came from there—I live in a community of people who came from there and had to leave for a free economy.

Let me begin by saying that Alan Gross, the contractor for the United States, was not a spy. He did nothing wrong. He is a hostage in a Cuban prison, a hostage the Cubans are holding because they want to exchange him for five Cuban spies convicted in the United States. Alan Gross committed no crime. He did nothing wrong.

My point is this: We should stop the embargo on Cuba tomorrow. What would happen is what is happening now with China. We passed a bill today out of Foreign Relations on the issue of Hong Kong, and I am getting phone calls in my office from American companies doing business in China that are saying: Hey, why don’t you guys drop that? It is bad for the deal we have going with the Chinese.

That is the reason that will happen. If we lift the embargo, American companies will become invested in whatever deal the regime gives them, and they will come to DC and lobby on behalf of the interests of that regime without any regard for the freedom and liberty of the Cuban people.

I will fight with all the marrow in my bones against any sort of unilateral change in U.S. policy toward Cuba.

From a military perspective, Cuba is not a benign country, although they don’t have the military they once had. In fact, there have been open source reports that Cuba is looking to restart, with Russian cooperation, an intelligence-gathering station in the city of Lourdes in Cuba whose sole purpose is to collect intelligence against the United States, particularly Southern Command in South Florida. So as we look at the NDAA, that is something to keep in mind.

I would close with four points that we should think about as we get into the new year and we debate this bill on national security and national defense. The first is this: We should stop confusing tactics with strategy. We had a debate today in the Foreign Relations Committee about authorizing the use of military force. Everyone wants to debate tactics. Should it be 3 years or 1 year? Should we have ground troops or no ground troops? Should we define the geography of where it is and where it isn’t?

Tactics are not the same thing as strategy, and time and again around the world with many of these problems, this administration has not articulated a strategy. They are telling us what we are tactically doing. We are doing air-strikes. We are doing everything we can, but they don’t tell us what the strategy is. What is the strategy behind all these things? The strategy should be clear.

We are in favor of a world that is free and a world that is prosperous, where more people than ever live in a prosperous middle class so they can buy the things we sell and invent and innovate and make and the services we offer. We want there to be peace and prosperity throughout the world, and we believe the best system for that is an international order that respects human rights and democracy and freedom and the dignity of every individual. That is our overarching aim, and of course the security of the United States is deeply tied to all of this.

In each region of the world, we would have a strategy—a strategy that, because it is backed up by strong national defense, tells our partners in Asia that we are here for the long haul.

And not only are we here to pivot to Asia and China. They are threats from nation states such as Russia and China. They are threats from rogue states such as Iran and North
Korea. They are threats from nonstate actors such as al Qaeda and ISIL. They are threats from transnational criminal groups who steal the personal data of Americans and who could potentially conduct other cyber attacks against our infrastructure. These threats are real, and I hope the day will never come, but if it does and if another major attack occurs here in the homeland—perhaps one even worse than 9/11—the first question people are going to ask will be, Why didn’t we know about it and why weren’t we able to stop it? And the answer cannot be because we took apart our intelligence-gathering capabilities, because we took down our ability to identify these threats, and we took them down because of conspiracy theories, because we have people running around telling people that all their phone calls are being listened to, that all their cell phone calls are being tracked. That is false. That is categorically and patently not true. Yet we are prepared to dismantle our ability to acquire information that could prevent those sorts of attacks.

By the way, these are intelligence capabilities that also give us a strategic advantage on potential adversaries and intelligence-gathering abilities that also inform our diplomacy. Yet there are people advocating taking that apart. In fact, just today we had someone come to the floor of the Senate and define classified information on the floor of the Senate. Unprecedented, outrageous, irresponsible, and unacceptable.

Last but not least, we have to truly believe with all our hearts that the world is a safer and better place when America is the strongest military power in the world. No nation is perfect. Ours never has claimed to be. But I know of no nation that has used its power more benevolently than we have. It is a misnomer to say that the United States does not engage in human rights abuses. We have engaged in human rights abuses. It is America that has gone abroad to fight for the freedom and liberty of other people. It is America that has gone abroad to fight against communism and radical Islam and nazism and Imperial Japan and other threats to human dignity and the survival of mankind, and we did so without taking a single inch of territory. We didn’t turn Iraq into a U.S. territory. We didn’t turn Iraq into our base. We didn’t use military power on our own turf. We didn’t turn Iraq into a U.S. territory.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the Senate to adjourn be discharged, that the Senate be excused, that the Appropriations Committee was something that we are prepared to dismantle that capability. The world needs a strong America today and now more than it ever has.

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

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. The PResiding Officer. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are going to pass, sometime tonight, before 12 o’clock, a resolution that will ensure that the government does not shut down. The House passed the omnibus. It was by a nice margin—not overwhelmingly, but a nice margin. As a result of that, we will take up the long-term spending bill tomorrow. Senator Sanders, who was the first to debate this legislation will have that opportunity. The Senate will vote on the long-term funding bill as soon as possible. In the Senate, “as soon as possible” could be tomorrow, it could be 2 days after closure is filed on it, it could be a lot of different times.

But we are going to work as hard as we can to expedite things around here. But we are going to do a short-term extension, as I have indicated, until we finish this bill. I think the extension will be for 2 days. That means we have to finish this bill in the next 2 days.

We have to finish the defense bill that is now before the body. That time runs out tomorrow afternoon. No one can stop us from the time running out tomorrow afternoon. We hope to be able to expedite that. There are conversations going on now to make that so we can finish that sometime early tomorrow afternoon.

I want to take this time, though, to spread on the Record my admiration for the work done by Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. This is a woman who came to the Senate when I came. We came together. I was fortunate to be on that Appropriations Committee as a freshman. That was really a big deal for this young Senator. Seniority-wise, there was always one person ahead of me, and that was BARBARA MIKULSKI. She has done a remarkably good job as a Senator. I have said many times, when we came to the Senate together, she was it. There was no other woman here. Look at what she has done as the matron of this body. Everybody looks up to her—men and women. She is someone who is admired by everyone. Her taking over this Appropriations Committee was something she had wanted to do for a long time. So she has done such a great job.

She is proud of the committee. She is trying to reestablish the committee to what it used to be. We as legislators have to recognize we have three separate branches of government. In terms of the Constitution they are supposed to be equal. We have had a lot of our power taken from us by the executive branch of government. BARBARA MIKULSKI is trying to reestablish that so we have three separate, equal branches of government.

What took place in the House today, a few minutes ago, will help her establish the Appropriations Committee for what it should be. We have an obligation as legislators to have congressionally directed spending. That is in the Constitution of the United States, and that was BARBARA MIKULSKI who wanted to make sure that the Appropriations Committee was given the authority to do so. We have a constitutional right to do that, and we have a constitutional right to determine where the money goes should not be made down at 16th and Pennsylvania Avenue.

So the bill that she and Congressman ROGERS worked on is not a perfect bill. But as the Presiding Officer knows as a legislator, there are no perfect bills. There are some people who are upset about items in this bill. To be candi
with you, I am kind of upset about some items in the bill. But this bill is so much better than a short-term CR. It would have been — when I say “short term” I mean 3 months and do it all over and over again, threatening the government to shut down, especially about the time we have to raise the debt ceiling again. So I want to end by saying this would never ever have happened but for Barbara Mikulski.

Tomorrow should be a very interesting day. If all the little bits of fortune, we could complete the spending bill for the country for the fiscal year that is fast upon us. We could finish the defense bill and then look to do the tax extenders and completing the work on TRIA, whatever that may be.

From that point forward we would work on nominations. We could be out of here fairly quickly. But everyone is going to have to work together to get this done.

The Presiding Officer. The Senator from Maryland.

OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL

Ms. Mikulski. I rise to speak on the omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 2015.

I wish to thank the Democratic leader, the majority leader, for his kind words. But it is not only about his kind words about me, it has been his advocacy to make sure that as we look at the need for funding for the entire government that there would be no government shutdown and no government on autopilot.

Just a few minutes ago, the House of Representatives passed their part. They passed the omnibus spending bill, passing it 219 to 206. It was well debated and the vote speaks for itself. It now comes to the Senate, and I am here tonight to kick off that debate.

For hours after hours after hours in the past several days, I have heard what is wrong with this bill. I don’t dispute my colleagues’ analysis, I will debate it, but now we have to start talking about what are the good aspects and why we did this bill in the first place. Tonight I want to remind people what we are doing.

First, we are funding the entire U.S. Government’s discretionary spending. We have $550 billion in the bill for national defense, to stand for America, to make sure our troops have the best weapons, the best support, and the best medical treatment — $550 billion, for more money for peacekeeping, for money to retrain, to refuel an aircraft carrier. We did our job. You will hear more about that.

We wanted to also fight Ebola, which had the American people near panic this summer. We said we have a plan, we have administration, and some of the best scientists and thinkers in our own country, and brave and gallant people such as Doctors Without Borders over there. While they make the cover of Time magazine, they are now going to make the Federal checkbook in the United States of America. We have $5.4 billion to deal with Ebola, a huge sum of money to fight it in Africa. It is also to make sure we are ready for any pandemic in the United States.

We also have a Samaritan set of money to deal — that is my word — with the Samaritan communities who were willing to take the Ebola patients, care for them, and make sure there was security for them and their surrounding communities. Millions of dollars were spent, whether it was in Nebraska, whether it was in Georgia at Emory.

My own home State is home to the National Institutes of Health, where a patient flew in to a small rural airport. They were ready to accept and provide the security down route 270 to get them to the beds at NIH. Those communities need to be recognized. We do that.

We have money in the bill for national security, but we also have money for veterans. Oh, we love our veterans. We love to sing songs, we love to wave the ribbon, love to go to concerts. We even love to vote for an authorizing bill. I did it. But without money in the Federal checkbook, it is a hollow opportunity.

I so guess what. Your Appropriations Committee on a bipartisan basis, said we are going to do something that was never done before. We are going to put in the money not only to meet what we said we would do — to reform health care. No more wait lists, no more backlogs. Not one veteran not a victim of the dysfunctional Congress if there is a shutdown or a gridlock.

Then we did something. We, working with the veterans service organizations and the authorizing committee, by Senator Sanders, we have advanced appropriations. So even if there is a shutdown or delay, our veterans will be taken care of.

There is more money in there for research. There is more money in there for cancer. There is an extra $4 million to add to the close to $2 billion to deal with the backlog. These numbers are mind-numbing, but the results are not.

We have that money and we also increased the DOD defense money for medical research for prosthetic devices, for stunning achievements such as in my own Johns Hopkins where they did a limb transplant. Working with Department of Defense dollars, our gifted and talent surgeon was able to take a veteran and reinstitute limbs, and make him whole.

This enables them to also come up with a technique to prevent the rejection that often comes with transplants. It is stunning. That man will be able to have the use of his arms because of this type of work that we do here and what we do to help him will be able to help hundreds, and one day we will be able to help thousands.

That is what we do in appropriations. We take good intentions and make them a reality as possible. We are very proud of that.

