

story of freedom across our country, a civil right now legal in States that seven in ten Americans call home.

So I know the good, and optimistic, and big-hearted generosity of the American people who, every day, live the idea that we are our brother's keeper, and our sister's keeper. And I know they expect those of us who serve here to set a better example.

So the question for those of us here tonight is how we, all of us, can better reflect America's hopes. I've served in Congress with many of you. I know many of you well. There are a lot of good people here, on both sides of the aisle. And many of you have told me that this isn't what you signed up for—arguing past each other on cable shows, the constant fundraising, always looking over your shoulder at how the base will react to every decision.

Imagine if we broke out of these tired old patterns. Imagine if we did something different.

Understand—a better politics isn't one where Democrats abandon their agenda or Republicans simply embrace mine.

A better politics is one where we appeal to each other's basic decency instead of our basest fears.

A better politics is one where we debate without demonizing each other; where we talk issues, and values, and principles, and facts, rather than "gotcha" moments, or trivial gaffes, or fake controversies that have nothing to do with people's daily lives.

A better politics is one where we spend less time drowning in dark money for ads that pull us into the gutter, and spend more time lifting young people up, with a sense of purpose and possibility, and asking them to join in the great mission of building America.

If we're going to have arguments, let's have arguments—but let's make them debates worthy of this body and worthy of this country.

We still may not agree on a woman's right to choose, but surely we can agree it's a good thing that teen pregnancies and abortions are nearing all-time lows, and that every woman should have access to the health care she needs.

Yes, passions still fly on immigration, but surely we can all see something of ourselves in the striving young student, and agree that no one benefits when a hardworking mom is taken from her child, and that it's possible to shape a law that upholds our tradition as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants.

We may go at it in campaign season, but surely we can agree that the right to vote is sacred; that it's being denied to too many; and that, on this 50th anniversary of the great march from Selma to Montgomery and the passage of the Voting Rights Act, we can come together, Democrats and Republicans, to make voting easier for every single American.

We may have different takes on the events of Ferguson and New York. But surely we can understand a father who fears his son can't walk home without being harassed. Surely we can understand the wife who won't rest until the police officer she married walks through the front door at the end of his shift. Surely we can agree it's a good thing that for the first time in 40 years, the crime rate and the incarceration rate have come down together, and use that as a starting point for Democrats and Republicans, community leaders and law enforcement, to reform America's criminal justice system so that it protects and serves us all.

That's a better politics. That's how we start rebuilding trust. That's how we move this country forward. That's what the American people want. That's what they deserve.

I have no more campaigns to run. My only agenda for the next 2 years is the same as the one I've had since the day I swore an oath on the steps of this Capitol—to do what I believe is best for America. If you share the broad vision I outlined tonight, join me in the work at hand. If you disagree with parts of it, I hope you'll at least work with me where you do agree. And I commit to every Republican here tonight that I will not only seek out your ideas, I will seek to work with you to make this country stronger.

Because I want this chamber, this city, to reflect the truth—that for all our blind spots and shortcomings, we are a people with the strength and generosity of spirit to bridge divides, to unite in common effort, and help our neighbors, whether down the street or on the other side of the world.

I want our actions to tell every child, in every neighborhood: your life matters, and we are as committed to improving your life chances as we are for our own kids.

I want future generations to know that we are a people who see our differences as a great gift, that we are a people who value the dignity and worth of every citizen—man and woman, young and old, black and white, Latino and Asian, immigrant and Native American, gay and straight, Americans with mental illness or physical disability.

I want them to grow up in a country that shows the world what we still know to be true: that we are still more than a collection of red States and blue States; that we are the United States of America.

I want them to grow up in a country where a young mom like Rebekah can sit down and write a letter to her President with a story to sum up these past 6 years:

"It is amazing what you can bounce back from when you have to . . . we are a strong, tight-knit family who has made it through some very, very hard times."

