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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, Your grace continues to sustain us in times of misfortune or prosperity. We are grateful for Your loving purposes that continually crown our years with goodness. Today, enable our lawmakers to see with faith's eyes each blessing that comes disguised as adversity and each temptation that hides beneath the mask of prosperity. Make them grateful for disasters averted and advancements made. Lord, let Your love touch our world because of their labors as You make them ambassadors of Your purposes. Protect our Senators and teach them Your paths. Prosper the work of their hands as You keep them from stumbling or slipping.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, President Obama recently proclaimed this to be National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a stark reminder of the countless victims of modern slavery who continue to suffer horrifying exploitation at the hands of human traffickers, a stark reminder of the need to pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

It is a bill that victims groups and advocates call "the most comprehensive and thoughtful piece of anti-trafficking legislation currently pending." It provides unprecedented support to domestic victims of trafficking who are all too often invisible and underserved. This group further said: "As leaders in the anti-trafficking, anti-violence, child welfare, civil rights, runaway and homeless youth, and human rights movements, we urge Congress to pass this critical piece of legislation."

There have been good-faith negotiations to resolve the impasse that has prevented the Senate from moving forward on this bill. I am glad that we can now say there is a bipartisan proposal that would allow us to complete action on this important legislation so we can provide help to the victims who desperately need it.

As soon as we finish the trafficking bill, as I have indicated for some time

now, we will move to the President's nominee for Attorney General—hopefully, in the next day or so.

I particularly want to thank the senior Senator from Texas for leading these negotiations and for his continued diligence on this important issue. There is really no stronger advocate for victims of human trafficking than Senator CORNYN.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, after weeks of stalling a bipartisan human trafficking bill, our Republican colleagues have now agreed not to expand the scope of the Hyde language. Democrats and Republicans have come to an agreement on a path forward out of this pointless contrived fight.

It also rejects an expansion of the Hyde language to any taxpayer dollars where it did not apply before. This is really good news. I thank the senior Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY, for the work she put into brokering this compromise. But I have to say and throw a bouquet to AMY KLOBUCHAR, who has worked so hard on this for weeks and weeks. She has been very relentless in working toward an agreement on this.

She has worked consistently to arrive at the conclusion that we have arrived at. I express my appreciation to Senator LEAHY on the Judiciary Committee, who has been available for us at any given time to help us work through these issues.

It was not easy, but their efforts—the Senators I have mentioned—have been extremely important to fight human trafficking, which is really very, very

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



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important for us to do. But we also rejected efforts to further obstruct a woman's access to services they deserve and need and which we believe are within the law.

I also want to say something about Senator CORNYN. JOHN CORNYN—I talked to him Thursday. We thought we had something worked out. He has been very reasonable in helping us arrive at a conclusion to this. I express my appreciation to him publicly for that. This compromise is evidence that when Democrats and Republicans sit down together and work toward a solution, good things can happen. The Senate needs more of this.

But let's hope that post-agreement amendments do not ruin the agreement that we have reached. Each side is going to have to be cautious in what they offer, because any one of those amendments, as we know, can cause a minifilibuster or a maxifilibuster, according to how you look at it.

We do not need to get involved in that. We need to move forward on this legislation. We are going to have opportunities on other matters to offer amendments. I think we better be very, very careful on amendments that are offered. I say to my Republican colleagues: Be very careful that you do not destroy this human trafficking legislation that is so important. You can do it with—I have looked at some of the amendments that are being talked about being offered.

My Senators are not going to sit back like shrinking violets and let this stuff go forward without responding by action that will also cause some difficult votes for my Republican colleagues. So let's get rid of this quickly. Let's get Loretta Lynch confirmed quickly and move on to other matters.

#### EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on another subject, it is extremely difficult to compare one Congress to another. Each Congress is unique—changing times, shifting issues, and new administrations with which to work. But one manner of gauging the success of a Congress is simply to tally the number of Presidential nominees who have been confirmed. After all, offering its advice and consent on nominees is the Senate's constitutional duty.

If we were to use confirmations as a measuring stick, by all accounts the majority leader and Senate Republicans are failing in a spectacular fashion. So far this year, the Senate has confirmed 21 nominees—4 months, 21 nominees. It is unheard of to have such a small, small number. If that trend continues, the Republican-led Congress will confirm 63 nominees this year, 2015.

By contrast, in 2007, my first year as majority leader under the Bush administration, the Senate confirmed 276 executive and judicial nominees. It did not matter that Democrats were working with a Republican administration.

My disagreements with President George W. Bush have been well documented. That is an understatement.

But I worked with him on nominations because Democrats knew—and I knew—that it was only fair to give the President the team he needed to lead the country. Doesn't President Obama deserve the same? Of course he does. In 2007, each Democratic committee chair worked to move President Bush's nominees through committees and the Senate floor in a reasonable amount of time.

Yet we are seeing the opposite from Republican chairmen this year. They are refusing even to do hearings. Of course, if there are no hearings, there will be no nominations. In fact, Republicans have committed to holding up as many of the President's nominees as possible.

Here is what one senior Republican Senator said in the last few days: "I told them: You jam [nominees] through, it's going to be a long time before I approve of them."

What I say to that is that if this is a tantrum that the Republicans are having for changing the Senate rules, as we were forced to do, then revenge is not an effective way to govern. If it really is the case that Republicans loathe the changes to the Senate rules, why do they not do something about it? We are 4 months into this Congress, and the majority leader had ample opportunity—which he has had—to undo the changes we made. So change them if you do not like them.

It is clear the Republican plan for payback centers on allowing consideration of Presidential nominations to a trickle. Throwing a tantrum is not what the American people expect from their leaders. It is not fair to the President or the American people who elected him or the dedicated public servants who want to serve our country.

Ten years ago a young Senator from Texas said: "I would hope no one in this body would feel it necessary to bring all the leftover angst of the campaign season to bear against a bright and honorable nominee." Yet this is what the senior Senator from Texas and his party are doing today—doing exactly what he said should not be done.

America continues to look on in disbelief as Republicans delay Loretta Lynch's confirmation because they can. This is outrageous. One only needs to look at the CNN poll today to find out that the work done by the Republican Senate has been an absolute flop. So I certainly hope this is not what we are to expect during the duration of President Obama's term. I hope my Republican colleagues will demonstrate leadership and move the President's nominees.

Again, look at the CNN poll, I say to my Republican colleagues. It is a disaster for you. It is not only fair to move forward on President Obama's nominations, but it is a sworn duty Republicans have as Members of the Senate.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the final half.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota be given 1 minute in morning business prior to the Republican time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, from the very beginning of this discussion on the trafficking bill and the underlying issue, Members on both sides of the aisle agreed that we need to get this bill back on track as the bipartisan effort it should be, because, without question, survivors of trafficking deserve our support.

Senator KLOBUCHAR has done an amazing job in getting us to this point to get this bill done. I am pleased that we were able to reach a deal that now gets this done in a way that does not expand restrictions on women's health to nontaxpayer dollars or to new programs and provides survivors with real, dedicated funds for the support and services they need.

No compromise is perfect. I am sure that Senator CORNYN would say the same thing. I believe there is more we can and must do when it comes to strengthening women's access to quality health care. But I am very pleased that Senator CORNYN and I, along with a number of other Senators on our side, including Senator KLOBUCHAR, were able to work together in a bipartisan way to get this done.

I want to thank him and all his colleagues for their work to get us to this point. I hope we can now get this legislation passed very quickly for survivors and move on to continue working together on the many challenges our country faces.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am very happy today that we have reached an agreement. I want to thank

Senator MURRAY for her leadership, and Senator REID, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator CORNYN. The two of us have worked on this issue for years. Finally, we are going to be able to move these really important bills forward.

What this compromise does is really set up two funds. The first uses Senator CORNYN's fund, which is fees on perpetrators, and it uses that for things such as shelters and law enforcement, things that we had envisioned would be used for people to combat sex trafficking. The second fund is a medical fund. It is really based on the same principle that we used with the SGR fund that we just voted on.

That bill passed 92 to 8. The fund will receive a minimum of \$5 million and would be matched up to \$30 million, as funding in the Cornyn fund goes up. It really is a parallel fund but serving the exact same purpose.

This is the way we were able to eliminate extraneous provisions but still keep the spirit of this really important bill and allow us to move on to my bill, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, which really is about not prosecuting kids under 18. There was huge bipartisan support over in the House. It passed unanimously through the Judiciary Committee and will be one of the amendments to this bill.

Again, I want to thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership. We have been a team on this. We have been able to work with Senator CORNYN and our friends across the aisle to get this done. It is also time—I will end by saying—to confirm the next Attorney General of the United States, Loretta Lynch.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota. Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased as well to hear that we have an agreement on the human trafficking legislation. It is something that should be above politics. Unfortunately, anything around here, it seems, gets sucked into politics from time to time, but it is important that we get an agreement that will allow us to advance this legislation.

#### THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased to hear of yet another accomplishment that has happened in the Senate since we have gotten things opened up and functioning again.

I wish to say that last year when Republicans were running for office, we promised that if we were reelected, we would get Washington working again for American families. That wasn't a campaign slogan; that was a commitment.

I am proud to report that after 100 days in office, Republicans are making significant progress. To start, Republicans have the Senate functioning again on a basic level.

From an operations standpoint day to day, over the past few years when

the Democrats controlled the law-making process in the Senate, it largely ground to a halt. Instead of bills being drafted in committee and then brought to the floor for open debate and amendment, bills were crafted behind closed doors. Members in the minority party were shut out of the process, and so were many rank-and-file Democrats. Last year, Democratic leadership allowed a total of 15 amendment votes—slightly over 1 amendment vote per month in the world's greatest deliberative body, known for unlimited amendment and unlimited debate. Contrast that with the first 100 days under Republican control. In the first 3½ months of the 114th Congress, the Republican-led Senate has held more than 100 amendment rollcall votes. More than half of those votes have been on Democratic amendments.

When you shut one party out of the legislative process in the Senate, you shut out the voices of millions of Americans. Republicans experienced that under Democratic control, and we were determined to make sure things were different this year.

Since Republicans took control of the Senate, Members of both parties have had the opportunity to make their voices heard, and we are seeing a lot more bipartisan legislation as a result. In the past 3½ months, the Republican-led Senate has approved 12 bipartisan bills. We have passed bipartisan legislation to approve the Keystone Pipeline. We have passed a bipartisan bill to prevent suicides among veterans. We have passed a bipartisan reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program and a bipartisan bill to provide restitution for victims of child pornography. Last week, we passed the first significant bipartisan reform of Medicare in years.