The other item we are proud of is on a bipartisan basis we passed the child care and development block grant. Working with Senators Risch and Burr of North Carolina, I led that. With the superb help of Senators Alexander andarkin, we passed it. But we also wanted to reform our quality standards, regulations without a long delay. We now know that we are going to have fire and safety inspection facilities, better training for providers, and background checks to make sure our vulnerable populations are protected. But for everything that we put in we are not able to deal with this. I think that is pretty impressive.

The other issue we worked out was how we worked out the college affordability. In this program that we passed, we will increase the maximum Pell grant by $100 for a total maximum of $58,530, $100 more. That means you will be able to buy a book, you will be able to pay that lab fee if you want to be a nurse or an inhalation therapist, a surgery tech, and so on. We also reformed the Pell grants, so any student who simultaneously is working on a GED and a college degree would be eligible for Pell grants.

As part of the listening tours that Senator Cardin and I had, we found out that there were many people who at a certain point in life dropped out of school. They made a particular choice that they now are trying to compensate for. So they are working on their GED making great progress. They have to show that, but simultaneously they are eligible for that Pell grant so they don’t lose time. We have been able to do that.

There are other aspects related to college affordability, but we also wanted to focus on safety issues. We have money now for the 149 air traffic control facilities in rural communities. Those 149 air traffic controllers — we have the Maryland 5; Salisbury, Easton, Frederick, Hagerstown, and Baltimore County. I know the Presiding Officer has them in Wisconsin. That is taken care of.

We also wanted to look at other areas of safety such as food safety. Thanks to what we have done in this bill, we have funded the FDA so they can meet the new food safety standards we are concerned about.

I am also particularly happy and proud of what we did for women. I won’t go into all the discussions on Medicare, but there is a sensitive topic such as funding for abortion and very special circumstances. Yes, we will talk about that tomorrow.

Do you know what I am happy about? What I did for victims of violence. This legislation has $430 million for the Violence Against Women Act. It is at an all-time high. Again, taking what the authorizers wanted — but they all do conference calls in their home State. We actually put money into the Federal checkbook.

We also paid special attention to the situation of what happens to rape victims. Very often — and I know you talk
with the rape victims in your own State or those who are their advocates—they feel doubly victimized. They often feel there was a violent attack on them—so repugnant I don’t want even to talk about it on the Senate floor, which is horrible enough. But when they turn to the system, they often find that the very forensics that are needed to go after the perpetrator are either stuck in a crime lab somewhere in a backlog or, even worse, sitting in a police locker instead of being tested. So they wait days, weeks, months, and even years.

We have gotten into this, thanks to our Vice President, Joe Biden, who was the originator of the Violence Against Women Act. He asked the Justice Department to go to police departments and say where is this evidence and why isn’t it being processed?

They found there were over 400,000 sexual assaults in police lockers instead of getting tested. Can you imagine? Four hundred thousand.

Thanks again to the advocates, the best ideas come from the people—I think somebody is calling me now about it.

What we have now is we have added a $40 million grant program, again a bipartisan effort, to go work with local police departments to bring down—where we already know where they have gotten underway with existing funds, they are finding that some of these predators have been serial rapists. Some of their cases go back 5, 10, 15 years because of the DNA things we can do, we can do this. We are going to change it.

There are other issues I can talk about, droughts, forest fires, all of these kinds of things. I will talk about them more tomorrow, but I just wanted to show the American people tonight, as we kick off this debate, while we focus on three items—and I don’t minimize their importance, I don’t minimize the value to debate them. I want people to know what is in this bill.

When we had to deal with the omnibus, we had to deal with $1 trillion because we were stiff-armed, and also we couldn’t bring up the bills one at a time, so we have to bring all the Homeland Security up now.

We faced 98 riders, some of which were highly controversial. We did the best we could with them, and I will have more to say about those tomorrow.

But while everybody talks about one item or this item, I wanted to talk about some of these items. I really hope we pass this omnibus bill, because when we do, our country will be safer because when we work with the bipartisan committee, we will be safer because of threats over there.

But I believe the biggest threats we face are gridlock, deadlock, and the way we paralyze ourselves by making the perfect the enemy of the good. No piece of legislation is perfect. We will be the first to say that in this bill.

By the way, people might say: Boy, this is a big bill, Senator Mikulski. It really is. It is discretionary funding for our entire Federal Government, but it is also on the Web site. People can go to our individual subcommittees in Defense, Labor-HHS, Interior, Transportation and Housing, and read about what we did. I had to summarize here. I was prepared to read them all night, but I know we are anxious to bring this evening to a close. But I wanted to open the debate today to talk about how we tried to govern on a bipartisan basis.

We have reached across the aisle and we have reached across the Capitol dome. The House has done its job. Now I hope we do our job and that within the next 24 hours we pass the omnibus spending bill and show that we can govern, that we will not have a government shutdown, we will not have government on autopilot, and we will be able to fund our responsibilities, protect America, and really prepare America for both today and the rest of the 21st century.

I look forward to working with my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, once again, the Senate has an opportunity to consider the National Defense Authorization Act. This bill is named for the two retiring chairmen of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, Senator Carl Levin and Congressman Buck McKeon. Senator Levin has been a fierce defender of Michigan, strong advocate for the men and women of our armed services, and a friend. When the Senate passes this bill, and the President signs it into law, it will be a fitting tribute to Senator Levin’s storied legacy of public service.

This compromise—a comprehensive authorization of the Nation’s military arm—is far from perfect. No bill is. But this authorization bill supports and resources the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces, who defend our Nation, and whose families sacrifice so much in the name of public service. The bill prepares our country to face future challenges, and promotes the goals and values that have become a hallmark of our national defense.

Of primary importance to me, this defense authorization bill protects the Leahy law, the requirements by which Congress determines the use of foreign security forces we train and equip. While one component of the Leahy law, traditionally incorporated annually in the Department of State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill as it relates to the activities of the State Department, was made permanent in 2012 as section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act, this Defense authorization bill makes the component of the law as it relates to Defense Department activities permanent law.

This provision prohibits human rights training, which is narrowly defined, for individuals who are members of units of foreign security forces that have been deemed ineligible under the Leahy law. However, those individuals must not have been involved in violations, the training must have the concurrence of the State Department, it may only occur in the individuals’ home countries, the training must be, and this is key, the training must be consulted on the content, methodology, and intended beneficiaries, and the training is not sufficient for meeting the accountability requirement for purposes of the exception.

Some in the Pentagon have suggested that the Leahy law has impeded their ability to engage with foreign security forces. Not only do the facts prove otherwise, that is the same discredited claim of those who have argued that the CIA’s torture of prisoners was legal and made us safer.

The United States may have the most powerful military, but that power by consolidating all of them within the bill to uphold the values and principles this Nation was founded on: due process, respect for the rule of law, and respect for the laws of war. We should learn from history. When we abandon those values and principles and support or associate ourselves with foreign forces who commit atrocities, we pay a heavy price.

This defense authorization also includes a provision I authored with Senator Lindsey Graham to establish a commission on the future of the army. The President’s fiscal year 2015 budget proposal reflected many tough choices about the future size and shape of each of the services. It is the decision about the U.S. Army that would irreversibly change the nature of that branch. Most dramatically, the proposal included a plan to eliminate the Nation’s reserve of Apache helicopters and mission training, which is narrowly defined, for individuals who are members of units of foreign security forces we train and equip.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, once again, as section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act, this Defense authorization bill makes the component of the law as it relates to Defense Department activities permanent law.

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an important designation for Vermont. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System recognizes and preserves rivers with remarkable scenic and recreational value. With the passage of this legislation, Vermont will join 40 other States that have designated national wild and scenic rivers. This designation of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers is the capstone of more than 7 years of work, including intense study and planning by the local communities that want to protect the natural, cultural, and recreational qualities of these rivers.

This defense authorization bill is not perfect; politics as much as policy makes that the case. I am disappointed that this authorization fails to build on important progress made last year to streamline the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay and move closer to finally shuttering the detention facility there. This compromise bill will maintain the status quo by continuing to prohibit the transfer of detainees to the United States for detention or trial. I am disappointed that a provision contained in the Senate Armed Services Committee version of the authorization that would have provided excepted prohibition was moved during negotiations. However, I am pleased that the bill does not contain the statutory ban on detainee transfers to Yemen that also was contained in the Senate bill.

As long as the detention facility at Guantanamo remains open, it serves as a recruitment tool for terrorists, and tarnishes America’s historic role as a champion of human rights. The prison facility at Guantanamo remains a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars—costing this country billions of dollars at a time when budgets are tight and that money is needed elsewhere. Closing Guantanamo is the morally responsible thing to do; my commitment on that has not wavered.

With regard to some of the provisions included in this bill that relate to combating the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), I expect the Department of Defense to abide by the Leahy law. These terrorists pose a threat to the United States and to our partners; they must be stopped and brought to justice. But we cannot ignore our own laws or permit the United States to be implicated, either directly or indirectly, in gross violations of human rights when we support either governments or irregular forces in the fight against ISIS.

There have been multiple reports that some in the Iraqi Army and the militias they fight alongside engage in reprehensible conduct similar to the barbaric crimes of ISIS. As a matter of law and policy, we must condemn this. I cannot—and will not—support any effort to weaken the application of the Leahy law to the Iraqi Army or to any entity it is aligned with.

As in every defense authorization bill, there are things in here that I support and things I wish were not in here. Compromise is inherent in this process. But we cannot forsake our principles and ideals when it comes to supporting our national defense and the men and women who serve. I will support this compromise bill and remain committed to the end goal of ensuring the enduring values that make this Nation a beacon of civil and human rights around the globe.

Madam President, I am grateful that the fiscal year 15 National Defense Authorization Act includes an important provision. The designation of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system recognizes and preserves rivers with remarkable scenic and recreational value. With the passage of this legislation, Vermont will join 40 other States with designated National Wild and Scenic Rivers. Designation of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers is the capstone of more than 7 years of work, including intense study and planning by the local communities who want to protect the natural, cultural and recreational qualities of these rivers.

This has not been a Federal-led initiative; instead it was an occasion for Vermont citizens to work together. The communities along the rivers contacted me in 2000 to request the initiation of a Federal study for this designation. The decision to move ahead was made by local communities that agreed to specific goals and priorities for these two rivers. This designation was put to a vote at the communities’ town meetings and was approved by every town that is included in the legislation.

National Wild and Scenic status for these rivers will help the local communities protect the natural, cultural and recreational values while also protecting the rights and values of landowners who make their homes and livings on the banks of these rivers. I am proud that this process has been driven by the impacted communities, working with the U.S. Forest Service, the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers will forever be enjoyed by fishermen, hunters, and paddlers and that water quality will be protected. The benefits will extend downstream as far as Lake Champlain and beyond.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 130) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 130, the short-term, 2-day continuing resolution, which was received from the House and is now at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the House messengers to H.R. 3998 the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 697, 632, 1055, 542, 637, 1051, 1057, 791, 1102; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rolloff votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; that 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.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WALSH

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to take a few moments to thank a Senator who will be leaving at the end of this term: Senator John Walsh of Montana.