My fellow Americans, we too are a strong, tight-knit family. We, too, have

made it through some hard times. Fifteen years into this new century, we have picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and begun again the work of remaking America. We've laid a new foundation. A brighter future is ours to write. Let's begin this new chapter—together—and let's start the work right now.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless this country we love.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 20, 2015.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 240. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-256. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Defense Production Act Annual Fund Report for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-257. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program; Limited Liability for Noncoal Reclamation by Certified States and Indian Tribes" ((RIN1029-AC66) (Docket ID OSM-2012-0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-258. A communication from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Regulations; Exemption for the Insider Threat Program" (RIN1090-AB07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-259. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Auxiliary Installations, Replacement Facilities, and Siting and Maintenance Regulations" (Docket No. RM12-11-002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-260. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-261. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the report of a rule entitled “Credit Risk Retention” (RIN1557-AD40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-262. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold Adjustment—Final Rule” (RIN1557-AD90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-263. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Subordinated Debt Issued by a National Bank” (RIN1557-AD73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-264. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Reinvestment Act Regulations” (RIN1557-AD89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-265. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rules, Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Interim Final Revisions to Definition of Qualifying Master Netting Agreement and Related Definitions” (RIN1557-AD91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-266. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Credit Risk Retention” (RIN7100-AD70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-267. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-268. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13396 on February 7, 2006, with respect to Cote d'Ivoire; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-269. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Applicable Federal Rates—January 2015” (Rev. Rul. 2015-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-270. A communication from the Controller, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled “Federal Awarding Agency Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” (2 CFR Part 1; 2 CFR Part 25; 2 CFR Part 170; 2 CFR Part 180; 2 CFR Part 200) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 23, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-271. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-438, “Workers’ Compensation Statute of Limitations Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-272. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-439, “Critical Infrastructure Freedom of Information Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-273. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-441, “Business Improvement Districts Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-274. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-424, “Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Support Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-275. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-426, “Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-276. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-452, “Georgia Avenue Great Streets Neighborhood Retail Priority Area Temporary Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-277. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-442, “Extension of Time to Dispose of the Strand Theater Temporary Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-278. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-425, “Small and Certified Business Enterprise Development and Assistance Waiver Certification Temporary Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-279. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-451, “Rent Control Hardship Petition Limitation Temporary Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-280. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-453, “Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Temporary Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-281. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 20-420, “Post-Arrest Process Clarification Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-282. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-423, “Sustainable Solid Waste Management Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-283. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-437, “Voter Registration Access and Modernization Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-284. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-416, “Prohibition of the Harm of Police Animals Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-285. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-565, “Legalization of Possession of Minimal Amounts of Marijuana for Personal Use Initiative of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-286. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-443, “Medical Marijuana Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-287. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Response to the Office of Inspector General’s Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-288. A communication from the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-289. A communication from the Clerk of Court, United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Court’s annual report for the year ended September 30, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-290. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Rules of Practice and the Rules of Practice in Filings Pursuant to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks” (RIN0651-AC88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-291. A communication from the Staff Director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United States Commission on Civil Rights renewing the charter of its federal advisory committees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-292. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Caregivers Program” (RIN2900-AN94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-293. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Dayton, Ohio)" (MB Docket No. 14-159) (RM-11735) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-294. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Denver, Colorado)" (MB Docket No. 14-179) (RM-11736) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-295. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazmat, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials: Harmonization with International Standards (RRR)" (RIN2137-AF05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-296. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazmat, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Periodic Updates of Regulatory References to Technical Standards and Miscellaneous Amendments" (RIN2137-AE85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-297. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance; Driver-Vehicle Inspection Report (DVIR)" (RIN2126-AB46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. Res. 28. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 189. A bill to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 190. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety

of imported seafood; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINÉ (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 191. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to raise the quality of career and technical education programs and to allow local eligible recipients to use funding to establish high-quality career academies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BURR, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 192. A bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 193. A bill to provide for the management of certain inventoried roadless areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 194. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to clarify the rule allowing discharge as a nonpriority claim of governmental claims arising from the disposition of farm assets under chapter 12 bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 195. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and expand Coverdell education savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 196. A bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain Federal land in Garden Valley, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 197. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high-quality assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 198. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 199. A bill to establish the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in Clark County, Nevada, in order to conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and scenic resources of the area, to designate wilderness area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 28. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 29. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris, offering condolences to the families of the victims, expressing solidarity with the people of France, and reaffirming fundamental freedom of expression; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. Res. 30. A resolution designating the week of January 25 through January 31, 2015, as "National School Choice Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 12

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 12, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 30

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 105

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 105, a bill to permit management of the red snapper by Gulf Coast States and for other purposes.

S. 117

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 117, a bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 123

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 123, a bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers.

S. 149

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from