Mr. President, last week also brought the announcement of a new bipartisan agreement, a bill to reauthorize trade promotion authority.

With 96 percent of the world's population and consumers outside the borders of the United States, trade is essential to economic growth.

Since 2009, increasing exports have accounted for more than 1.6 million new jobs in the United States. Manufacturing jobs that depend on exports pay on average 13 percent to 18 percent more.

U.S. farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers rely on access to foreign markets. In my home State of South Dakota alone, exports support more than 15,000 jobs in industries ranging from farming and ranching to machinery and electronics. Farmers and ranchers in South Dakota, where agriculture is the No. 1 industry, depend on exports for a substantial part of their income. Exports of major South Dakota crops, such as soybeans and corn, have soared over the past few years. In fact, in 2013, total agricultural exports from South Dakota totaled \$3.8 billion.

Previous free- and fair-trade agreements have been a boon to America's

farmers, ranchers, and workers. In 2013, countries with which our Nation has free-trade agreements purchased 12 times more goods per capita from the United States than non-free-trade agreement countries.

Since 1934, almost all of the U.S. free-trade agreements have been negotiated using trade promotion authority or a similar streamlined process. Trade promotion authority is designed to put the United States in the strongest possible position when negotiating trade agreements.

Under TPA, Congress sets guidelines for trade negotiations and outlines the priorities the administration must follow. In return, Congress promises a simple up-or-down vote on the resulting trade agreement instead of a long amendment process that could leave the final deal looking nothing like the original one. That simple up-or-down vote is the key: It lets our negotiating partners know that Congress and trade negotiators are on the same page when it comes to the content of trade agreements, which gives other countries the confidence they need to put their best offers on the table. That, in turn, allows for a successful and timely conclusion of negotiations.

Currently, the administration is negotiating two major trade agreements that have the potential to vastly expand the market for American goods and services in the EU and in the Pacific.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is being negotiated with a number of Asia-Pacific nations, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and currently Vietnam. Currently, American goods face heavy tariffs in many of these countries. Tariffs on consumer goods in Trans-Pacific Partnership countries reach as high as 85 percent, while tariffs on agricultural products range even higher. Poultry tariffs in Trans-Pacific Partnership countries, for example, go up to 240 percent. That is a tremendous burden on American producers.

American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and consumers would all benefit from the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and the United States-European Union trade agreement. These trade deals remove many of the barriers currently facing U.S. products in these regions, which would allow American goods to compete on a level playing field with their foreign counterparts. Reauthorizing trade promotion authority is essential to bringing these two agreements to a successful and timely conclusion.

The bipartisan trade promotion authority bill that was introduced last week by the senior Senators from Utah and Oregon reauthorizes this key tool and includes a number of important updates, such as provisions to strengthen

transparency of the negotiating process and ensure that the American people stay informed. It also contains provisions I pushed for to require negotiators to ensure that trade agreements protect digital trade as well as trade in physical goods and services. With the importance of digital trade in the 21st-century economy, it is essential that any new trade promotion reauthorization include new guidelines specifically targeted at digital trade. I previously introduced legislation to help ensure that the free flow of digital goods and services is protected, and I am pleased that the bipartisan deal that was reached includes many of the measures I have advocated.

The best way to solve the challenges facing our Nation is for Democrats and Republicans to come together to develop solutions. We have done a lot of that so far in the Republican-led Senate, and I look forward to doing a lot more of it.

I hope those Democrats who have opposed trade promotion authority in the past will join the White House and Senate Republicans to pass this important bill for American workers and businesses and make the TPA reauthorization our next bipartisan achievement.

Mr. President, I wish to add that we also have a bill that would require Congress to approve any nuclear arms agreement with Iran—also a very big bipartisan bill, as it was reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

These are things which can be accomplishments for the American people. It starts with getting the Senate functioning and operating again, where people have the opportunity to come to the floor and debate these issues, to offer amendments, and to get those amendments voted on. That is what our commitment has been in the Senate. I argue—and I think the record bears this out—that it is making a very consequential difference in terms of the things we are able to get done for the American people. I certainly hope we can continue that pattern.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### STEVE GLEASON ACT

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of S. 984, the Steve Gleason Act, to help thousands of victims of ALS and other related diseases all across the United States.

This bipartisan, straightforward bill would give immediate relief to those folks with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, who are facing significant problems accessing necessary medical equipment as a result of three recent changes in Medicare that prohibit access on every level.

It is important to note that this wasn't a problem until the administration governing Medicare made it a problem a few months ago. They affirmatively changed policy, changed

rules, and created these significant access problems. We are talking about devices that are critical for patients who have lost their ability to speak, to communicate directly with friends, families, doctors, to call 911 in case of emergency, to write letters to loved ones. These devices allow these patients to speak and communicate in light of their loss of voice and other functions.

This issue was first brought before Congress last year when thousands of patients, patient advocates, and device manufacturers brought to our attention the devastating consequences of this new Medicare policy. Patients were actually having their devices taken away. Many were not allowed to own their devices or were not permitted to unlock their devices in order to use all of the technological functions, all of which continue to be problems and to prevent patients from leading much more independent lives. As a result, Members on both sides of the aisle wrote a letter with more than 220 Members advocating on behalf of this patient population to reverse the Medicare administration decision.

The Senate has that same opportunity for bipartisanship today, to support this legislation on a strong bipartisan basis. In that spirit, I thank Senator KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota and Senator KING of Maine, who have been completely supportive and aggressive in getting this bill to the finish line. They understand the importance of putting patients first and fixing this extremely misguided and harmful Medicare regulation that has had a truly devastating impact on the lives of ALS patients, as well as stroke victims and other folks facing significant paralysis.

On Tuesday evening, before the Senate overwhelmingly passed a permanent doc fix, the Senator from Oregon and I reached an agreement that he would run the hotline on this legislation, the Steve Gleason Act, and pass this bill for our constituents. That is what we are working on today, and that is what I absolutely hope to complete today to get this necessary, important, bipartisan language across the finish line.

Of course, the ALS Association, a national network group, is completely supportive.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated January 27, 2015, on this topic from the ALS Association.

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

JANUARY 27, 2015.

Hon. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. DAVID VITTER,  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE McMORRIS RODGERS AND SENATOR VITTER: I am writing on behalf of The ALS Association to express our strong support for your legislation that

would help preserve access to speech generating devices (SGDs) and accessories such as eye tracking technology that are needed to access SGDs by people with ALS who have lost mobility. The Association applauds your leadership on these critically important issues and is committed to continuing to work with you to enact this legislation as soon as possible.

As you know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken a number of different actions that limit the ability of people with ALS to access SGDs and eye tracking technology. This includes: issuing a "coverage reminder" that would have prohibited coverage for SGDs that include non-speech technology such as email, internet access and environmental controls; routine denials of coverage for eye tracking; and implementing a "capped rental" payment system that requires people with ALS to first rent SGDs for a period of 13 months before owning the device. These policies have created significant problems for people with ALS who rely on SGDs for all of their communications needs. For example, under capped rental if a person is admitted to hospice, a hospital or a nursing facility during the rental period, Medicare payment for the SGD will cease. Moreover, capped rental also prohibits a person with ALS from upgrading their SGD during the rental period, which means they are not able to access email, the internet and environmental controls that are so critical to the day-to-day lives of people with ALS.

The Association strongly supported your efforts and those of nearly 200 of your colleagues who wrote to CMS expressing concern about these issues last year and we have worked with CMS and other stakeholders on these issues as well. We are grateful that CMS did take action to rescind the coverage reminder and initiate the process of revising the National Coverage Determination for SGDs. However, we do not anticipate that process to be completed until late July 2015 and it may not address the problems created by capped rental or denials of coverage for eye tracking. In short, these policies are having a significant negative impact on the lives of people living with ALS today and there is an urgent need to take action now. People with ALS, who have been robbed of the ability to speak and who will lose their life to ALS in an average of just two to five years, simply do not have time to wait.

Your legislation is a responsible approach to address an immediate problem and would help ensure the Medicare program meets the needs of the people it was created to serve. By restoring a person's ability to purchase an SGD and ensuring coverage for eye tracking technologies, your legislation will enable people with ALS to access the SGDs they need when and where they need them and ensure they also have access to the technologies that are so vital to living with this disease. We look forward to continuing to work with you in support of people with ALS.

Thank you again for your efforts to champion these critical issues and help ensure Medicare policies do not take away the voice of people with ALS.

Sincerely,

STEVE GIBSON,  
*Chief Mission Strategy and Public Policy*  
*Officer, The ALS Association.*

Mr. VITTER. The association has reached out to members all across the country and put in very concrete terms what this means to their members.

I wish to give one brief but very moving and significant example. It happens to be a woman from Oregon, the State of the ranking member of the committee. She was diagnosed with ALS in

January 2014. Her disease, unfortunately, has progressed rapidly. She is now close to fully paralyzed and has very limited use of her arms and hands, requiring loved ones to be with her at all times. Her respiratory system is also affected. She is struggling with the life-or-death decision of whether to have a tracheotomy procedure and go to mechanical ventilation or to enroll in hospice and essentially prepare to die. Her preference is to continue living, as she still enjoys life.

One important factor in the decision for her is that being able to communicate is a tremendous concern. While she still has some vocal ability to speak and to be understood currently, she knows that going on the vent will be the end of her spoken voice and her ability to vocalize, and she is very worried that if she decides to go on a vent and prolong her life, she may lose the ability to communicate with the outside world because of the changes in Medicare policy that prevent her from accessing email and Internet via this technology we are talking about. She is also very concerned that Medicare will deny coverage for the eye-tracking technology she will need in order to use the SGD—this significant technology we are talking about.

So, bottom line, she is worried that if she decides to continue living using mechanical ventilation, she will face the prospect of being locked up and having no means to communicate to help direct her care. Because of the limitations of SGD coverage, she may actually choose dying over living, because of that factor. It doesn't get more direct than that. It doesn't get more stark than that as to why we need to give these patients access to important communication technology through the Steve Gleason Act and why we need to act today, why we cannot delay this any longer.

Of course, Steve Gleason, for whom this act is named, is a superb advocate for the ALS community. He is the former New Orleans Saints player who famously blocked a punt in the Saints' first game back in the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina. After that tremendous feat and his NFL career, Steve was diagnosed with ALS. Just as he gave the city of New Orleans hope to rebuild after the devastating storm, through his organization Team Gleason, he gives the ALS community and their families hope with his "No White Flags" message.

Steve was my guest at the State of the Union speech this past January, and during his visit to Washington, we met with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, and started to gain huge momentum for the Steve Gleason Act.