Though only in the Senate a brief time, Senator Walsh brought his wealth of experience to the work here and fought the good fight. Serving 33 years in the Montana Army National Guard, he brought his bravery and courage into the Senate. John Walsh supported the Paycheck Fairness Act and was one of the original cosponsors of the Bring Jobs Home Act. He lived up to the values he was fighting for in the military by standing for workers here.

I thank him for his service and friendship and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY ERICKSON AND SHEILA DWYER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President I would like to take a moment to thank a woman whom most Americans do not know but whose name is well-known to every employee of the United States Senate because—among other reasons—she signs our paychecks. Nancy Erickson will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session.

For the last 7 years, Nancy has served as the Secretary of the United States Senate. All told, she has worked for the Senate for 26 years.

For those of you who do not know, the Secretary of the Senate is this body’s top appointed position. It is like being CEO of a large corporation. The Secretary oversees two dozen departments—from payroll and printing to the Congressional Record. Nancy Erickson is the 32nd person—and the sixth woman—to hold that position.

Nancy is a consummate professional who has won the respect of Senators on both sides of the aisle. She is unfailingly cheerful and unflappable.

Nancy Erickson loves the United States Senate even more than she loves the Green Bay Packers—and that is saying a lot. Nancy got the political bug early. As a fifth grader in Brandon, SD, she captained for South Dakota Senator George McGovern in his 1972 Presidential campaign. She moved to Washington, DC, after college to work for the Government Accountability Office, which was then known as the General Accounting Office. After 2 years of desperate homesickness, she was ready to pack her bags and head back to South Dakota when she got a better offer.

A young South Dakota congressman with a bright future offered her a job as his scheduler. His name was Tom Daschle. Over the next 16 years Tom Daschle moved from serving as a House Member to Senator to Senate majority leader. Nancy moved up the ladder, too, eventually becoming Senator Daschle’s deputy chief of staff. When Senator Daschle left the Senate in 2005, Senator Reid immediately snapped Nancy up to serve as his representative to the Senate Appropriations. Two years later Senator Reid became majority leader and asked Nancy to serve as the Secretary of the Senate. Nancy calls being Secretary of the Senate her “pinch me job.”

Over the course of her 26-year Senate career, there have been traumatic moments. On the morning of September 11, 2001, Nancy was at her desk in the Capitol when Capitol Police rushed in and ordered that the building be evacuated immediately. Fearful that the Capitol was under terrorist attack.

One month later Nancy was one of 28 people in the Senate who were exposed to anthrax when a letter carrying the deadly pathogen was sent to Senator Leahy, a Senate subject matter expert in Senator Daschle’s office. Experts estimated that the affected staffers were exposed to between 1,000 and 3,000 times the lethal dose of anthrax. Fortunately, with expert medical assistance, no one in the Senate was seriously injured in the anthrax attack.

To walk back into the Capitol the day after 9/11 took courage. To keep coming back after living through a potentially deadly anthrax attack required not just courage but a true devotion to public service and a love of this Senate.

You can see Nancy’s love of this Senate and its history in the exquisitely restored Old Senate Chamber, whose renovation occurred on Nancy’s watch. You can see her love of the Senate in the ongoing restoration of the Capitol’s magnificent Brumidi Corridors, a project that Nancy has championed.

You can see Nancy Erickson’s reverence for the U.S. Senate in a massive portrait of one of the giants of Senate history, former Kentucky Senator Henry Clay. That painting, measuring 11 by 7 feet, was discovered a few years ago in a storage room in New York State. The paint was peeling, and there were holes in the canvas created when a high school had used it as a basketball backboard. With the effort to procure and restore that lost masterpiece, Today, the painting of the Senate’s “Great Compromiser” hangs just off the Senate floor—a reminder to all of us of the noble art of principled compromise. We thank you, Nancy, for that reminder and for your many years of service to this Senate and to America.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge Sheila Dwyer, who has served as Assistant Secretary of the Senate since 2007. Majority Leader Harry Reid, who paid tribute to Sheila on the Senate floor yesterday, appointed her to this post. Sheila has done an outstanding job overseeing the departments within the Office of the Secretary and assisting in the day-to-day legislative, financial, and administrative operations of the Senate. Sheila never forgets the little touches, or as any Democratic Senator can tell you, the meals that make the U.S. Senate an enjoyable place to work.

Sheila first came to Washington, DC, in 1980 as a House page for Speaker Tip O’Neill. Immediately after graduating from Suffolk University, she returned to DC and was hired to work in New York Governor Mario Cuomo’s Washington office. She went on to work for Senators Charles Robb and Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Sheila was responsible for logistics of not one—but two—Democratic national conventions. The 1992 Democratic convention in Chicago, I chaired the Illinois Delegation as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, and Sheila Dwyer once again kept the logistics for the event moving smoothly.

It has been an honor to work with Sheila for all these years, and I wish her the best as she begins a new chapter in her life.

To Nancy and to Sheila, thank you for sharing so much of your time and talent with this Senate. We will miss you both.
TRIBUTE TO KAY HAGAN

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, I rise today to honor my colleague from North Carolina, Senator KAY HAGAN, who is departing from the Senate at the end of this year. Senator HAGAN has been a strong voice for North Carolina’s families, first during her decades in the North Carolina State Senate and during her service here in the United States Senate. Over the last two years, I have been consistently impressed with Senator HAGAN’s compassion for and dedication to the causes she supports and her willingness to forge the tough, bipartisan compromises that our country needs.

Kay actually first came to the Senate in the 1970s as an intern in the Capitol, where she operated the elevator that continues to carry Senators to and from the Chamber. After finishing her college education and pursuing her law degree, Kay became an attorney for North Carolina National Bank and eventually became a vice president in the estates and trust division.

Senator HAGAN’s business and banking experience has been a tremendous asset during her time as a member of the banking committee, where we serve together. HAGAN’s understanding of the housing finance system and commitment to affordable housing was invaluable as she and I worked together with a bipartisan group of committee members to draft and advance legislation to stabilize the system so that we make sure the American taxpayer is protected and made whole. During the debate Senator HAGAN used her expert knowledge of the industry to craft a commonsense, bipartisan solution. Our proposal makes sure taxpayers are never left holding the bill again, while preserving the 30-year mortgage and supporting affordable housing—a huge accomplishment.

Senator HAGAN comes from a family and a state with a rich military history. Her father and brother both served in the Navy, and her husband, Chip, is a Navy Vietnam veteran. She has diligently supported and honored servicemembers and veterans as a member of the Armed Services Committee. She visited North Carolina troops in the Middle East to better understand their mission and needs, and she helped found the Military Family Caucus to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by those with loved ones abroad.

In conjunction with her work on the small business committee, she introduced legislation to reduce veteran unemployment by providing employers a work opportunity tax credit for hiring a member of the National Guard.

As a member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and Chair of the Subcommittee on Children and Families, Senator HAGAN has consistently fought to make sure America’s children have the education, tools, and resources to build a better tomorrow. In fact, Senator HAGAN’s first bill was on a subject very dear to me—financial literacy. Far too many young Americans fall victim to financial scams or take out too many loans because they haven’t been given an adequate education on personal finances. Senator HAGAN’s legislation—which she has pressed every Congress—would have helped States integrate financial literacy into middle- and high school curriculums. That is the kind of commonsense legislation Senator HAGAN is known for and Congress should be passing.

Senator HAGAN has been an outstanding public servant for the people of North Carolina. Although I am saddened to see such a well-respected female colleague depart from the Senate, I know Kay will continue to be a champion for North Carolina’s families in the years ahead, and I wish her all the best.

AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE FFA MODERNIZATION AND REFORM ACT

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I join my colleague Senator INHOFE in the passage of S. 2814. This legislation corrects a glitch in the law that was doing great harm to the American Airlines employees, including approximately 10,000 employees working out of or residing in Ohio. Ninety-five percent of these workers were unionized.

We are talking about pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, ramp workers, and dispatchers, all unionized. Part of the collective bargaining agreement was a defined benefit pension plan. These are plans where you earn benefits through your hard work, and those benefits provide you with annuitized income for life.

When American Airlines went bankrupt, these workers all received a single lump sum payment. For pilots, these payments were as much as $162,000. For flight attendants, the payment was $120,000. For other workers, these payouts were much, much less. Now, $162,000 may sound like a lot of money, and it is a lot. But not when it is meant to take the place of your entire pension for what could easily be a 20- or 30-year retirement. What we have done in the past for employees at United, Delta, Northwest, and US Airways is allow them to roll this entire amount over into an Individual Retirement Account or IRA.

It is important to understand what this is. When you roll over, you generally do not pay tax on it until you withdraw it from the new plan. The assets in the account continue to grow tax deferred. Deferred is the operative word. This does not mean that the employers do not pay taxes. It means they will pay them as they make withdrawals to finance their own retirement. This bill is needed to give the American Airlines employees that same opportunity. It is a simple fix, and it is the least we can do for workers who work hard and play by the rules, but lost their pensions through no fault of their own.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN AHLBERG

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, as I prepare to depart the Senate, I would like to take a few minutes to express my deep appreciation to Brian Ahlberg, my chief of staff for the last decade. Of course, every Senator knows that the chief of staff is a chief of staff—a vast range of roles and responsibilities—counselor, confidant, kibitzer, trouble-shooter, day-to-day manager, strategic planner, and, in Brian’s case, trusted friend. Brian has excelled in all of these critical roles, and I am very grateful to him.

Knut Rockne was fond of saying: “I’ve found that prayers work best when you have big players.” As Senators, we know that it is not enough to have a collective spirit; we have got to have big players. For me, that means big intellect, big work ethic, big heart. And those are qualities that Brian Ahlberg possesses in superabundance.

Brian originally joined my staff in 2003 as legislative director, after a decade of service in that role and others for my great friend Senator Paul Wellstone. In short order, I promoted him to chief of staff, and he has served in that role with enormous skill and professionalism ever since.

Staff directors on committees have the challenge of managing large staffs. As chief of staff, Brian has had to be an even bigger challenge: managing me. He has done so with great loyalty, intelligence, tact, and consistently good judgment. He is the proverbial calm amidst every storm. When my Irish is up, Brian’s Norwegian cool serves as a calming counterweight. He has never hesitated to speak up when he thinks I am wrong or misguided—an invaluable service. He has done a great job of allowing me, as Senator, to get into just enough trouble to be effective in this job.

It has been said, perhaps only half jokingly, that Senators are a constitutional impediment to the smooth functioning of staff. I long ago learned to get out of Brian’s way and let him manage my far-flung operation. We call ourselves Team Harkin—staffers on my Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, on my Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, and on my personal staff, both in Washington and back in Iowa. Brian is the impresario who skillfully coordinates their work as a single, collaborative team, skillfully resolving conflicts and keeping people focused on the mission at hand. I believe that Brian’s skill in this role is a major reason for Team Harkin’s remarkable legislative productivity over the last decade.

Brian has a great way of keeping my staff and me focused on what is truly important and strategic, avoiding detours and sidetracks. In meetings and
one-on-one, he functions like a whetstone—his aim is to make things sharper, and to cut to the heart of an issue or task.

I also appreciate the way Brian interacts with staff. He helps me to hire seasoned professionals, and then he empowers them with the tools to do their work, giving them confidence that he will be there to back them up when the going gets tough. His authoritative but soft-spoken, even-tempered approach seems to bring out the best in people around him.