This bill again reinstates long-standing Medicare policy—Medicare policy that was solid and true to these patients until recently—to offer immediate relief for patients experiencing incredible difficulty accessing this important technology and equipment.

The act expands access to advancements in technology in a fiscally responsible way.

Michelle Gleason, Steve's wife, summed up the story of ALS patients and their loved ones this way:

What causes me the most pain is the loss of his voice. I love hearing his voice. I want him to talk to me, and to our son Rivers. This disease takes his body; to take his voice just seems unfair.

We can offer a voice. It may not be the same voice but a voice for these struggling patients. This was their lifeline. This was due them until recently, and now it is not because of this Medicare change.

I urge all of my colleagues to come together around this piece of bipartisan legislation. Let's pass this today and give a voice—a real voice, a meaningful voice—to these struggling victims.

Mr. President, this will become law because we have assurances from House leadership that they are eager to bring the bill to the House floor. They are eager to finish this important work to change the lives of patients across the country by giving them back their voice. So I urge us to come together to do this today, to not delay, to not wait longer, and to reinstate the voice for ALS patients struggling in this way all around the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mrs. GILLIBRAND pertaining to the introduction of S. 1027 and S. 1023 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. There is 5½ minutes remaining.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been 165 days—5½ months—since the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General was announced. Ms. Lynch has been pending on the Senate Executive Calendar for nearly 2 months. She was reported out of the

Senate Judiciary Committee in a bipartisan vote—nine Democrats and three Republicans—on February 26. This is a new record, sadly, in terms of delay in appointing an Attorney General. The last seven nominees to be Attorney General of the United States combined—combined—waited on the Senate floor 24 days—seven nominees, 24 days.

Sadly, Ms. Lynch has now been waiting over 50 days. Why? What is it about this nominee that causes so much of a problem? Nothing came up at the Judiciary Committee hearing to suggest a problem. Yes, she was appointed by Barack Obama. Yes, she has said she will serve this President. But when it came to her personally, there was nothing. In fact, we have this tradition that after the nominee has testified under oath, then experts are brought in. Each party can bring an expert in to testify for or against the Attorney General nominee. Senator PATRICK LEAHY, the ranking Democrat on Judiciary, said to the assembled group—I think there may have been 10 or 12 of these outside witnesses: Which of you, by show of hands, objects to the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General? Not a single one raised his hand—none. So even the witnesses that were brought to speak in negative terms all conceded that she should be Attorney General.

That is rare. It is rare to have a nominee with that kind of affirmation come out of the Senate Judiciary Committee—and for good reason. When you look at her record, you can understand why. This young woman has an extraordinary record of service. She grew up in North Carolina as the daughter of a minister and a school librarian. Her dad was there at her hearing. Her father was smiling as she recalled those instances when she was a very young girl, and he would sit her on his shoulders and take her to see the civil rights events that occurred when she was so young.

She received her undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University. She has private sector experience at prestigious law firms. She has twice been confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. She served in that position with distinction.

Her nomination has been endorsed by a wide range of groups, representing law enforcement, prosecutors, bar associations, business leaders, civil rights organizations, and former Justice Department officials from both Democratic and Republican administrations. In what may be one of the most amazing ironies of this whole situation, Loretta Lynch has been recognized as a leader when it comes to prosecuting human traffickers. Why is that significant? Because the Republican leader announced that he was holding up her nomination until we passed a bill on human trafficking.

Here is a woman who, as a prosecutor and professional, has prosecuted the

people guilty of that crime, and she is being delayed in her appointment as Attorney General of the United States of America because of a political debate on the floor of the Senate for almost 4 weeks over this bill.

Under Ms. Lynch's leadership, the U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of New York has brought many important prosecutions in human trafficking. In *United States v. Lopez*, three brothers were convicted in 2014 for running a human trafficking ring involving 14- and 15-year-old girls. Ms. Lynch was also involved in the successful prosecution of the Granados-Hernandez sex trafficking ring, in which numerous child trafficking victims were reunited with their mothers. In *United States v. Johnson*, Ms. Loretta Lynch was involved in a prosecution where a Queens man was convicted for trafficking and prostituting a 15-year-old girl out of his home.

Make no mistake, when it comes to the issue of human trafficking, this nominee for Attorney General knows more about the subject than most, and she has a record to prove it. Malika Saada Saar, the executive director of Rights4Girls, is one of the Nation's leading antitrafficking advocates. She said: "It is clear that as the top prosecutor in Brooklyn, New York, Lynch has a strong record of being tough on crime and human trafficking." She has been held up on the floor because of our failure to pass a bill on that same subject.

Here is what the President of the National District Attorneys Association, Michael Moore, said about Ms. Loretta Lynch when he wrote to express his organization's strong support for her: "As prosecutors facing challenges in the field from violent crime, to human trafficking, to gangs and drug traffickers, our membership feels that Ms. Lynch understands the operational nature of these challenges and will be a strong independent voice at the helm of the Department."

Calling a vote on Ms. Lynch and confirming her would be a big step forward in the fight against trafficking. It is time to end this delay and obstruction. This extraordinary woman nominated by the President of the United States to be the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General should have been approved by the Senate long ago. While she has been waiting patiently for a long, long time, we have interrupted the business of the Senate to approve the President's appointments for Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commissioners, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Members, Undersecretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security, Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, and several Federal judges.

We have had more than adequate opportunity to call Ms. Lynch for approval. Let us not leave Washington

this week without voting on Loretta Lynch to be our next Attorney General. I voted for her in committee and will proudly support her nomination in the hopes that it will come to the floor this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I realize the devil is always in the details. I see the distinguished senior Senator from Texas on the floor and I hope we are getting somewhere on trafficking.

I appreciate the fact that this body, when we were doing the Violence Against Women Act, voted for the anti-sex trafficking amendment I proposed. And the majority of the Senators at the time voted for the final version of the Violence Against Women Act, which included anti-sex trafficking language, and that bill has been signed into law. We should continue on with this bill, which adds to what we did a couple of years ago. But I am concerned, as I have said many times, that we have held up Loretta Lynch because of this. I cannot see what the corollary is.

My friends on the other side of the aisle told me, when they had to wait for 3 or 4 days for a Republican nominee on the floor to get confirmed, that it was too long. They would warn us of national security concerns. Well, Loretta Lynch has waited on the floor for a vote for 54 days. I want to put this in some context. Attorney General Holder waited 5 days. Attorney General Mukasey waited 2 days. Attorney General Gonzales waited 8 days. Attorney General Ashcroft waited 2 days. Attorney General Reno waited 1 day. Attorney General Barr waited 5 days. Attorney General Thornburgh waited 1 day. If we take those seven most recent Attorneys General and take all the time that they waited on the floor and add it all together, it comes to 24 days. Loretta

Lynch has waited 54 days on the floor—more than twice as long as the seven most recent Attorneys General combined.

Then we still have the Deputy Attorney General nominee, whose background is virtually the same as Loretta Lynch's. Both are highly respected prosecutors. Both have prosecuted matters involving the issues we are trying to stop here on the floor—terrorists, traffickers, and white-collar criminals. Once we are done with Loretta Lynch, we have to get her deputy confirmed. I hope both of these highly qualified women are confirmed soon. It has already taken too long.

These delays create a morale problem in the Department of Justice—one of our first lines against terrorists and organized crime. We have some superb men and women who work at the Department of Justice. Some came during Republican administrations, and some came during Democratic administrations. I have met many of these men and women, from both Republican and Democratic administrations, and I am so impressed by them and their dedication. Most of them could leave, go to a law firm, and make a lot more money, but they are dedicated to this country. It is demoralizing to them when we hold the position of Attorney General in limbo. We should stop. The Department of Justice is something we should, whenever possible, keep politics out of.

Remember, too, it is not the "Secretary of Justice," like we have the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agriculture and so on—a member, as some might suggest, of the President's staff. This is the Attorney General of the United States. They represent you. They represent me. They represent everybody.

I have often told a story about when I was a young law student at Georgetown. The then-Attorney General invited four or five students from different law schools to meet. He reviewed our grades, invited us in to actually spend an hour with him and encouraged us to come work with the Department of Justice.

I remember one of the questions I asked that Attorney General. I said: If you are Attorney General of the United States and you are asked to prosecute somebody who is close to the President, what do you do?

He said: Well, if they should be prosecuted, they would be treated the same as anybody else, and we would prosecute them as such.

I declined the offer to go work at the Department of Justice. I was homesick and wanted to get back to Vermont. Both my wife and I wanted to get back. I wanted to practice law there, which I did, and I actually became a prosecutor. But I often thought of what the Attorney General said to me about his role. Subsequently a man in Illinois who was critical to the election of the next President ran afoul of the law and the same Attorney General signed off

on his prosecution. When asked by some of his staff, "Well, are you sure you are OK with this?" he said, "He committed a crime. He should be prosecuted. Even though I probably won't go to many family reunions for some time after doing this." This was, of course, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and the man he prosecuted was critical to the election of his brother John Kennedy as President. I always admired that he was willing to do that—that he put his duties as a prosecutor first ahead of any political duties. I believe Loretta Lynch will do the same.

Sometimes young law students can be very impressionable, but I have never forgotten that time sitting there with Attorney General Kennedy. I have never forgotten how I had to wrestle with the decision to turn down his offer, but it was a family decision and one I have never regretted. I went back to Vermont, and things turned out all right. I have had the privilege of representing Vermont for over 40 years in this body. But that conversation is something I will always remember. It is one of the reasons I went on to the Judiciary Committee. It is one of the reasons I took, when it was offered to me, the chairmanship of the Committee and it is one of the reasons why I am now ranking member.

Incidentally, the men and women who work there, on both sides of the aisle, are brilliant lawyers, hard-working people. Kristine Lucius is my chief counsel, and I don't know a better lawyer anywhere than she is or anybody who works harder than she does.

We have a lot of issues before the Judiciary Committee. Senator GRASSLEY is my friend. We have been friends for over 30 years. I won't speak for him, but I suspect he would say we have things to get going to. So I hope we are able to get this trafficking matter taken care of and get the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General confirmed.

In the last 2 years of President Bush's second term, Democrats had come back into the majority. I wanted to show that we would try to keep partisanship out, and as chairman, I had moved 15 of President Bush's judges through to confirmation by this time in his second term. We moved them far more rapidly than Republicans had toward the end of President Clinton's term.

I am glad we have been able to confirm two judges this Congress. They were both judges from Texas whom I supported. I complimented the two Senators from Texas because of their work in picking candidates who would be judges first and foremost without reference to whatever political background they may have. I hope we can now start doing what we did with President Bush and confirm more.