Brian’s focus is always on the task, not his ego. Washington is to self-promotion what Iowa is to corn and soybeans; but self-promotion is the opposite of Brian’s style. He is always quick to spread the credit around, especially if that is what it takes to strengthen the team or seal the deal.

The questions you can always count on Brian to ask are: “How does this help people in Iowa?” and “How does this give a hand up to people who truly need it and deserve it?”

Over the years, Brian Ahlberg has become a consummate Washington player. But he remains a Midwesterner through and through, a passionate progressive Paul Wellstone, with a passion for fairness and justice, a determination to make life better for ordinary working Americans.

Finally, I want to note that Brian has always been wonderfully attentive to my staff members’ family needs, doing everything possible to accommodate them in times of sickness, bereavement, or emergency. Certainly, family comes first in Brian’s own life. On that score, I realize that Brian’s wife Jodi and sons Anders and Lucas have sacrificed because of his long hours at work, and for that I owe them a debt of gratitude.

Brian Ahlberg is my colleague, my confidant, my trusted friend. He is also a wonderful public servant. I will always be grateful to him for the personal sacrifices he has made to help me advance my agenda here in the Senate. Likewise, I will always be grateful to him for his extraordinary service to the people of Iowa and, more broadly, the people of the United States. I wish Brian and his family much happiness and success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK MILLER

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, as I prepare to relinquish the gavel as chair of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, I would like to take a few minutes to express my deep gratitude to our staff director, Derek Miller, for his sterling service in one of the Senate’s most demanding staff positions.

Knute Rockne was fond of saying: “I’ve got 110 players. But when you have big players,” Successful committee chairs in the Senate have the same approach. We know that it is not enough to be on the side of the angels; we have got to have big players. Here in the Senate, that means big intellect, work ethic, big heart. Those are qualities that Derek Miller possesses in superabundance.

Derek originally came to work for me in 2002 during my tenure as chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, where he was the lead staffer in our efforts to address the childhood obesity epidemic by improving the nutritional content of foods available in schools. Derek’s goal was not to get junk food out of our schools and to get healthy foods in. Our efforts came to fruition with passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which reformed the school lunch program and established national nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools, including foods sold in vending machines, school snack bars, and à la carte cafeteria lines.

In addition, in the 2008 farm bill, Derek was instrumental in dramatically expanding a program I created in the 2002 farm bill to provide fresh produce free of charge to students in elementary schools that have a high proportion of children from low-income families. In that 2008 farm bill, he spearheaded important reforms to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the food stamp program.

In 2010, Derek moved to my personal office as legislative director, where he proved himself to be a gifted parliamentary strategist and where he combined equal measures of humor and commitment to progressive policy to successfully advance my agenda. It is my hope that his weekly email summations of the Senate floor activity live on in posterity.

Early this year I tapped him to lead the staff of the HELP Committee.

The “P” in the HELP Committee abbreviates “progressive.” But we also like to think it stands for “people.” Traditionally, the HELP Committee has been a powerhouse of progressive legislation—legislation to give people a hand up, provide a ladder of opportunity, and expand access to health care and a secure retirement.

Under Derek’s skilled leadership, the committee has been true to that great progressive tradition. He has played a critical role in passing important bipartisan legislation and in every day needs of working Americans. Indeed, amidst a Senate too often mired in partisanship, I thank Derek for helping our committee to chart a very different course—a course of bipartisanship and accomplishment. In this 113th Congress, the HELP Committee has passed a remarkable 23 bills signed into law by the President, distinguishing our Committee as the Senate’s most productive.

But beyond legislative accomplishments, I want to pay tribute to Derek’s excellence as a manager, as not just staff director but a true staff leader. Derek’s colleagues respect that he has no ego, he has only a job to get done—and that is so rare here on the Hill, where empire-building and self-aggrandizement are all too common.

Derek is respected by staff because his approach is to empower those around him, to support them in every way, but to give them plenty of room to do what they do best.

He sees the professionals on the HELP Committee as people first, and as staffers second. If there is an illness, a pregnancy, or some other challenging circumstance, Derek will move heaven and earth to give the staff the support he or she needs.

Derek is attentive to his colleagues’ family needs because, in his own life, family comes first. Inevitably, Derek’s wife Sun and his son Philip have paid a price because of Derek’s long hours at work, and for that I owe them a debt of gratitude.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, and in particular on behalf of members and staff on the HELP Committee, I thank Derek for his dedicated service to the people of the United States. I wish him much happiness and success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY SCHRECHTER-STEBINER

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute and extend my thanks to one of my smartest and most passionate staff members Zachary Schechter Steinberg. A native of Iowa City, IA, Zach started with the office as an intern in the summer of 2007. He became an official staff member immediately upon his graduation from Wesleyan University in 2008. Just 6 years later he serves as the Economic Policy Adviser for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and my most trusted advisor on tax, budget and banking issues. Zach is part of the reason we have such a knowledgeable and effective staff voice in the Senate on effectively preserving Social Security and on the critical importance of maintaining and strengthening the Social Security Disability Insurance program.

Zach has the ability to quickly develop a full understanding of very complicated issues and to work with other staff to forge policy solutions. This is perhaps best illustrated with his work on the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Although newly promoted to legislative assistant, when I was appointed to the conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills, he advised me on many narrow convoluted issues. He not only performed well, but won the respect of many of the committee’s professional staff for his ideas. Zach also understands that passage of provisions into law is but one step, and has remained a stalwart advocate of successful implementation of the bill.

As many of you here in the Senate know last year saw the retirement of Richard Bender, my longest serving
staff member and a Senate institution in his own right. It is my firmly held opinion that Richard only allowed himself to begin his retirement because he was leaving Zach to handle his portfolio. I am also quite certain that Zach is the only staff member during Richard’s 35 years that he would have felt comfortable leaving in charge. That is because not only does Zach possess a keen intelligence, a work ethic second to none and an innate ability to translate arcane tax and budget data into understandable prose—but he has the heart of a true progressive. Zach cares deeply about the people of Iowa, about the future of the middle class in this country and about making sure that every American has a fair shot at economic security.

It has been a pleasure to watch Zach grow personally and professionally over the past 6 years—as he transformed from a headstrong intern to one of the most capable and able staffers in the Senate, from a new college graduate to a senior advisor newly married to Sarah this past summer.

This week I am concluding my 40 years in public office. It has been an amazing journey of the things Zach has done that makes it easier to say goodbye is that I am leaving behind talented people like Zach from whom I know I can expect great things in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN S. PISTOLE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, it is my great privilege to recognize the distinguished career of John S. Pistole, on the occasion of his retirement as the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration. He has been a dedicated public servant and leader for the past 31 years. Next year, John will take on an exciting new leadership role when he returns to his alma mater, Anderson University, as its president.

I am privileged to have worked with John and received his counsel on important issues like addressing the terrorist threats facing our Nation in the post-9/11 era, and helping to guide the FBI and TSA to successfully meet the challenges brought on by those threats.

Throughout his career, John has taken on many of the most challenging roles in law enforcement. He’s fought against organized crime in the FBI and led frontline counterterrorism efforts as head of the TSA. However, for a person who has had to maintain a tough exterior in these roles, John has remained thoughtful, compassionate, and courteous—important traits which he demonstrated in his appearances before the Commerce Committee.

After earning his law degree at Indiana University in 1981 and spending 2 years in private law practice, John decided to enter public service by joining the FBI. From there, he rose through the ranks as a special agent in Minneapolis and New York. He worked hard—first becoming a supervisor at FBI Headquarters, where he was recognized as a role model for new FBI agents, and then chosen to be an instructor at the FBI Academy. A few years later, John was recognized for his capabilities with an opportunity to teach the first sessions at a new International Law Enforcement Academy.

In the late 1990s, John got involved with the FBI’s efforts to fight white-collar crime. In Indianapolis, he created task forces fighting fraud and public corruption, and was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge at the Boston Field Office. When Egypt Air Flight 990 crashed off the coast of Rhode Island, John investigated this aviation attack that would serve as a prelude to his post-9/11 roles.

When our Nation was attacked on September 11, 2001, John had just been assigned to the Inspections Division at FBI Headquarters though he was quickly reassigned to help build FBI’s Counterterrorism Division. He rose steadily through the ranks, eventually serving as the FBI’s Deputy Director for more than 5 years. John’s exemplary service in that role, combined with his experience in counterterrorism and excellent management of and service to law enforcement, earned him appointment in 2010 when he was nominated to be the TSA Administrator.

John assumed the leadership of TSA at a time when the agency had been without a confirmed administrator for a year and a half. At this time, the agency had been grappling with the fallout from the Christmas Day attack of 2009, and had become a political and media punching bag. TSA needed a strong leader to take on the formidable task of improving the agency’s stature. TSA needed to be effective in its duty to protect our Nation, while also finding a way to respond to the public outcry over onerous and invasive search procedures. TSA needed to deal with its own issues and its own ranks while navigating a tough fiscal environment. We were fortunate when John accepted the President’s nomination and was confirmed by the Senate unanimously to this important role.

Under John’s exceptional leadership, the TSA has maintained a compelling track record in preventing terrorist attacks against our Nation’s transportation networks. The agency has taken a more risk-based approach to security policy, and so an average American traveler, including the average American traveler, would have a more secure journey. We have made TSA resources more convenient and predictable, while freeing up TSA resources so the agency can be more focused on high-risk areas.

While John was improving both TSA’s effectiveness and the security experience for the traveling public, he was simultaneously focusing on improving the TSA workforce. By exemplifying the traits he expected of his officers, and by taking the time to meet with his workforce and address their concerns, he earned their loyalty.

John took important steps to implement policies that would hold TSA staff accountable, and he also demonstrated that security interests can be safeguarded while preventing TSA officers to unionize. This was a great step forward for officers’ labor rights, and has provided a constructive way to handle officers’ concerns.

Appointed from outside the organization, John quickly earned the respect of TSA employees, who then supported him in reforming outdated policies. When TSA moved away from its one-size-fits-all approach, his workforce overcame many challenges to implement a more complex risk-based security process. Without the support John earned from TSA employees, that shift would not have been possible. We will always want better security and more convenience for less cost, and John has done better than anyone yet at striking the right balance.

John Pistole has long been a beacon of integrity in government service. Today it gives me great pleasure to commend him—and for his enormous contributions to improving the Nation’s security. I am grateful for his service to this country and it is an honor to call him a friend. I wish John and his family the best as he embarks on a new chapter in his distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE HANSON

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Danielle Hanson, a legislative aide in my Washington, DC, office, for the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Danielle is a native of Rapid City, SD, and is a graduate of Benedictine College. Upon graduation from Benedictine, Dani moved from Atchison, NE, to Washington, DC, to become a member of my personal office staff. In her 2 years on my staff, she has worked as a staff assistant, legislative correspondent, and legislative aide.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Dani for her hard work and dedication and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DEVEN SCOTT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Deven Scott, the deputy scheduler in my Washington, DC, office, for the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Deven is a native of Aberdeen, SD, and is a graduate of the University of South Dakota. Upon graduation from USD, Deven moved from Vermillion, SD, to Washington, DC, to become a member of my personal office staff. In her 1½ years on my staff, Deven has worked as a staff assistant, legislative correspondent, and deputy scheduler.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Deven for her hard work and dedication...
and wish her continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ‘‘BILL’’ LOVELADY JR.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I wish to recognize Mr. William ‘‘Bill’’ Lovelady, Jr., for his 34 years of service in the U.S. Army. Bill has worked on behalf of our Nation as a civil servant, rising to chief counsel for the U.S. Army Engineer research and Development Center, or ERDC. Throughout his career, he has displayed leadership, professionalism, initiative, and dedication. His accomplishments will have a significant and lasting impact on the Corps of Engineers’ laboratory community, the Army, and our Nation. Today, in recognition of his retirement, I offer thanks and congratulations.

Prior to Bill’s 22 years as counsel to the ERDC and Waterways Experiment Station, he served as assistant division counsel to the Lower Mississippi Valley Division and Corps of Engineers. He also worked for the Vicksburg District of the Corps as a trial attorney. In these capacities, Bill played an instrumental role in the successful execution of the missions, particularly regarding research and development. In fact, he is acknowledged as the Corps’ leading legal authority in this mission area.

Bill’s accomplishments do not end there. He has been recognized by chief counsels as an example for other legal managers in the command, including his selection as a charter member of the Chief Counsel’s Managing Partners Group, board of directors. This group, comprised of senior Corps attorneys, is responsible for recommendations to improve the delivery of legal services. Bill’s exceptional legal advice, acumen, and sound judgment were no doubt of immense value to this group.

Bill has also served as an advisor to the ERDC Installation Planning Board, ERDC Program Budget Advisory Committee, ERDC-Vicksburg Site Partnership Council, ERDC Special Recognition Committee, and ERDC Senior Anti-Terrorism Steering Committee. He is a member of the Federal Laboratory Consortium Legal Support Subcommittee and an active participant in the Department of Defense, DOD, Technology Transfer Integrated Project Team.

In 1999, Bill worked tirelessly in the reorganization of the Corps’ laboratories to establish the ERDC. He helped develop plans, worked to implement them, and solved numerous leadership, administrative, labor-management, and legal challenges. In reviewing all aspects of the reorganization plans, he ensured that R&D leadership was advised of potential legal concerns and solutions through the process. Moreover, he effectively assumed leadership over formerly independent labor assets of the Corps’ laboratory system. Because of the legal team’s substantial contributions, ERDC’s structure and operating mode have served as a model for delivery of legal services across the Corps.

Bill has always been a proven manager and adviser. In 1998, a new human resource system was instituted under one of nine newly authorized science and technology laboratory personnel management demonstration projects. Bill applied his leadership and legal experience to identifying the distinctions between the features of the project and the basic Federal personnel system. His advice was critical to implementation strategies and problem-solving during the transition.

Bill is the coauthor of the ‘‘Research & Development Partnering Handbook,’’ a comprehensive guide that collected all R&D partnering authorities, pursuant to the Technology Transfer Act. He has assisted in the negotiation and resolution of complicated legal issues involving the licensing of ERDC-developed technologies. He also has played a key role in supporting ERDC’s laboratories with the drafting and negotiating of domestic and international patent licenses, cooperative research and development agreements, education and interagency partnership agreements, and service agreements. These instruments have seen ERDC partner with State and local governments, other Federal agencies, colleges, universities, and private companies.

Since the early 1990s, Bill has also provided legal advice and assistance for the Department of Defense’s High Performance Supercomputing Modernization Plan. He was essential to the establishment of DOD’s first High Performance Computing Resource Center and recently addressed issues involving access to DOD’s high performance supercomputing facilities.

In short, Bill has been vital to the Engineer Research and Development Center management team and its personnel. His friendly, outgoing personality only adds to his professionalism. On a personal note, I would add that he has been a close friend of mine for over two decades and my wife Dianne has been a lifelong friend. I wish them both the best in this new chapter of their lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING SUN WOO PARK

• Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize an outstanding New Hampshire citizen, Mr. Gary Frost. Gary will retire at the end of this year after serving as the CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Manchester for 26 years.

Gary grew up in Keene and graduated from the University of New Hampshire. He has devoted his life to improving the lives of children and New Hampshire citizens in need. In his 37-year tenure at the Boys and Girls Club of Manchester, it has become a safe and welcoming place for Manchester’s youth to study, play and find a hot meal.

When Gary first joined the organization, the club was housed in one building on the corner of Union and Lowell Streets in Manchester. One of his greatest accomplishments was spearheading the $7.2 million dollar capital campaign to renovate and expand the Union Street Club House so that the organization could serve more children. Today, under Gary’s capable leadership, the Boys and Girls Club now extends across an entire city block and serves over 600 children a day.

TRIBUTE TO GARY FROST

• Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize an outstanding New Hampshire citizen, Mr. Sun Woo Park. Today I wish to recognize Portsmouth’s Taekwondo Club owner, Sun Woo Park, for his service on behalf of Korean American citizens, and Sun Woo Park has done just that.

He is a founding member and the current president of the Korean American Society of New Hampshire. Every year since 1987, he has organized an event to honor the brave service and sacrifice of New Hampshire’s Korean War veterans. He has been honored by the President of the Republic of Korea, Noh Moo Hyun, for his service on behalf of Korean war veterans.

Sun Woo Park has also been quietly helping his local community in many other ways. He is held numerous fundraisers in support of the Saint Charles Children’s Home in Rochester, NH, as well as many other local schools and nonprofits.

I am pleased to join the citizens of New Hampshire and all of grand master Sun Woo Park’s students in wishing him the best in his future endeavors. We thank him for his many years of teaching and service to the State of New Hampshire.

Sun Woo Park immigrated to the United States from Korea in 1985. Since the early 1990s, Bill has also provided legal advice and assistance for the Department of Defense’s High Performance Supercomputing Modernization Plan. He was essential to the establishment of DOD’s first High Performance Computing Resource Center and recently addressed issues involving access to DOD’s high performance supercomputing facilities.

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TRIBUTE TO GARY FROST
Those who work with Gary describe his deep commitment to and compassion for the children he works with and his community.

In addition to his work transforming the Boys and Girls Club, Gary has served as mayor in many other ways. He was an integral member of the committee that brought the Verizon Wireless Arena to Manchester, an important addition to the city’s cultural offerings. He’s also been a longtime member of the Manchester Rotary Club.

I hope Gary enjoys retirement at his camp on Newfoundland and spending time with his wife Dotti and his two daughters, Abby and Kara. I join the City of Manchester and residents across the Granite State in thanking Gary for his service and wishing him all the best for a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK BIGGER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I wish to honor Frank Bigger, who will retire as the Pocahontas Mayor after 4 years of public service to the citizens of Arkansas in this elected position.

Frank was inspired to run for city mayor at 67, the first political office he has held. Frank ran on the platform of economic prosperity and job creation. In that light, he fought hard alongside the Chamber of Commerce and the Intermodal Authority to bring a Poultry, Egg Company, PECO, processing facility to the county. This created more than 1,000 local jobs and led to improved infrastructure to accommodate the business.

Frank helped the community overcome the worst flooding residents remember. Highways, bridges and businesses were closed because of several feet of water from a levee breach of the Black River. Under Frank’s leadership, Pocahontas recovered.

Before serving as mayor, Frank graduated from Arkansas State University and served on the Black River Technical College board of trustees. In 1996, he retired as president from what is now Pinnacle Frame and Accent, and has also worked as a part-time bank owner and has owned local cattle farms.

My staff and I have enjoyed working with Mayor Bigger on the projects important to Pocahontas. I am truly grateful for his years of honorable service and dedication to the community.

REMEMBERING LEO MOSKOVITZ

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, Jermy and Northeastern Pennsylvania lost a long-treasured member of the community whenLeo Moskovitz passed away on November 24 at the age of 109. Although he lived for well over a century, his death feels premature to his family and his community. His wife of 45 years, Ann, described him as one of a kind, a fantastic man in every sense of the word. His contributions to the Commonwealth, both public and private, are many and will not be soon forgotten. As one of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s true pioneers, he helped transform the region’s economic and cultural outlook over the past century. Those who knew him will long cherish memories of his real-life history book, reciting stories from 80 or 90 years ago as if they had happened the day before. On any day of the week, he could catalogue the many evolutions the greater Scranton region went through in detail.

As founder and president of the First National Bank of Jermyn, Leo presided over significant growth in the bank’s assets, while always offering opportunity to the small business owners and people of Lackawanna County. He was a banker who bet on people and usually won for all concerned. Leo was ahead of his time in many ways, including promoting women in an era when such a practice was far from commonplace. For local schools, he helped establish, to the numerous art and cultural organizations he and his wife supported throughout the region, Leo Moskovitz’s love and compassion for his community and its people endured for over a century, and will continue to shine for many years to come.

FAR EXCEPTION THREE

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, the Mercer Engineering Research Center, or MERC, is the nonprofit, research and development arm of Mercer University, a private university founded in 1833 and located in a state-of-the-art research facility in Warner Robins, GA; just a short drive from Robins Air Force Base. For over 175 years, the University has served Georgia as a highly respected educational institution.

In 1981, the School of Engineering was established at the Macon, GA, campus with the charter class beginning in 1985. Two years later, MERC was established under the School of Engineering to provide locally available engineering and scientific services with critical specialized skills to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, while simultaneously providing a workload support-base to the Mercer School of Engineering in its development of high-technology skills in the Middle Georgia area.

MERC has a highly qualified professional staff of engineers and test equipment, and extensive technical capability in the fields of aircraft structural analysis and design, flight test instrumentation, reverse engineering and prototyping, laboratory structural testing, electronic warfare software algorithms, and equipment. It has deployed applications with integrated database access, industrial engineering and logistics.

MERC also employs engineering interns providing an avenue for students to get real-world, Air Force-related experience, and today they are the largest source of entry-level engineers for Robins Air Force Base while also providing superior support to all other military services, large and small business, and other research agencies.

MERC has been able to maintain a successful, strategic relationship with Robins Air Force Base because of its professional knowledge, requirements and problems; its developing capability; its broad corporate knowledge and quick response capability; independence and objectivity; freedom from conflicts of interest; and lower costs. Their demonstrated ability to provide the most efficient solutions to pressing research and development problems established MERC as the preferred source of real solutions to real problems.

Over the last few years, however, the Air Force and the Robins Air Force Base Small Business Office have emphasized increasing the percentage of small business contract awards; an initiative not without merit for sure. However, their interpretation and application of the Small Business Regulations, or FAR, has resulted in MERC essentially being barred from providing contracted services the likes of which they have provided with unmatched efficiency and significant savings for the Air Force for almost 30 years.

Since nonprofit research organizations by definition cannot be small businesses, they are excluded by law from competing for small business set-asides. MERC, however, is a nonprofit. The FAR essentially bars MERC from competition, and the costs of the FAR exceptions, that being when ‘‘only one responsible source and no other source available,’’ practically, the so-called ‘‘Exception Three’’ which allowed for contacting without providing for full and open competition with more than one source, offers little or no advantage.