Let's stop making judges political. I am afraid that there could be good men and women who will decline the cut in pay and everything else to become a

Federal judge if they think they are going to have to put their life on hold for 6 months or a year to get there—even more so for key positions such as Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and others in the Department of Justice. We can fight over political issues but this should be outside of that.

The distinguished senior Senator from Texas was a judge and has a prosecutorial background. He and I have worked closely together on a number of issues—the Freedom of Information Act being one of them. And I suspect we will work together on a number of issues to come. Let's get past this roadblock and onto other things.

I see him on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the work in the Senate and particularly the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. But I would say to my colleague and friend, with whom I have worked on so many important issues, that I also look forward—once we get past today's business—to working together with him on patent reform, criminal justice reform, and also to continue our very productive partnership on open government and transparency, particularly the Freedom of Information Act legislation.

SAN JACINTO DAY

Mr. President, before I talk about the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, I have to note this: It is my responsibility, my duty, my honor to note that today is a very important day in Texas. This is San Jacinto Day. For those who do not know what that is, this is the official State holiday that honors Texas independence, where 910 soldiers, led by General Sam Houston, won the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution.

So it is not the Battle of the Alamo that gave Texas its independence. That is the one that people perhaps remember the most. Maybe it is because of the movies and books that have been written about that. Actually, the Battle of the Alamo did not turn out too well. Virtually, everybody was killed. But it gave rise to the opportunity for these 910 men, led by General Sam Houston, on San Jacinto Day, to win the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution. Now, almost 180 years later, I think it is only appropriate and fitting that we recognize their bravery and their sacrifices in pursuit of our dream of freedom.

Mr. President, on the subject of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, this has been a strange experience, starting as we did on something that passed unanimously in the Judiciary Committee, with 30 cosponsors on a bipartisan basis, and all of a sudden to have this legislation stuck here in the Senate. I will not relitigate the reasons for that because, frankly, I think we have now found a way forward for this

legislation, as the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and the Democratic leader, Senator REID, announced this morning.

It is going to take a little bit more work by the Senate. There are perhaps a handful of amendments that we will have an opportunity to vote on. I know there is a desire by everyone for us to finish this trafficking bill as soon as we can, and then we can address the concerns that the ranking member from Vermont, Senator LEAHY, has about the Attorney General nomination.

Senator MCCONNELL has made very clear that once we get trafficking resolved, which it appears we are on a path to doing, then we can turn to the Lynch nomination. I have actually been somewhat surprised and more optimistic than I have been in a long time about how the Senate is beginning to work again, from passing a budget to dealing with the broken doc fix that had been the law of the land since 1997, which had required us to come back and patch—every 6 months to a year—and the reforms that actually were negotiated by Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI in the House, which we passed by an overwhelming margin here in the Senate.

Then, consider what happened in the Foreign Relations Committee on the Iran sanctions issue with a unanimous vote and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, with Senator ALEXANDER and Senator MURRAY announcing an agreement to move forward on the reauthorization of early childhood education.

We have some very good progress that is being made on trade, for example. I just came from the Senate Finance Committee. I think there is a path forward on trade promotion authority and consideration of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The truth is that the United States has roughly 20 percent of the world's purchasing power, which means 80 percent of the purchasing power in the world lies beyond our borders. We have 5 percent of the world's population, meaning 95 percent of the world's population lies beyond our borders.

The opportunities we have to grow our economy and to help small and medium-sized businesses and the people—the middle-class families who work at those businesses—are very exciting. So the point is that after a long period of dysfunction in the Senate, we are starting to see the Senate work again the way it should work, the way it has historically worked—through the committees, to build consensus on legislation that can then come to the floor, and then to have Senators, whether they be in the majority or minority, to offer constructive suggestions about how to solve our Nation's biggest challenges, and then to work together to send these to the President and get his signature.

So there are a lot of positive things happening in the Senate. I hope for even more positive things to occur in the near future.

I have been focused like a laser for some time now on justice for the victims of human trafficking. When I think for a minute about the fact that the typical victim of human trafficking is a 12- to 13-year-old girl, who has been sold essentially into sex slavery and who has lost control over her life and perhaps, to her mind, to her future. I cannot think of a more compelling need for the Senate than to try to offer a lifeline to these victims of human trafficking. That is what this legislation that hopefully we will act on today—perhaps no later than tomorrow—is designed to do. It creates a fund that could be as high as \$30 million—not from taxes but from fines and penalties paid by people who commit sexual offenses and basically represents the demand side of the human trafficking equation.

We have found a way now, on a bipartisan basis, to move this legislation forward so we can offer a hand to rescue these victims of human trafficking, so we can give them an opportunity to heal and we can provide them some hope for a better future.

I know all of us, by virtue of the privilege of the office that we serve in, have had stories from constituents about human trafficking. I remember quite clearly Brooke Axtell of Austin, TX, who now works with a number of nonprofits, and has basically turned her tragic story into serving others who have likewise become victims of human trafficking. Brooke's story is really almost beyond belief. She says that at age 7 she was sexually abused. She was literally held captive in a basement and sold to men who would pay money to have sex with her, a 7-year old child.

Brooke has brought to light her pain and has begun to heal as a result of having been rescued and been given a helping hand. But she has now turned her tragic story into hope by honorably helping others find a way out of a life that she herself experienced. She founded a group called Survivor Healing and Empowerment, which is a healing community of survivors of rape, abuse, and sex trafficking.

There is another horrific story that I have heard—I am sure just as all the Members of the Senate have heard coming from their States, because this is not something isolated in one State. This is a national—indeed, it is an international—phenomenon. Another woman I have had the privilege of meeting with and who has shared her story with me is Melissa Woodward from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Melissa was 12 years old when she was sold into the sex trade by a family member—unbelievable. Eventually, she was pulled out of school to be trafficked full time when she was in the sixth grade. Her life, as she describes it, became a prison. She was literally chained to a bed in a warehouse, she says, and endured regular beatings and obviously, sexual assaults.

There was even once an attempt to set her on fire by one of her abusers.

All the while, she says, she was forced to serve between 5 and 30 men every day. She said she wished she was dead.

As heartbreaking as Melissa's story is, just as sad is the way she was treated after she escaped her captors. In one of the big changes in the way we have approached victims of human trafficking—at one point we claimed they were the criminal because they had engaged in prostitution. But the idea of a child prostitute is an oxymoron. A child cannot consent to a life of prostitution.

What we find, in looking at the victims of human trafficking, is that many of them are manipulated, coerced, and forced to engage in this sex activity for the economic benefit of their johns or their pimps or their traffickers. This is all about money. This is about the face of evil that treats human beings as objects or as things, without the basic dignity and respect which all human beings are entitled to. But as I said, one of the problems with the way we used to treat victims of human trafficking is that we treated them like criminals. That was all too common an outcome for trafficking victims who were labeled as prostitutes and left with very few options but to ultimately return to a nightmare that, sadly, exists in our country.

That is beginning to change. It needs to change even more, which is another reason why we need to pass this bill. This is the kind of legislation that I think in many ways is unique, because it is a nonpartisan piece of legislation. All this legislation is designed to do is to help the victims of human trafficking get rescued and then begin to heal and to get on with their lives. It is designed to provide much-needed resources for victims of human trafficking—plain and simple. It may be nothing more than a safe place to sleep, protected from the people who would continue to abuse them.

It is designed to help people such as Brooke, Melissa, and so many others—the tens of thousands of victims of human trafficking. This legislation would not only provide help for those victims, but it would ensure that children such as Melissa are treated as victims and not criminals.

It would also add law enforcement tools to help authorities rescue victims and to take down human traffickers and the organized criminal networks who support them. That is an important point because human trafficking is not a mom-and-pop business. This is run by organized crime and criminal networks, some of them international or transnational.

I want to thank my colleagues for caring—for caring about people such as Melissa and Brooke and the many examples of human trafficking that we have all been introduced to.

I want to particularly express my gratitude for all of our colleagues for working on this and not giving up until we found a pathway toward success. This body's consideration of this bill

has proven that compromise and bipartisanship need not be relics of the past in today's Washington. They are very much alive and well, particularly when the need is so very great, as it is in this area. So now for the sake of these victims, let's get this important legislation passed and provide crucial help for the children trapped in modern day slavery.

I want to just conclude by saying a few thank-you's. I know it is a little premature. But we would not have gotten this far if it were not for the help of organizations such as Rights4Girls, Shared Hope International, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, the End Child Prostitution and Trafficking organization, the National Association to Protect Children, and members of our staff in the Senate who have worked so hard to get us where we are today.

I want to express my gratitude to Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator MURRAY, and Senator REID, on the other side of the aisle, who have worked so closely with us, and of course to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, and particularly I want to single out the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. He said we would not move to the nomination for Attorney General of the United States until we get this done. And, indeed, today, I hope and believe that we will get this done, and then we can turn to that nomination.

But there are others, perhaps too many to name: Senator WARNER, Senator HEITKAMP, and others on the Democratic side. There are those on the Republican side. Senator COLLINS comes to mind, and there are others who have worked so hard and so relentlessly and with such determination to get us where we are today. We need to get this over the finish line so we can move on to other business.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I was not going to be talking right now, but I understand some of the people who are going to be reserving time are not yet here.

## PILOT'S BILL OF RIGHTS 2

Mr. President, I want to remind my colleagues on the floor that we have a piece of legislation that is coming up that no one is really plugged into right now, but it is going to be coming before us in a very short period of time.

Back in 2011, I introduced a bill and passed a bill called the Pilot's Bill of Rights. It was something that was very meaningful to a relatively small number of people, but these are single-issue people, and it strove to correct a problem in our justice system that existed for as long as I could remember.

Having been an active commercial pilot for the last over 50 years—and there are not too many in the Senate; and in our delegation in Oklahoma, I was the only one until a couple years ago—it is only natural that I receive comments from a lot of people concerning problems they have with the FAA.

There are a lot of great people in the FAA, and a lot of them I have worked with for many, many years. But there are also some—and this is true with any regulatory body, anyone who has authority over individuals. I remember back many years ago when I was the mayor of Tulsa. We had a great police force. But all it takes is two or three of them who are the bad guys. We are seeing some of that around today, and that gives a bad reputation to a lot of people. The same thing is true with some of the people who are working with the FAA.

I can remember helping others, and I always did come to their aid when they felt they were not getting proper justice. But it really did not register with me until it actually happened to me. Back about 3 years ago, flying an airplane into a Texas airfield that is not a controlled airfield, there was an activity going on on the runway without any NOTAMs that had been advised—and nobody actually had any way of knowing this—and with permission I landed on that runway. This is a runway in far South Texas called the Cameron County Airport. It has a 9,000-foot runway. They were working on just a couple thousand feet of it, so it was very easy to come in.