That application of the FAR allowed the Robins Air Force Base to award contracts when their expertise, independence and objectivity; freedom from conflicts of interest; and lower costs. Their demonstrated ability to provide the most efficient solutions to pressing research and development problems established MERC as the preferred source of real solutions to real problems.

The case of the MERC is a virtual impossibility for the Robins Air Force Base to award certain contracts when ‘‘only one responsible source and no other source available,’’ where the exceptions would be of little or no advantage. As a result, MERC has been unable to compete for contracts and retain the expertise, independence and objectivity; freedom from conflicts of interest; and lower costs.

In recent years, however, the Small Business Office at Robins Air Force Base has approved the use of only one of the FAR exceptions, that being when ‘‘only the responsible FAR offers a source; and no other supplies or services will satisfy agency requirements.’’

This application of the FAR, or misapplication if you will, makes it virtually impossible for the Robins Air Force Base to award certain contracts to any other entity than other small businesses. It translates to higher costs and greater inefficiencies. Robins Air
Air Force Base continues to seek MERC’s unique expertise and essential engineering skills, but is forced to pass money through small and large businesses to MERC adding time and cost to the product/service delivery. By demanding small awards to small businesses, the government also suffers a loss of intellectual property, IP, since MERC transfers ownership of all said property back to the U.S. Government, while small businesses can retain IP for future revenue.

You would be hard pressed to find any bigger supporter of small businesses in the Senate than myself. However, when it comes to ensuring our men and women fighting overseas for our freedom have what they need to get the job done, there are only three things I care about: cost, schedule, and performance. Our men and women in uniform deserve that.

In between these spending austerity, the Air Force can ill afford the unintended consequences of precluding entities that supply vital complex engineering solutions, along with the added benefit of cross pollination of educational links between academic institutions and government engineers that need that level of expertise. More importantly, by ignoring FAR Exception Three, the government is limiting its ability to pursue the best solutions at the best price. We can ill-afford such consequences in this period of economic austerity, simply in the name of fostering the growth of small businesses participation, is jeopardizing our freedom have what they need to get the job done, there are only three things I care about: cost, schedule, and performance. Our men and women in uniform deserve that.

This issue is about ensuring Robins Air Force Base maintains essential engineering capabilities to supplement their own and their ability to swiftly and inexpensively select the most capable and viable product or service at the best value to the government. The Small Business Office at Warner Robins, in their attempt to carry out the Air Forces broader goal of increasing small businesses participation, is jeopardizing the very survival of institutions provided for and protected by the FAR.

By selectively applying the FAR exceptions, the Air Force is ignoring the intent of the acquisition regulations. It is contravening these fundamental educational links between academic institutions and government engineers that need that level of expertise. More importantly, by ignoring FAR Exception Three, the government is limiting its ability to pursue the best solutions at the best price. We can ill-afford such consequences in this period of economic austerity, simply in the name of fostering the growth of small businesses participation, is jeopardizing the very survival of institutions provided for and protected by the FAR.

REMEMBERING MARY ANN MOBLEY

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, my State has lost one of our finest citizens. Mary Ann Mobley, a friend to many and one of our best known Mississippian, passed away Tuesday. Mary Ann was the first young woman from Mississippi to be crowned Miss America, an accomplishment that was a source of great pride to my State. I was got to know Mary Ann at the University of Mississippi, where she was really a superstar and a fine actress. Incidentally, we were cast in a University Players production of ‘Tiger at the Gates’ at Ole Miss. She made Mississippian successes as an entertainer in Hollywood and a person who kept our State close to her heart throughout her career.

I ask unanimous consent that a December 11, 2014, article from the Clarion-Ledger newspaper titled ‘Mary Ann Mobley: Never Forget Her Roots’ be printed in the RECORD.

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

(FROM the Clarion-Ledger, Dec. 11, 2014) MARY ANN MOBLEY NEVER FORGOT HER ROOTS (By Billy Watkins)

They danced in the streets of Brandon the night one of their own, Mary Ann Mobley, was crowned the 1959 Miss America. "That's not new, that's a fact," said Waymon Tigrett, 70, who grew up with Mobley and has owned Brandon Discount Drugs the past 46 years. "They put a jukebox out by the statue in the middle of Main Street, ran an extension cord out to it and that thing blared music all night. People danced and carried on for hours. It was a true celebration.

"You have to remember, Brandon was only about 2,000 people back then. It was a small, isolated town. And all of a sudden, a girl we all knew was going to win Miss America. That was a huge deal back then. And still is to us." Mobley, Mississippi’s first Miss America, died Tuesday of a long battle with breast cancer. She was 77.

Services will be 1 p.m. Monday at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson. Visitation will be Sunday from 4–6 p.m. at Parkway Funeral Home in Ridgeland.

Mobley won the crown in September 1958, the same year she graduated from the University of Mississippi.

"She never forgot her roots, where she came from," said Tigrett, who lived four streets from Rankin General Hospital, and now as Mary Ann Drive. "Rankin County is certain to destroy these few vital educational links between academic institutions and government engineers that need that level of expertise. More importantly, by ignoring FAR Exception Three, the government is limiting its ability to pursue the best solutions at the best price. We can ill-afford such consequences in this period of economic austerity, simply in the name of fostering the growth of small businesses participation, is jeopardizing the very survival of institutions provided for and protected by the FAR.

I am hopeful this recent development will be an impetuous signal for the Senate to remain vigilant in their oversight responsibilities, and I renew my call to the Secretary of the Air Force to ensure local commands apply the FAR as written so as to guarantee our military and civilian uniform have exactly what they need, when they need it, and at a price that is in keeping with our responsibilities as stewards of the American tax dollar.●

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the annual National Finals Rodeo, which takes place at the Thomas & Mack Center on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The National Finals Rodeo has been held in Las Vegas for the past 30 years of the event’s 55 year history. Often noted as the foremost
Mr. HELLER: Madam President, I would like to offer the best of luck to all who are participating in this year’s events.

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS WELCH

Mr. KING. Madam President, I wish to honor the career of a dear friend and former colleague, Mr. Thomas Welch, who is set to retire this year as Chairman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. Tom’s tremendous 35-year career bridged both the public and private sectors, and he was often called upon to lead the charge to advance the state’s economic and energy frameworks. 

Tom’s leadership was characterized by a steadfast dedication to the people of Maine, a commitment to the efficient and effective delivery of energy services, and a vision for a more sustainable and resilient future. Throughout his career, Tom has been a vocal advocate for the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy, and his tireless efforts have helped Maine make strides in reducing its carbon footprint and increasing its energy independence.

As a former colleague, Mr. Welch, along with all of us, will miss the wisdom and guidance that he brought to our discussions. But we can all take comfort in knowing that his legacy will continue to shape the future of energy in our state.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Ms. Katherine Grant-Davis on the occasion of her retirement from the New Jersey Primary.
Care Association, NJPCA, after many years of remarkable service to the Garden State.

Kathy has admirably acted as the President and CEO of NJPCA, a nonprofit organization that represents New Jersey’s Federally-Qualified Health Centers, FQHC. Under her leadership, New Jersey’s FQHC’s have grown in both size and capability while modeling high standards of care for all ages and income levels. She represents the best of what NJPCA has accomplished in addressing the primary care needs of our friends and neighbors, and we owe her a debt of gratitude.

While New Jersey is home to 20 community centers operating 121 sites throughout the State, this robust network would not be possible without Kathy’s tremendous contributions. Under her leadership, FQHCs in New Jersey have come to represent quality, cost-effective care that has proven invaluable to patients. FQHCs and their patients, not only in New Jersey, but throughout the country. Where care systems evolve to focus on wellness, prevention and access to primary care, Kathy’s work building New Jersey’s network of community health centers into a nationally-recognized model ensures communities in New Jersey will flourish well into the future.

I congratulate Kathy on her retirement and would like to once again recognize, commend and applaud her legacy of extraordinary dedication to the New Jersey Primary Care Association and her unwavering service to the people of New Jersey.

RECOGNIZING LA PLAZA

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, millions of American businesses have found their start in the living rooms, backyards, and garages of aspiring entrepreneurs. Harnessing individual creativity and work ethic, a talent can grow into a lasting enterprise. I wish to honor La Plaza, a restaurant from my home State of Idaho, whose hard work and dedication to quality has seen growth and prosperity while enhancing the local community.

Founded in 2003, La Plaza offers unique and traditional Mexican fare, including an assortment of mole made with chocolate and dried peppers, to diners in southern Idaho. Guadalupe “Lupe” Loza and her husband, Chon, originally from Aguascalientes, Mexico, never planned to own a restaurant until their infant son required long-term hospitalization and they needed medical bills. As a self-taught chef, Lupe Loza started making tamales and empanadas in her kitchen and selling the food directly to local dairy workers and observers on local soccer fields. As her fans multiplied, and driven by the philosophy that you can dig the dirt and plant the seeds, but they can’t make the plants grow,” Lupe Loza took a leap of faith and opened the restaurant in a converted two-car garage, where customers sat at folding tables and ate off paper plates.

Today, La Plaza operates out of a 1,992 square foot space on Buhl’s Main Street, located on the old Oregon Trail in the western half of Twin Falls County. The Lozas are dedicated to creating and serving authentic Mexican cuisine and making costumers feel like they are eating at home with family. It is not surprising that after 11 years, La Plaza has received overwhelming praise from its diners and the larger community. The from-scratch food and “grandmother’s house” feel have made La Plaza a local staple and traveler’s destination.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Natalie Barrero, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

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TRIBUTE TO CARTER ADAMS

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Carter Adams, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

I recognize Carter Adams, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

TRIBUTE TO MADELINE AHERN

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Madeline Ahern, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Carter for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE BARRERO

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Natalie Barrero, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Madeline for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER ADAMS

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Carter Adams, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Carter for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE BARRERO

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Natalie Barrero, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.
Moises is a graduate of the University of Tampa where he majored in government and world affairs. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Moises for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BARR BENYAMIN

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Barr Benyamin, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Barr is a graduate of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA, having majored in political science and business administration. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Barr for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MAT BOWERS

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Mat Bowers, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Mat is a senior at Cornell University, currently majoring in biology with a concentration in animal physiology. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mat for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE BULLEK

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Katie Bullek, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Katie is a rising senior at the College the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Currently, Katie is majoring in economics and political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Katie for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL DENNIS

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Joel Dennis, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Joel is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, having majored in history and political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Joel for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL EILERS

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Rachel Eilers, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Rachel is a student at Auburn University, currently majoring in political science and communication. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rachel for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BURKE

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize John Burke, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

John is a graduate of the George Washington University where he majored in international affairs. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ABBIE FREY

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Abbie Frey, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Abbie is a junior at Cornell University, currently majoring in industrial and labor relations. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Abbie for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO HELENA JOO

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Helena Joo, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Helena is a rising senior at The George Washington University, currently majoring in economics and political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Helena for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.
Intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Helena is a junior at University of Maryland, currently majoring in health administration and public policy. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Helena for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO VANESSA MICHAUD
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Vanessa Michaud, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Vanessa is a senior at the University of Miami, currently majoring in international finance and marketing. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Vanessa for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO WONGANI MITKA
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Wongani Mitaka, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Wongani is a sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, currently majoring in nutrition pre-med. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Wongani for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CALEB ORR
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Caleb Orr, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Caleb is a sophomore at Abilene Christian University, currently majoring in political science and sociology. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Caleb for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK O’BRYANT
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Patrick O’Bryant, a 2014 intern in my Tallahassee, FL office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Patrick is a senior at Florida State University, where he is majoring in applied economics and political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Patrick for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN O’CONNOR
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Brian O’Connor, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Brian is a junior at Saint Anselm College, currently majoring in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brian for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA PEREZ-CUBAS
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Olivia Perez-Cubas, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Olivia is a graduate of Florida State University, having majored in political science and communications. Currently, she is studying for a master’s degree in journalism at Georgetown University. Olivia is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Olivia for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CALEB ORR
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Caleb Orr, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Caleb is a sophomore at Abilene Christian University, currently majoring in political science and sociology. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Caleb for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BETHANY POULOS
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Bethany Poulos, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Bethany is a graduate of Liberty University, having majored in international relations. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.
I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bethany for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO JAIRO RIVERA**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Jairo Rivera, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Jairo is a graduate of Florida International University, having majored in political science. Jairo is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jairo for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO DOUGAL ROBINSON**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Dougal Robinson, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Dougal is a graduate of Sydney University, where he majored in government and international relations. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dougal for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO PETER SCATURRO**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Peter Scaturro, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Peter is a junior at University of Virginia, currently majoring in political science. Peter is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Peter for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO RACHAEL ANN SOLOWAY**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Rachael Ann Soloway, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Rachael is a senior at the University of South Florida, currently majoring in communications. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rachael for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO CHELSI SUMNER**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Chelsie Sumner, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Chelsie is a graduate of Davidson College, having majored in English. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Chelsie for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO COURNEY VEATCH**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Courtney Veatch, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Courtney is a graduate of the University of North Florida, having majored in English and history. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Courtney for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO VELEZ**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Francisco Velez, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Francisco is a senior at the University of Florida, currently majoring in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Francisco for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ZINGALI**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Michael Zingali, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Michael is a rising junior at the Catholic University of America in

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I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bethany for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO AACENT VARAS**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Jackie Varas, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Jackie is a senior at the University of Florida, currently majoring in economics and political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jackie for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY VEATCH**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Courtney Veatch, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Courtney is a graduate of the University of North Florida, having majored in English and history. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Courtney for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO SEVERIN WALSTAD**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Severin Walstad, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Severin is a graduate of the University of Florida, having majored in public relations. Severin is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Severin for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ZINGALI**
- Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Michael Zingali, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Michael is a rising junior at the Catholic University of America in
Washington, DC. Currently, Michael is majoring in business management. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Michael for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1112 through and including 1137, and all nominations placed on the Secretary’s desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the nominations be reconsidered and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that 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.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Margaret C. Wilmoth

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general
Col. Lawrence F. Thoms

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 major general
Brig. Gen. Anthony R. Ierardi

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general
Col. Shelley R. Campbell

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. John C. Harris

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Mark C. Nowland

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army in the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general
Col. Helen E. Rogers

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Naval Reserve in the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Barry D. Reinhart

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be major general

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general
The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general
Col. Aaron T. Walter
The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general
Col. David W. Ling

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 507:

To be vice admiral
Rear Adm. Troy M. Shoemaker
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
Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN2172-2 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning TAFT OWEN AUJERO, and ending JEFFREY C. ROBERTS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

PN2185 AIR FORCE nominations (139) beginning PETER BRIAN ABERCROMBIE, II, and ending JASON C. ZUMWALT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2014.

PN2341 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning GEORGE W. CLIFFORD, III, and ending YOUNG J. JUN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2147 AIR FORCE nominations (165) beginning TRAVIS K. ACHESON, and ending PAUL C. ZURKOWSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.

PN2148 AIR FORCE nomination of Jennifer C. Alexander, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.

PN2149 AIR FORCE nomination of Joyce P. Fiedler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.

PN2194 AIR FORCE nominations (24) beginning ROBERT B.O. ALLEN, and ending KEITH M. VOLLENWEIDER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2196 AIR FORCE nominations (57) beginning RICHARD Y. BAIRD, and ending JEROME L VINLUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2197 AIR FORCE nomination of Allyson M. Yamaki, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2198 AIR FORCE nominations (66) beginning AARON J. AGIRRE, and ending GREGORY R. MARTIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2199 AIR FORCE nominations (249) beginning ERIKA S. ABRAHAM, and ending FEI ZHANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2200 AIR FORCE nominations (26) beginning RHETT B. CASPER, and ending STACEY ELIZABETH ZAIKOSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2201 AIR FORCE nominations (137) beginning JOSHUA C. AGUIRRE, and ending SANDY K. YIP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2203 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning SARAHANN REAL, and ending CAROL C. WALTERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2208 AIR FORCE nominations (83) beginning DAVID P. ABBOTT, and ending KEVIN D. UNDERWOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

PN2209 AIR FORCE nominations (159) beginning MOHAMMED H. ALJALLAD, and ending ANITA M. YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

PN1674-2 ARMY nomination of KIMBERELY DEROUENSLAVEN, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 15, 2014.

PN1927 ARMY nomination of Barry C. Busby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 22, 2014.

PN2382-1 ARMY nominations (142) beginning LAMAR D. ADAMS, and ending G6001317, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2383-1 ARMY nominations (102) beginning ERIC C. ANDERSON, and ending RANDI L. BRANDT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2387-2 ARMY nominations (26) beginning ANTHONY J. LABADIA, and ending JASON G. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2388-1 ARMY nominations (28) beginning ROBERT A. BORCHERDING, and ending WILLIAM D. WEAVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2389-1 ARMY nominations (7) beginning JUAN J. ANDRUS, and ending ANTHONY D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2390-1 ARMY nominations (5) beginning KENT R. ANDERSON, and ending W. FREDERICK PETERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2391-1 ARMY nominations (3) beginning KEN F. BRADT, and ending STUART D. LOVE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2392-1 ARMY nominations (5) beginning ROBERT E. NEFF, and ending STUART D. LOVE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2393-1 ARMY nominations (3) beginning KENT R. ANDERSON, and ending W. FREDERICK PETERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2394-1 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DeLROY A. BROWN, and ending ROBERT A. BORCHERDING, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2395-1 ARMY nominations (1) beginning JAMES H. HANCOCK, and ending DONALD V. HENNESSY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2396-1 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MARK R. ACH, and ending WENDY W. TORGERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2397-1 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MARK R. ACH, and ending WENDY W. TORGERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2398-1 ARMY nominations (3) beginning PEDE K. AGBERS, and ending SANDRA M. BRUST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2399-1 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ROBERT A. BORCHERDING, and ending WILLIAM D. WEAVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2401-1 ARMY nominations (2) beginning ROBERT A. BORCHERDING, and ending WILLIAM D. WEAVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2402-1 ARMY nomination of Patrick M. Brumit, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2403-1 ARMY nomination of Patrick M. Brumit, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2404-1 ARMY nomination of Patrick M. McGrath, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2405-1 ARMY nomination of Peggy E. D. McGill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

PN2406-1 ARMY nomination of Arun Sharma, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.

PN2407-1 ARMY nomination of James M. Brumit, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2156 ARMY nominations (24) beginning SAMUEL AGOSTOSTANTIAGO, and ending JOHN R. WILPI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2157 ARMY nominations (12) beginning EDWIN W. ADAMS, and ending RYAN M. ZERP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2158 ARMY nominations (2) beginning PAUL P. MCBRIDE, and ending PAUL E. REYNOLDS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2159 ARMY nomination of John E. Atwood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2160 ARMY nominations (3) beginning DANIEL H. ALDANA, and ending DAVID R. NAVORSKA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2161 ARMY nomination of Eric Graham, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2162 ARMY nominations (2) beginning SUSAN H. DAVIS, and ending MATTHEW G. STLAURENT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2163 ARMY nominations (3) beginning SHELLEY P. HONNOLD, and ending NEAL E. WOOLLEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2164 ARMY nominations (19) beginning SUSAN J. ARGUETA, and ending JASON J. BARKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2165 ARMY nominations (37) beginning JOHN R. BAILEY, and ending D006553, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2166 ARMY nominations (2) beginning GARY L. GROSS, and ending CRAIG D. SHRIVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2167 ARMY nominations (6) beginning MELISSA R. BEAUMAN, and ending MICHAEL W. STEPHENSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 13, 2014.
PN2168 ARMY nomination of Richard M. Hester, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 17, 2014.
PN2169 ARMY nomination of Jay E. Clasing, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 17, 2014.
PN2211 ARMY nominations (32) beginning SCOTT J. ANDERSON, and ending STEFANIA V. WILCOX, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.
PN2212 ARMY nominations (65) beginning RACHEL R. ANTHONY, and ending D011552, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.
PN2213 ARMY nominations (16) beginning NADINE M. ALONZO, and ending D012299, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.
PN2214 ARMY nominations (144) beginning MARK ACOPAN, and ending TIMOTHY R. YOURK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.
PN2215 ARMY nominations (64) beginning KATHARINE M. E. ADAMS, and ending HANS P. ZELLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.
PN2216 ARMY nominations (9) beginning ROBERT J. ABBOTT, and ending D011887, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 3, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS
PN2242 MARINE CORPS nomination of Timothy E. Robertson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2244 MARINE CORPS nomination of Glenn M. Thoms, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2248 NAVY nomination of Beverly E. Hester, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2249 NAVY nomination of William R. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2250 NAVY nomination of Neil L. Koontz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2251 NAVY nomination of Amy R. Gunderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2252 NAVY nomination of Vincent L. Lieder, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2253 NAVY nomination of Richard S. Hall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.

IN THE NAVY
PN2254 NAVY nomination of Curtis B. Free, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2255 NAVY nomination of Jennifer N. Mower, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2256 NAVY nomination of William J. Colby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2257 NAVY nomination of Robert F. Atwood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2258 NAVY nomination of Daniel C. Yost, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2259 NAVY nomination of Charles S. Eisenberg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2260 NAVY nomination of Samuel J. Simerly, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2261 NAVY nomination of Dr. John M. Ross, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2262 NAVY nomination of Frederick P. Ross, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2263 NAVY nomination of Lakeeva B. Gunderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2014.
PN2264 NAVY nominations (38) beginning TRAVIS S. ANDERSON, and ending JULIAN G. WILSON III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 17, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MICHAIL D. RESNICK TERRORIST SCREENING CENTER
Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 3096) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DESIGNER ANABOLIC STEROID CONTROL ACT OF 2014
Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4771, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The clerk will report the bill by title.
The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (H.R. 4771) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate anabolic steroids.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.
Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The bill (H.R. 4771) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT
Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the bill.
Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The clerk will report the bill by title.
The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (H.R. 5057) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to permit exemptions for external power supplies from certain efficiency standards, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.
Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The bill (H.R. 5057) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.
FORECLOSURE RELIEF AND EXTENSION FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 3008, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3008) to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

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

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

The bill (S. 3008) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, . . .