Now, because of certain individuals who had some other reasons to be critical of me, all kinds of things happened as a result of that. In fact, just recently they have even had some cartoons talking about how I landed on a runway and was chasing people off the runway. None of that was true.

But this is what happened. They proposed to have a violation against me, and I was totally helpless, knowing—and many hundreds of others have had this experience; I never had—that I could lose my license on the whims of one individual in the field.

Now, it would not have been as critical for me. That is not how I make my living. But look at some people who do make their living that way. They could lose their license just because of one individual who did not like them. Bob

Hoover is a good example. Bob Hoover, who I guess is in his nineties now, arguably was the most gifted pilot I can ever remember. He was the one, I say to the Presiding Officer, who would put a glass of water up on his dash and do a barrel roll and not spill the water. I have been with him when that happened. Well, one guy in the field did not like him for some reason, and they staged a violation. He could have and did lose his license.

Now, I had to come to this body—and it took a year and a half—to pass a bill to allow Bob Hoover to get back in. That is an extreme example, but nonetheless, that happened. And that is what was happening to me.

So anyway, we passed the Pilot's Bill of Rights. The main thing there and what we are trying to do is to extend to pilots the same protections under the law that other people have. We have heard the phrase many times: You are guilty until proven innocent. Well, in one area in our society that is true—it has historically been true—and that is for violations or alleged violations against pilots.

So anyway, we passed this. We corrected some things that have not really come to fruition. For example, what is called a NOTAM is short for a notice to airmen. A NOTAM is something that has to be published. It is supposed to be published by the FAA if there is anything going on at an airport such as construction on a runway that would create a hazard.

So the pilots have to look up the NOTAMs. The problem with this is, there are no guidelines as to where they can find a notice to airmen. So we corrected this, we thought, in the Pilot's Bill of Rights. However, it was not as good of a correction as we thought it would be.

So now we are coming back with a Pilot's Bill of Rights 2. By the way, I have to tell you, Mr. President, I had 67 cosponsors out of 100 Senators. So this is something that was very popular and passed with overwhelming majorities.

So what we are doing now with the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 is about four things.

First, the medical certification process is one that is kind of interesting because there is no uniformity. Someone can have a physical problem, a medical problem, and he might be in Chicago, IL, or he might be in Tampa, FL, and they will have a completely different interpretation by the medical examiner as to what should be the remedy of that person's problem. So this puts uniformity back in there.

Then it does something—and this is going to be something that people who do not understand and are not listening to me right now might state that this would be something that could be a hazard or might be some kind of a danger—and that is, we passed in 2004, a rule creating a medical exemption for pilots of light "sport pilot eligible" aircraft. That is for airplanes that weigh under 1,230 pounds and only have

2 seats. There are about 34,000 of them around. It has been over 10 years since FAA issued this exemption, and since then the medical safety experience of these pilots has been identical to those with medical certificates, which begs the question of the value of this expensive and burdensome requirement for pilots who fly for recreation.

A joint study was done by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the AOPA, and the Experimental Aircraft Association, the EAA, on the 46,976 aviation accidents that occurred from 2008 and 2012. Of those 46,976, only 99 had a medical cause as a factor. That is less than one-quarter of 1 percent of all accidents. And of those 99, none would have been prevented by the current third-class medical screening standards and the medical certification process. So it does not offer any protection. It does not serve any useful purpose.

Now, we are proposing in the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 to extend that medical exemption that is currently in place for light sport aircraft to include planes weighing up to 6,000 pounds with up to 6 total passengers, including the pilot. That would add airmen and aircraft to an existing FAA-approved medical standard without degrading or creating substandard safety.

What I am saying here is that of all these almost 47,000 aviation accidents, only 99 had a medical cause, and of those 99, not one would have been prevented by the current third-class medical screening standards and the medical certification process. So this is just another burden on the public—not individuals, but specifically on pilots, and it does not accomplish anything.

What we will do now is have consistency in the application of the medical certification process, and it is something that is overdue. It should not be a problem getting that bill passed, and yet it does need explanation.

The second thing it does is extend the due process rights preserved in the original Pilot's Bill of Rights bill to all FAA certificate holders—not just those who are certificate holders who fly airplanes. There are others who are examiners and work in other fields. They should have the same benefits.

What it does is—and this is kind of hard to explain—but if someone is accused of a violation, that individual has a process that has been in law prior to the Pilot's Bill of Rights; and that is, you go through and the FAA makes a judgment. Then you can appeal it to the NTSB. The NTSB historically has been a rubber stamp for the FAA. So it does not really qualify anything.

What we did in the Pilot's Bill of Rights 1 is allow an individual then to go into the court system and get what they call a *de novo*. A *de novo* means they have a whole process that starts from scratch. They do not just take what the FAA says, the NTSB says, but the courts treat it as a new case and look at it. This has not been happening. So we put some teeth in that so

that will be something that will be workable.

So I really feel we are going to be able to do this, and it is really getting the things done that we tried to do in the Pilot's Bill of Rights, but there have been some problems getting the courts to understand it. In fact, in two separate cases, the Federal district courts ruled that my original bill did not require a full rehearing of the facts. This legislation explicitly spells out the option to appeal an FAA enforcement action to the Federal district courts for a guaranteed *de novo* trial. But they have not been doing it. So this puts teeth in it so they are going to actually have to do it.

By the way, there are things that are in there that people are not aware of. For example, in my case, I allegedly did something that was not in compliance with FAA rules and regulations, but they did not say what it was. They did not give the evidence. So you did not have access to your evidence. The new bill ensures that is going to happen.

The third thing is on NOTAMs. A NOTAM is a notice to airmen. It is a pilot's responsibility—this has been true for decades—to know if a NOTAM has been filed by the FAA. That is a notice to airmen. But there is not any way of knowing where to find that. In my case, they claimed there was a NOTAM saying that the runway at Cameron County Airport was closed. That was a lie. There wasn't. There was no NOTAM out there. Finally, we proved that was the case.

So now we are going to have it enforced so we know where these notices to airmen are filed, and it is going to be the responsibility of the FAA to put them in a central location where they would have access to them. This is something that was addressed in the Pilot's Bill of Rights, but somehow it was not specific enough. The teeth we put in this bill is that in the event they do not have it, the NOTAM is published where it can be found in a central location. Then the FAA cannot use that as an enforcement action. That will get the job done.

The fourth thing it does is to extend the liability protection to individuals designated by the FAA as aviation medical examiners, pilot examiners, and this type of thing. What this does also is address what we call and most people would refer to as the Good Samaritan law. I have a lot of pilots—and I have been in the same situation—who want to help. They want to get a patient to a doctor in an emergency situation.

I can remember one time many years ago when a tornado went through and destroyed the island of Dominica, north of Caracas, Venezuela. I got 12 pilots together with 12 of their airplanes, and they volunteered to take all the medical supplies down there. Now, if something had happened in the meantime, they would have had no protection. Yet out of the goodness of

their hearts, at their own expense, they were out there trying to save lives. I was there. I know.

So this actually is one that is going to give liability protection to individuals other than just the pilots—other people who own FAA certificates—and at the same time give protection to those people who are trying to help other people.

So I believe this bill should be coming up in the next couple of weeks. It will be going to the commerce committee. I would encourage Members to—and particularly those 67 Members who were the cosponsors of the original Pilot's Bill of Rights should be on this one too. In fact, most of them are right now. I know Senators MANCHIN and BOOZMAN were the first two to get on. They happen to be the chairmen of the General Aviation Caucus in the Senate. By the way, we have equal support over in the other body, in the House of Representatives.

Last summer, at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh fly-in convention—that is the largest fly-in convention anywhere in the world—I hosted a public forum to solicit input for the legislation we are having, the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2, and I received over 400 comments from individuals. These are people who were present at the Oshkosh event.

So we have solicited their input, and we have all the organizations behind it. I would say, insofar as the one that might become controversial; that is, the exemption on a third-class medical—doctors have unanimously voted in favor of it—they are called the doctors in aviation—and others.

This is one of these rare opportunities we have on a bipartisan basis to pass something that is going to offer legal protections to one class of people who currently don't have it and have not had it in the past.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. 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. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise again to speak in support of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. It is good legislation, drafted and introduced by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, and also the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR. They originally put this bill together in the last Congress, and I was pleased to be a cosponsor of that bill. I am also very pleased to be an original cosponsor of the legislation they introduced earlier this year, the legislation we have on the floor now.

This bill has many important, strong points. I am going to go through some—not all but a number of them.

For example, it makes sure victims get restitution and witnesses get re-

wards for cooperating with law enforcement before others and encourages prosecutors to get training on restitution in human trafficking cases. It also gives law enforcement greater authority to seize the assets of convicted human traffickers, and it protects victims and witnesses by requiring human traffickers to be treated as violent criminals for purposes of pretrial release and detention pending judicial proceedings.

It also ensures that Federal crime victims are informed of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement in their case and clarifies that the ordinary standard of appellate review applies in cases concerning Federal crime victims' rights petitions.

It recognizes that child pornography production is a form of human trafficking and ensures that victims have access to direct services at child advocacy centers to help them heal.

It allows State and local human trafficking task forces to get wiretap warrants within their own State courts without Federal approval. That will help them to more effectively investigate crimes of child pornography, child sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.

The bill also improves nationwide communications so law enforcement can better track and capture traffickers and child pornographers. It ensures regular reporting on the number of human trafficking crimes for purposes of the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

It also requires law enforcement to upload photos of missing individuals into the National Criminal Information Center database and notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of any child reported missing from foster care, and it strengthens current law to reduce demand for human trafficking by encouraging police, prosecutors, judges, and juries to target all persons involved in the buying and selling of human trafficking victims. It is just wrong to prosecute victims and fail to prosecute those who prey on them.

This legislation will help for all of those reasons, but this legislation is also very important because it creates a fund from fines and penalties imposed on those who would engage in human trafficking. The fund is important because it not only compensates victims of human trafficking and other crimes of exploitation for their injuries, but it also provides resources to help law enforcement prevent such crimes in the future.

As we work on this important issue, it is also very important that we understand that human trafficking is not just a big-State, big-city problem. Every State in the country is facing this issue, including my home State of North Dakota, but we currently have a challenge addressing this problem.

After consulting with the North Dakota attorney general's office, we learned that North Dakota has been

discouraged from applying for antihuman trafficking grants, because in its application, the Department of Justice asks for at least 2 years of local data on human trafficking victims. North Dakota, in recent years, has been the fastest growing State in the country. So here we are, the fastest growing State both in terms of population and in terms of income growth. Consequently, more so than many States, only recently we have seen significant increases in human trafficking issues. So we don't have that 2 years' worth of data that DOJ requires, but we very much need assistance with addressing the problem of human trafficking. It is not unique to North Dakota. There are other States—typically fast-growing States, States that may have the same kind of energy development or other areas where they have seen a significant influx of people and are continuing to see a significant influx of people. This is a national issue. It is not specific just to my State but to any State where we have seen rapid growth, influx of money, influx of people from outside the State and where human trafficking is an issue.

To remedy that, I have offered an amendment to the current legislation we have on the floor now, the Cornyn-Klobuchar bill, that clarifies that an eligibility entity with a worthy trafficking initiative, in an effort to combat trafficking in its jurisdiction, will not be disadvantaged in receiving funds under the Cornyn-Klobuchar bill because they, like North Dakota—be it a State or whatever—have only recently begun collecting data on human trafficking. So in cases where they don't have 2 years of data, as long as they can demonstrate a valid need and a valid solution to try to address this important issue and to reduce human trafficking, that is what will be required for the application, and not having 2 years of data will not be an issue in terms of scoring or an issue that DOJ would hold against that application for receipt of the funds for a worthy project.

This is important to make sure that all across the country, in every State, we are addressing human trafficking. We all need to be united, in every State across this great country, working to combat human trafficking. That is why this amendment is very important.

There are few issues that as a governing body we can be more united on than making sure we protect our children, that we prevent human trafficking in any form, and that we do it on a national basis in every State. That is what my amendment is all about.

For this reason, I offer this amendment. I hope it will be included as part of the Cornyn-Klobuchar legislation, which, as I said earlier, I am only too pleased to cosponsor.

The value and importance of this legislation is reflected in the broad coalition of victims' rights and law enforcement organizations that support it. It

has been endorsed by nearly 200 groups, from the Fraternal Order of Police to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

We need to pass this legislation. Crimes such as human trafficking and child pornography target the most vulnerable among us in a most despicable way. I urge all of my colleagues to pass this bill, to put an end to modern-day slavery, and to help victims get the support they need.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my appreciation that this afternoon the Senate is finally getting back to legislating on the important issue of human trafficking. It is critical we pass this legislation to combat one of the world's most heinous crimes and one that threatens thousands of innocent people every year.

I am the cochair and cofounder of the human trafficking caucus. Our opportunity is not only to raise awareness of this issue but also to pass important legislation to address the problem.

We learned that human trafficking is now a \$32 billion worldwide industry, leaving it only second in size to the drug trade for criminal activity. Many view this as an international problem. They think, well, this happens somewhere else or on another continent, such as Africa or Asia. The fact is it happens right here. Of course, every country around the world has a responsibility to fight back against traffickers and stop their acts of violence. But while this industry has a global reach, the reality is that human trafficking is a major problem not only in my home State of Ohio, it is a problem in every State represented in the Senate. The Justice Department has told us that the average age of victims getting involved in trafficking is 12 to 14 years old. Think about that. These are children. These are kids. The number of American children at risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking is estimated to be about 300,000. These children represent the most vulnerable among us, and we should make sure we are doing everything we possibly can to protect them. Every American life has value and every child deserves a chance to live a bright future.

Today, however, we can take comfort in knowing we are fighting back against human traffickers and making it harder for their criminal activity to continue in a couple of different ways, both of which are very important.

First, our legislation makes it easier to find some of these vulnerable chil-

dren. Missing children are particularly vulnerable, and the legislation I am about to talk about enables us to find those children more quickly and helps to get them into a nurturing environment. Second, it will strengthen law enforcement's ability to find and punish those who are committing these crimes.

We accomplished the first goal with the Bringing Missing Children Home Act. It is a bill that I authored with Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of New York. We know there is a strong connection, unfortunately, between sex trafficking victims and children who have been in and out of the child welfare system. We also understand that kids who are missing or who have run away from home are the most vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, and abuse. The FBI sting in 2014 recovered 168 sex trafficking victims, and nearly all of them had spent time in the child welfare or foster care system. While many of these children had been reported missing, the information obtained by authorities was not sufficient enough to be able to find them, and that is what this legislation gets at.

The Bringing Missing Children Home Act will make it easier to find these children in two different ways. First, it amends the Missing Children's Assistance Act by replacing the term "child prostitution" with "child sex trafficking." This reinforces the fact that children who are exploited are victims, not criminals. Secondly, the bill requires law enforcement agencies to update their records of missing children within 30 days of an initial report with additional information that could include medical or dental records or even a photograph. Having this new information, particularly a photograph, is incredibly important when searching for a missing child. I know this because this has been a big problem in my home State of Ohio.

We started looking at this legislation and considering this bill on the floor on March 6. Since March 6, 60 children have been reported missing in my home State of Ohio. Yet we only have photographs for 14 of them. It is hard to find these children, and not having that information makes it even more difficult. Our legislation will help to get those photographs and will help ensure that all of us can play a role in helping to find these missing children.

The bill also makes it easier for law enforcement officials on the State and local level to coordinate with child welfare services, and it allows missing persons units and State law enforcement agencies to modify and improve missing children's entries to include important information that was uncovered during an investigation. That is not currently the case. It just makes sense to be able to have better records.

While we are making it easier to find trafficking victims, we will also make it easier to find and punish perpetrators of these crimes with legislation I have authored with Senator DIANNE

FEINSTEIN. It is called the Combat Human Trafficking Act and is part of this underlying bill we will also be considering here on the floor. This act focuses on those who commit these crimes. It increases the penalties for those who buy acts from sex trafficking victims. It requires new training by the Justice Department on targeting. It expands reporting on trafficking prosecutions and strengthens victims' rights. A lot of this comes out of what we have learned over the past decade since we have really taken up this issue at the Federal level. It improves Federal law to take into account the information we now know. Through better enforcement of laws against buyers, we will be able to reduce the demand for sexual exploitation and ensure that criminals are prosecuted to the full extent, preventing further trafficking crimes from ever happening.

As the cochair of the Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking, it has been a priority of mine to get this legislation passed in an effort to help victims of trafficking and to prevent the number of victims from increasing.

I also hope we can add an amendment I authored entitled "Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking." This amendment contains a piece of legislation I authored last year with Senator WYDEN of Oregon called the Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act. It will help improve the information law enforcement officials have about the scope of the trafficking problem. This was signed into law last year, but there is additional information we would like to provide in terms of getting the response part of that bill passed.

The bills I have spoken about are important steps to one day ending human trafficking and putting this horrible industry out of business altogether. Trafficking deserves no place in America.

I thank Senator CHUCK SCHUMER, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and others for their hard work on this legislation I have talked about. I would also like to express how grateful I am that Members of this Chamber were able to put partisanship behind us, politics aside, and reach common ground to move forward on this important issue. Ending human trafficking is clearly a bipartisan goal. It is a nonpartisan goal. It is something on which we should come together. The legislation we have before us today will make a profound impact on so many Americans, including some of the most vulnerable. I am happy to see we are a little closer to having these bills become law. I think they will become law once they pass this Chamber, go through the House, and are signed by the President.

We still have a lot of work to do. This is just a start. After today, the fight to combat human trafficking will be far from over. Somewhere in America, there will still be children looking to be found, wondering if anybody

cares, despite our legislation. Today's legislation will make it easier to find them, but it is still up to all of us. All of us have a role in helping to keep these children from going missing in the first place and then finding and providing them with a nurturing setting and a home where they are embraced and where they can be taken away from the stress of human trafficking and sex trafficking.

There will always be traffickers looking to exploit the vulnerable. We know that. But today, if we pass this legislation, we will be sending a warning to those who commit these heinous crimes. As long as you are a perpetrator or an accomplice to human trafficking—folks will know that law enforcement is going to do what it takes to track them down and to punish them.

I am glad we have been able to find common ground again and move a little closer to making these positive changes a reality. I am hopeful that we will be able to vote on this today and tomorrow, move this to the House, get it through to the President, and indeed begin to make a difference to my constituents in Ohio and around the country.

With that, I yield back.

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

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

#### WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I am here today to identify yet another installment of the "Waste of the Week." We have been doing this now for several weeks, trying to save taxpayers' dollars out of documented waste of their dollars when they send them to Washington. In recent weeks, I have highlighted examples of waste, some big some small.

To date, we have documented over \$47 billion of taxpayer funds that have gone to duplication of effort, simply gone to things the Federal Government never should have been involved in in the first place, examples of fraud, abuse—\$47 billion and climbing on our tax savings gauge here which is approaching now \$50 billion. Our goal is \$100 billion. We are going to keep going as we discover each week yet another waste of taxpayer dollars.

This week's "Waste of the Week" involves the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, also known as FECA. This law was enacted in 1916—well intended, I think, to provide workers' compensation benefits to civilian Federal employees who sustained injuries while employed by the Federal Government and includes funds for vocational rehabilitation and medical benefits.

As I said, it was well intended at the time, providing a lifeline for people in-

jured on the job to keep these people afloat financially until they are ready to go back to work. "Ready to go back to work" has become somewhat of a major question in terms of how this 1916 law is applied, because you have to wonder, is someone 99 years old looking to go back to work.

Well, in 1916, when this act was enacted, it treated them as if they were and are able to go back to work. Let me explain. Both the FECA compensation and medical benefits are payable for the duration of a person's inability to work, which can extend well into their individual golden years.

You say: How does that all happen? But under current law, there is no maximum duration of benefits and no maximum age at which benefits must be terminated. Thus, when beneficiaries become eligible for Federal retirement or disability annuities, they are given the choice as to whether they want to remain in the FECA program or choose the Federal retirement program.

Well, it is not much of a choice. The choice is obvious because given the level of benefits monthly, FECA benefits can be a much better deal than what they would be paid under retirement benefit plans. The FECA benefits are as high as 75 percent of the worker's pre-disability wage. The annual cost-of-living-adjustment is applied each year, the COLA, to the benefits.

Someone came up with a pretty interesting idea here. FECA benefits are not taxed. So, clearly, this ends up being a much better deal for beneficiaries. But is it a better deal for taxpayers? That is the question. Let's take a closer look. This applies to all Federal agencies, but let's take one agency. The Department of Labor reports that approximately 45,000 cases currently receive long-term disability benefits under FECA, and 15,000 or one-third of these cases involve beneficiaries aged 66 or older.

Clearly, it is time—actually it is past time—to reconsider and make reforms to the FECA. At a minimum, we should require workers, when they reach retirement age, to transition into the retirement plan as all their peers have had to do and not continue, throughout their lifetime, the much more generous benefits of FECA.