S. 2983

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE S6697

December 11, 2014

S. 2983

The bill (S. 2983) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows: S. 2983

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 “United States Anti-Doping Agency Reauthorization Act”.


(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and be recognized worldwide as the independent national anti-doping organization for the United States” after “Committee”;

(B) in paragraph (2), “or performance-enhancing genetic modifications accomplished through gene-doping” and inserting “or prohibited performance-enhancing methods adopted by the Agency”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “or performance-enhancing genetic modifications accomplished through gene-doping” and inserting “or prohibited performance-enhancing methods adopted by the Agency”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “the prevention of use of performance-enhancing drugs, genetic performance-enhancing modifications accomplished through gene-doping by United States amateur athletes; and” and inserting “or prohibited performance-enhancing methods adopted by the Agency”; and

(E) by striking paragraph (5).


“SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for fiscal year 2014, $11,300,000;

(2) for fiscal year 2015, $11,700,000;

(3) for fiscal year 2016, $12,300,000;

(4) for fiscal year 2017, $12,900,000;

(5) for fiscal year 2018, $13,500,000;

(6) for fiscal year 2019, $14,100,000; and

(7) for fiscal year 2020, $14,800,000.”.

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on commerce be discharged from further consideration of S. 2983 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2983) to allow for a contract for operation of Melville Hall of United States Merchant Marine Academy after gift by United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, Inc., for renovation of such hall and for other purposes.

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

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.
3105 of title 41, United States Code, as requiring the Maritime Administrator to award a contract for the operation of Melville Hall to the Foundation.

RECOGNIZING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 599, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 599) recognizing the 100-year anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, 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. 599) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 104-191, the reappointment of the following individual to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: Dr. Raj Chanderraj of Nevada for a term of four years.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107-12, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Michael Halley of Nevada.
HIGHLIGHTS

House agreed to the Senate amendment with an amendment to H.R. 83, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6583–S6697

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2998–3008, and S. Res. 599.

Pages S6626–27

Measures Reported:

S. 1784, to improve timber management on Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–306)

S. 1463, 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. Rept. No. 113–307)

H.R. 4573, to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States.

S. Res. 595, recognizing Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end the financial exploitation of children and to ensure the right of all children to an education, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 597, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS day.

S. 2922, to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations, with an amendment.

S. Con. Res. 38, expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Measures Passed:

Ukraine Freedom Support Act: Senate passed S. 2828, to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, after withdrawing the committee amendments, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Durbin (for Menendez/Corker) Amendment No. 4092, in the nature of a substitute.

Transfer of Yellow Creek Port Properties: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3044, to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi, and the bill was then passed.

Safe and Secure Drinking Water Protection Act: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of S. 2785, to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a health advisory and submit reports with respect to microcystins in drinking water, and the bill was then passed.

Community Financial Institutions: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3329, to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual
savings, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S6607–08  Durbin (for King) Amendment No. 4093, in the nature of a substitute.

Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3468, to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and the bill was then passed.

Page S6608  Central Oregon Jobs and Water Security Act: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2640, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Merkley Amendment No. 4094, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S6621–22  Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act: Senate passed S. 1553, to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Schumer/Cornyn Amendment No. 4096, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S6656–59  Cybersecurity Act: Senate passed S. 1353, to provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity, and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

King (for Rockefeller/Thune) Amendment No. 4097, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S6665–69  Continuing Resolution: Senate passed H.J. Res. 130, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015.

Page S6681  Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3096, to designate the building occupied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation located at 801 Follin Lane, Vienna, Virginia, as the “Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center”, and the bill was then passed.

Page S6696  Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4771, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate anabolic steroids, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S6696  Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act: Senate passed S. 2338, to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

Pages S6696–97  Melville Hall of United States Merchant Marine Academy: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2983, to allow for a contract for operation of Melville Hall of United States Merchant Marine Academy after gift by United States Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, Inc., for renovation of such hall, and the bill was then passed.

100-Year Anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania: Senate agreed to S. Res. 599, recognizing the 100-year anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Pages S6697  House Messages:

Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Page S6585  Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3984 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Page S6585
Reid Amendment No. 3985 (to Amendment No. 3984), of a perfecting nature. Page S6585

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 85 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. 322), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3986, to change the enactment date, fell when cloture was invoked on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill. Page S6590

Reid Amendment No. 3987 (to Amendment No. 3986), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3986 fell. Pages S6585, S6590

Reid Amendment No. 3988 (to Amendment No. 3987), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid Amendment No. 3987 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3986), of a perfecting nature fell. Pages S6585, S6590

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 12 noon, on Friday, December 12, 2014, all post-cloture time on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill be considered expired; that it be in order, notwithstanding cloture having been invoked for Senator Coburn to offer a motion to refer the House Message; that there be three hours of debate, one hour each for Senators Coburn and Reid, or their designees, and 30 minutes each for Senators Murkowski and Inhofe, or their designees, prior to a vote on or in relation to the motion to refer; that the Coburn motion to refer be subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold; that if the Coburn motion to refer is not agreed to, Senator Coburn be recognized for the purposes of making a motion; that following disposition of the Coburn motion, the pending motion to concur with a further amendment be withdrawn; that the Senate vote on the motion to concur; that no motions other than the Coburn motions, motions to waive or motions to table be in order; that the vote on the motion to concur be subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold; that if the motion to concur is agreed to, Senate begin consideration of the following concurrent resolutions, en bloc: H. Con. Res. 21, providing for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979; and H. Con. Res. 123, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979; and that the concurrent resolutions be agreed to.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, December 12, 2014. Page S6646

Appointments:

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 104–191, the reappointment of the following individual to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: Dr. Raj Chanderraj of Nevada for a term of four years. Page S6698

Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–12, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Michael Haley of Nevada vice Al Gillespie of Nevada. Page S6698

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that from Thursday, December 11, 2014, through Friday, December 12, 2014, Senator Pryor be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. Page S6645

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following disposition of the House Message with respect to H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Mark Gilbert, of Florida, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa; Robert C. Barber, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland; David Nathan Saperstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom; Amy Jane Hyatt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Palau; Arnold A. Chacon, of Virginia, to be Director General of the Foreign Service; Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi; Donald L. Hefflin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cabo Verde; Michael W. Kempner, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of
Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2015; and Leon Aron, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2016; that there be two minutes for debate, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; that any roll call votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to the nominations.

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:
- 4 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
- 65 Army nominations in the rank of general.
- 2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
- 4 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

**Messages from the House:**

**Measures Referred:**

**Executive Communications:**

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Additional Statements:**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Notices of Intent:**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Privileges of the Floor:**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—322)

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:30 p.m., until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 12, 2014. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S6646.)

**Committee Meetings**

(Committees not listed did not meet)

**IMPROVING CHEMICAL FACILITY SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a joint oversight hearing with the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension to examine the implementation of the President’s executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, after receiving testimony from David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Agency.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:
- An original resolution to authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant;
- S. Con. Res. 38, expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;
- S. Res. 595, recognizing Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end the financial exploitation of children and to ensure the right of all children to an education, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;
- S. Res. 597, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day;
- H.R. 4573, to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States;
- S. 2922, to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations, with an amendment; and

The nominations of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State, Leslie Berger Kiernan, of Maryland, as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America, to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and a list in the Foreign Service.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 39 public bills, H.R. 5848–5886; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 779–781 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:
- H.R. 2612, to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve the functioning and management of the Public Buildings Service (H. Rept. 113–656);
- H.R. 5233, to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–657);
- H.R. 5402, to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as Attorney General exercises such authority (H. Rept. 113–658);
- Second Annual Report of the Activities of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives During the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress (H. Rept 113–659);
- H.R. 2751, to amend the Small Business Act to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements (H. Rept 113–660);
- H.R. 2452, to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the procurement program for women-owned small business concerns, and for other purposes (H. Rept 113–661);
- H.R. 2882, to amend the Small Business Act and title 38, United States Code to provide for a consolidated definition of a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–662, Part 1);
- In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Alcee L. Hastings (H. Rept. 113–663);
- In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Phil Gingrey (H. Rept. 113–664);
- In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Judy Chu (H. Rept. 113–665); and
- In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Tom Petri (H. Rept. 113–666).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Kingston to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by a voice vote.

Filing Authority: Agreed by unanimous consent that all committees have until 5 p.m. on December 30, 2014, to file reports to accompany measures.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:
- Soledad Canyon Settlement Act: H.R. 5742, to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA–20139 and CA–22901;
- Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4007, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program;
- Critical Infrastructure Research and Development Advancement Act of 2014: Concurred in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2952, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the advancement of security technologies for critical infrastructure protection; and
- National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014: S. 2519, to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

Suspension—Proceedings Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Wednesday, December 10th:
- Supporting America’s Charities Act: H.R. 5806, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent certain expiring provisions related to charitable contributions, by a 2⁄3 yeas-and-nays vote of 275 yeas to 149 nays, Roll No. 562.

Recess: The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015: The House agreed to the motion to concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–59, modified by the amendment printed in H. Rept. 113–655, to 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 action plans aimed at reducing reliance on...
imported fossil fuels and increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resource, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 563.

H. Res. 776, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 83), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 561, after the previous question was ordered.

Pursuant to H. Res. 776, H. Con. Res. 122 was adopted.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, December 9th:

*John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act*: H.R. 5699, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 361 yeas to 39 nays, Roll No. 564.

Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.J. Res. 130, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015.

Announcement from the Chair: Pursuant to House Resolution 676, the Chair announced that a civil action was initiated on November 21, 2014, in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia relating to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Requiring 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: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5803, 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.

Amending certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 2591, to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

Central Oregon Jobs and Water Security Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2640, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon.

Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2014: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 1474, 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.

Cybersecurity Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 1353, to provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness.

Enhancing the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R.3329, to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, and increase individual savings.

Imposing sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation and providing additional assistance to Ukraine: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5859, to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation and to provide additional assistance to Ukraine.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow, December 12.

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H9075–76, H9291–92, H9294.

Senate Referrals: S. 2822, S. 2785, S. 2828, and S. 1535 were held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9074–75, H9075, H9290 and H9291. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 10:27 p.m.
Committee Meetings
THE ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 1975: ARE WE POSITIONING AMERICA FOR SUCCESS IN AN ERA OF ENERGY ABUNDANCE?

THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “The Future of Nuclear Energy”. Testimony was heard from Peter Lyons, Assistant Secretary, Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING; EVALUATING FEDERAL AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a business meeting to approve the second annual activities report for the 113th Congress and a hearing entitled “Evaluating Federal and Community Efforts to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness”. The second annual activities report for the 113th Congress was adopted. Testimony was heard from Lisa Pape, Executive Director, Homeless Programs, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Jennifer Ho, Senior Advisor on Housing and Services to the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Keith Kelly, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Friday, December 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act, post-cloture.

If all debate time is used, there will be up to four roll call votes on or in relation to H.R. 3979, Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act, and confirmation of the nomination of David Nathan Saperstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, at approximately 3 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 p.m., Friday, December 12

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 3 p.m.