As I said, the agency with the most FECA claims is the U.S. Postal Service. I want to use this as an example of how this is applied. The Postal Service Office of Inspector General told us that FECA rolls include 9,554 postal workers aged 55 or older eligible for retirement; 3,389 aged 65 and over; 928 aged 80 or older; and, yes, one postal worker at the age of 99.

So in 2013 the U.S. Postal Service paid about \$1.3 billion in workers' compensation claims and \$67 million in administrative fees. In addition, as of June 30, 2014, the estimated workers' compensation liability totaled \$17.8 billion. Now, while many of these benefits go to workers of a traditional working

age, the U.S. Postal Service estimates that these higher than retirement benefits are resulting in an extra \$37.8 million being paid out annually.

That comes to nearly \$400 million over the next 10 years, and that is just from one agency, the U.S. Postal Service. Estimates as to the cost to the taxpayer when all of the Federal agencies are included show that more than \$1 billion will be spent over the next 10 years in extra workers' compensation payments for those who would unlikely be working throughout the Federal workforce.

As my colleague, Senator SUSAN COLLINS from Maine, has been highlighting for years, FECA has become a gold-plated retirement system tainted by unfairness, perverse incentives, and the potential for abuse and fraud.

This program has become increasingly expensive and requires some commonsense reforms—reforms that many States have already implemented in their own workers' compensation programs. Remember, these payments are designed as a bridge to help injured workers until they are able to return to work. That is the most important phrase here—"return to work." This program was never intended to serve as a higher paying alternative to the Federal retirement system. Yet, under the law, it is used for that, and it has cost the taxpayers a significant amount of their tax dollars for unnecessary payments.

Let's not ignore ways we can improve our fiscal health and return our Federal programs, at a minimum, to their original intent. It is time we look at this policy and restore integrity to the FECA, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

Today, I am adding another \$1 billion to the taxpayer savings gauge for this week's waste of the week, and I look forward to discussing ways we can eradicate this waste from our Federal budget so that we can give hard-earned dollars back to the taxpayers—money that simply is not used properly and is labeled, of course, a waste of their money.

So we have increased—we are approaching \$50 billion, and we are shooting up to \$100 billion by the end of this year. I am hoping we can go significantly past that.

The next step, of course, is to take what we have identified and make sure that the law is changed, that it is reformed, and that we can proudly say to the taxpayer that we are doing our part in Washington. While the larger issues of debt and deficit need to be addressed and must be addressed, if we cannot come to consensus on that, at least we can come to consensus on eliminating these egregious abuses of taxpayer dollars.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, as Americans celebrate the 35th Earth Day this week, I rise for the 96th time—I seem to be coinciding with the Presiding Officer's schedule so he has been treated to his share of these speeches—to urge this body to wake up to the threat of climate change. It is real, not a hoax. It is caused by carbon pollution, and it is already making changes that we are already seeing in the world around us. We must cut our carbon pollution to prevent even bigger climate changes—changes in our atmosphere, oceans, and human habitat—potentially unprecedented in the history of our human habitation of this planet.

Yet the polluters who are producing this problem would have us do nothing. They make money when we do nothing. So we do nothing. The polluters run a racket. They all float onto us the costs and damage from their fossil fuel product—the costs of heat waves, of sea level rise, of ocean acidification, of dying forests, and more. The polluters happily dump those costs onto everybody else. And to keep this profitable racket running, the polluters spend huge sums on lobbying and politics, particularly right here in the Congress.

As one author has written, "rivers of money flowing from secret sources have turned our elections into silent auctions." And the polluters get what they pay for. The Republican Party in Congress has become the political arm of the fossil fuel industry. The polluters also spend huge amounts on a big, complex PR machine to churn out doubt about the real science and cook up some paid-for science.

Documents recently discovered by Greenpeace show that one scientist, whose work consistently downplayed the role of carbon pollution and climate change, received—get this—more than \$1.2 million from oil and coal interests over the last decade. Those nice people at the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation gave him at least \$230,000. In recent years, his grants came through Donors Trust, the front group that funnels money from oil, coal, and other special interests.

Well, what do we know? We know that financial incentives affect people's behavior. Does anyone doubt that? That is life. That is why politicians have to disclose their political contributors, the gifts and benefits they receive, and even personal financial information. That is why regulatory agencies and scientific journals require scientific submissions to make plain who funded the work. That is why ex-

pert witnesses' funding sources are relevant in court proceedings. And that is why Upton Sinclair once said: "It's difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

So we know that money talks. That is not news. What else do we know? Well, we also know about that industry playbook to keep safety regulation at bay by funding phony science and manufacturing doubt about legitimate science. That is not news, either. That has been around for years.

The tobacco industry campaign to mislead the public about the health effects of cigarettes was so fraudulent it was determined in Federal court to be a racketeering enterprise. Think about that—an industry campaign of deception about the risks of their product that persisted for years and was ultimately determined in Federal court to have constituted a racketeering enterprise. Does it sound familiar? And tobacco is not alone. The lead paint industry shut down its trade association, the Lead Industry Association, rather than answer questions under oath in a court proceeding.

Entire books have been written documenting this industry's strategy, for example, "Merchants of Doubt," which has recently been made into a documentary, or "Doubt is Their Product," or "Lead Wars," or "Deceit and Denial." So we know the strategy.

Finally, we know something else. We know that a network of front organizations with innocent-sounding names has emerged to propagate the baloney science. This phenomenon has been well documented by Dr. Robert Brulle at Drexell University, among others. His follow-the-money analysis diagrams the complex flow of cash to these front groups that industry persistently tries to obscure. Well, here is what makes sense to me: If it is important enough for them to want to hide it, it is important enough for us to want to know about it.

So Senators BOXER, MARKEY, and I sent a letter to about 100 companies, trade groups, and other organizations affiliated with the fossil fuel industry. We asked whether they spent money to support climate research. It sounds reasonable, based on those three things that we know. Well, oh, my, what a fit of caterwauling that drew from the rightwing PR machine. Today, I will give a recap of the outrage highlights.

It is a "witch hunt," said the far-right Heartland Institute, "what fascists do." We are "ethically challenged . . . mental midgets," said Heartland's president. He later called this little letter "harassment . . . abuse of authority and misrepresentation of the facts." Heartland, by the way, is that classy group that put up a billboard comparing climate scientists to the Unabomber, just to give an idea of their credibility. Finally, "[S]hame on you," read Heartland's response to our letter, which Heartland called a "campaign to stigmatize and demonize."

The rightwing John Locke Foundation said our letter was “trying to McCarthyite” them. Rightwinger Hans von Spakovsky of the Heritage Foundation said it was “an abuse of power.” Investor’s Business Daily got so excited they mixed up their metaphors to say we were both “inquisitors” and “stalk[ers],” out to “intimidate” and “threatening peaceful citizens.” They scoffed, “as if it were any of [our] business” to know if polluters are funding the science. Keeping that Spanish Inquisition theme going, the Washington Times called us “climate change Torquemadas.”

So it looks as if we hit the full faux-outrage quadrifecta—witch hunts, fascism, McCarthyism, and even the Spanish Inquisition. But then they got really serious, and they unlimbered the ultimate rightwing malediction. We were accused by the Cato Institute of—cover your ears, young pages—having “a widespread faith . . . in government’s ability to solve problems.”

Well, Cato made its position on climate change clear, saying that for us “to believe that man’s emissions of carbon dioxide are warming the planet” was a “bias” and that the legitimate science endorsed by everyone from NASA to the Department of Defense to every legitimate scientific society—every major legitimate scientific society in the country—all of that was “propaganda,” and that we, of course, were climate alarmists. Cato also sent us a letter in response to our inquiry, telling us we cannot “use the awesome power of the federal government to cow” Cato and others. Cow?

According to the Wall Street Journal editorial page, which sadly has become a front for the fossil fuel industry, we were “trying to silence” the other side. Although, I have to confess, it is not clear how the other side would be silenced by simply having to reveal whose payroll they are on, which is all we asked.

Let’s be clear, our letter didn’t suggest that industry scientists should be silenced—just that the public should know if those scientists are being paid by the very industries with a big economic stake in the issue.

Let’s test how much the rightwing front groups care about the suppression of scientific information. Let’s look at their outrage over the reports of public employees in Florida being told—by the government no less—not to talk about climate change.

Interviews by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting with current and former employees, contractors, and volunteers at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection revealed that the administration of Republican Gov. Rick Scott issued an unwritten rule banning official use of the phrases “climate change” or “global warming.” Those reports have been corroborated by employees of other State agencies. We have heard stories of retribution against State employees who dare discuss climate change, of climate

change-related projects being put on the back burner, and even of the term itself being edited out of official documents, including those produced by a university scientist. It sounds like suppression of science. Where was the outrage from the right? Where were the comparisons to fascism and McCarthyism and the Spanish Inquisition for this actual government-sponsored suppression of scientific information? Guess what. There was none.

It is not just Florida. Recently, the Republican members of Wisconsin’s Board of Commissioners of Public Lands voted to prohibit the professional staff “from engaging in global warming or climate change work.” The Wisconsin timber industry, as Senator BALDWIN and I have both pointed out, sees the threat climate change poses to Wisconsin forests, including, among other things, the frozen winter roads that loggers use to move their equipment around that warmer weather melts and turns to impassable muck. But the Republicans in charge of those lands have simply ordered State officials to ignore climate change, suppressing the science—plain and simple.

Where was the outrage from the rightwing groups that had fits about our little request for some transparency about what scientist is on whose payroll? Where was the outrage? There was none, which shows that the real issue has nothing to do with scientific freedom. The real issue here of freedom is the freedom of big, dishonest special interests to hide whose hand is in the puppet.

Here is where it really gets ironic. The enormous multibillion dollar polluting industries whose front groups accuse us of bullying—of being fascists and intimidators and Torquemadas—over our little letter are the very ones pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into elections, much of it secretly, for the plainly avowed purpose of threatening and punishing elected officials who might dare to cross them and acknowledge the dangers of carbon-driven climate change—of all people to be complaining.

Americans for Prosperity, to give one example, a Koch brothers venture, has said that Republicans who support any action on climate change will be put at a “severe disadvantage” in the 2016 elections. That is a serious threat, given the Koch brothers’ pledge to spend \$900 million in this election cycle. Yet that same Americans for Prosperity Foundation blasted our little letter as “an attempt to silence those whose views do not meet with your approval.”

Please. Really? Against a \$900 million campaign threat and a stable of paid-for scientists, against that massive screen of fossil fuel front organizations spouting industry propaganda, our little effort at getting a little transparency about who is funding the phony-baloney climate denial science—that is a raindrop against a torrent. We do indeed need to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before my prepared comments, I do want to thank the Senator from Rhode Island for his passion and his leadership in coming to the floor over and over again, ringing the alarm bells about what is happening not only to our country but our world. We are paying the price in lives and in dollars. We are seeing our farmers pay the price because we have not effectively addressed what is happening to our world in terms of climate change.

I want to thank the Senator for his continued passion in reminding us over and over again why we need to act right now.

SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT

Mr. President, today 350 airmen from Michigan, along with 12 A-10 Warthog aircraft, are deploying to the Middle East to take part in Operation Inherent Resolve, our Nation’s mission to eliminate the terrorist group known as ISIL. This deployment has special significance for Michigan. Michigan is home to thousands of families and community leaders with loved ones living in the Middle East who have seen firsthand the devastating effect of ISIL as it brutally murders innocent people, drives them from their homes, and destabilizes the region. For so many families in Michigan, the fight against ISIL is deeply personal. Today, that fight is personal to many more families as these airmen from Selfridge Air National Guard Base deploy to the region.

The A-10 Warthogs are the very best close air support aircraft in the U.S. military. Known as a tankbuster, the A-10 is ideal against ISIL, which uses tanks stolen from the Iraqi Army. We in Michigan are proud of our fleet. We are proud of our people, their courage, their passion, and their hard work. We are proud for all they have done to protect our Nation.

In 2011, the 127th Wing at Selfridge deployed 300 airmen and one dozen A-10s to Kandahar Airfield, a NATO base in southern Afghanistan. Over 120 days, the unit logged over 8,000 flight hours in 2,000 flight missions in an extremely hostile environment.

Today, I ask my colleagues in the Senate to keep these 350 airmen in your thoughts and prayers. We wish them Godspeed as they embark on this very important mission, and we remember especially their families and friends who will stay behind and support them with their prayers as well.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. DAINES assumed the Chair.)

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

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 178 on Wednesday, April 22, Senator CORNYN or his designee be recognized to withdraw the pending Cornyn amendment and offer amendments Nos. 1124 and 301. I further ask that there then be 1 hour of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the Leahy amendment No. 301, followed by a vote on amendment No. 1124, both with a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption. I further ask that if the Cornyn-Murray-Klobuchar amendment is agreed to, the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form, and the Senate then vote on the following amendments in the order listed, with 2 minutes of debate equally divided before each vote: Cornyn No. 1127; Leahy No. 290; Brown No. 311; Burr No. 1121; and Kirk No. 273, as modified.

I further ask that amendments in the preceding list each be subject to a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption, and that following disposition of these amendments, there then be 5 minutes equally divided in the usual form, followed by votes on the following amendments, which have been cleared by the managers and should be adopted by voice vote: Klobuchar No. 296; Hoeven No. 299, as modified; Sullivan No. 279; Wicker No. 1126; Flake No. 294; Cassidy No. 308; Portman No. 1128; Brown No. 310; Brown No. 312; Heller No. 1122; and Shaheen No. 303.

I further ask that there be no second-degrees in order to any of the amendments listed and that following disposition of the Shaheen amendment, the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, would the majority leader consider at this time modifying his request to drop the Kirk amendment No. 273?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request? The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as I understand, the distinguished Senator from Oregon is asking to amend the consent request. I would reserve the right to object to that request and make the simple point that the Kirk amendment targets online child exploitation and sex trafficking, which is rampant. Given the fact that the Internet is now one of the principal tools used, on Web sites such as backpage.com, thousands of American children and human trafficking victims are sold into slavery. It is simply unconscionable for us to stand by and allow this to continue.

What Senator KIRK is asking for, which I support and believe we should do, is a simple up-or-down vote on the

Kirk amendment. So I reserve the right to object and ask our colleague to allow this up-or-down vote on the Kirk amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the answer is no, but I think the Senator from Oregon wishes to respond.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, continuing my reservation, I don't take a backseat to anyone when it comes to fighting for the victims of sex trafficking. As the distinguished Senator from Texas knows, I was an original cosponsor of this legislation, and much of it is based on bills I have written and advocated on behalf of for years, including with the distinguished Senator from Texas.

Much of this sex trafficking legislation, colleagues, is based on meetings and discussions I have had for years with young women who have been trafficked, law enforcement officials, and community leaders. I remember like it was yesterday how I was with the Portland police on 82nd Avenue in East Portland, and we encountered young women in their early teens who walked around with knives in their purses just hoping to survive the evening. The underlying legislation before us, in my view, is going to be a very valuable tool in helping women like those whom I saw in Southeast Portland.

Unfortunately, an amendment that Senator KIRK seeks to offer has been attached to this request that undermines the legal foundation of every social media platform and attacks a basic cornerstone of Internet law. The Kirk amendment will undermine the fight to help victims by distracting the focus of prosecutors from the pimps and the Johns who prey on these young women.

The vague language in the Kirk amendment would mean any Web site that hosts user-generated contact—that means any social media platform, any news sites with comments and classified sections and any e-commerce sites—could face felony charges based on a vague concept of knowing and a vague concept of advertising.

Instead of focusing resources on going after pimps and traffickers, the Kirk amendment would enable prosecutors to go after Web sites millions of Americans use for nonfearful purposes, chilling innovation. Under current law, prosecutors already have the ability to go after any entity that knowingly profits from sex trafficking. Every minute our prosecutors are occupied going after legitimate businesses, in my view, is time not spent locking up the real criminals.

This amendment hurts America's innovative businesses and entrepreneurs and stifles free speech instead of getting tough on the sex traffickers whom Senator CORNYN and I have sought to target all these years.

So I will close by simply saying I am for throwing the book at every sex trafficker and those who enable them.

Our country absolutely must do everything we can to prevent the next child from falling victim to these predators. In my view, the Kirk amendment distracts from that goal. I hope it will not ultimately be added to this important piece of legislation. I hope Senators will vote no on the Kirk amendment.

With that, Mr. President, I withdraw my reservation to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the request of the majority leader?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF LORETTA E. LYNCH TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 21, Loretta Lynch, to be Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General.

Mitch McConnell, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Jeff Flake, Susan M. Collins, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Lisa Murkowski, Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

#### REMEMBERING NORMAN H. BANGERTER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a loving father,

a visionary leader, a committed public servant, and a cherished friend—former Utah Governor Norman “Norm” Howard Bangerter. As Utah’s 13th Governor, Norm established himself as one of the strongest leaders to ever hold public office in our State.

Norm’s roots were deeply entrenched in the west side of the Salt Lake Valley, and he often referred to himself as a “humble farmer and carpenter” who learned the value of hard work from a young age. His parents, William and Isabelle Bangerter, instilled in their 11 children a strong moral compass and a desire to help others—virtues he carried with him throughout his life.

Norm first entered politics in 1974 when he ran for the Utah House of Representatives. He gained a surprise victory, which put him on a path of strong representation and leadership for his constituents. Norm served 10 years as a State representative, including 4 years as the speaker of the house.

During Norm’s first term as Governor, Utah faced formidable challenges. Never one to shrink from duty, Norm confronted these challenges head-on, exhibiting the exceptional judgment and foresight that would distinguish him as our State’s chief executive. In making these difficult decisions, Governor Bangerter always sought to do what was right over what was politically expedient. He laid a strong framework for his governance, which included “the three e’s”—education, economic development, and efficiency in government. Later in his tenure, he added a fourth “e”—the environment.

After Governor Bangerter won reelection in 1988, the difficult decisions of his first term began to bear fruit. Utah had raised its profile as a fiscally well-managed State, and the success of the Governor’s economic development projects encouraged several prominent companies to relocate or expand in Utah. The Bangerter administration cut budgets, created jobs, expanded the economy, and provided a foundation for fiscal responsibility that still exists today.

Although public service was important to Norm, his family was always paramount. In 1953, he married Colleen Monson, who was his loyal friend and constant companion through nearly 58 years of marriage until she passed away in 2011. Together they raised 7 children and were grandparents to 30 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. In 2012, Norm married Judy Schiffman, who was a dear friend and support to Norm and his family. His daily life was always spent with family by his side. Family time was sacred and essential to Norm, and he firmly believed that family was the most important component of life.

Norm not only served willingly in the public arena, he also served diligently in his church, assuming several important leadership positions in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served for 18 years as a

bishop and as a stake president, and later presided with his wife, Colleen, over the Johannesburg, South Africa Mission from 1996 to 1999. After his missionary service, Norm spent many hours each week volunteering in the LDS Church’s Jordan River Temple. His life was an example of compassion and service, modeled after our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Throughout my years of public service, I have had the privilege of knowing, working with, and learning from Governor Norm Bangerter. We spoke often, and I could always count on him to share with me his no-nonsense wisdom and his passionate advice. Our conversations were always spirited, and they played an indispensable role in my own public service. He fought for what he believed in with great determination and fervor, and he was never afraid to express his opinions. I appreciated our conversations more than he probably knew, and I will miss his sage advice and loyal friendship.

Elaine and I will greatly miss our dear friend, Governor Norm Bangerter. The impact he made on Utah cannot be overstated. He led during difficult times and was a steadfast anchor for our State. He was also a noble servant of our Heavenly Father, and a strong, loving husband, father, and grandfather to his cherished family. He left an indelible impression on me and on all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

#### TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am joined by my colleague Senator RON WYDEN in introducing the Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, Enhancement Act of 2015. This legislation would reauthorize trade adjustment assistance programs to help American workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign competition. These programs are an investment in the American worker and are essential to helping those who are negatively affected by international trade to get the skills and training to prepare for jobs in other industries.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 would cover affected workers in the manufacturing, service, and agricultural sectors. In addition to covering workers whose jobs shift to countries with which the United States has a Free Trade Agreement, the bill would also extend to job losses from non-FTA countries, such as China or India. It would make eligible for assistance those who have been laid off due to unfair foreign subsidies or dumping practices, as long as the lay-off occurs within 1 year of an affirmative injury determination by the International Trade Commission.

Our bill would also authorize an investment of up to \$575 million per year to train workers in new, in-demand skills, thereby providing them with the opportunity to find lasting employ-

ment that will ensure greater economic stability in years to come. It would also provide extended unemployment insurance for those enrolled in an approved training program. For older workers seeking quick reemployment, our bill would provide wage insurance to cover up to 50 percent of the wage differential between the old job and the new job. It would also provide assistance to those who must commute a greater distance or relocate altogether to find new employment.

Under our bill, farmers, fishermen, and aquaculture producers would also be eligible for targeted training and assistance programs designed to help increase their competitiveness. The bill would further clarify that fishermen and aquaculture producers may receive TAA benefits whether they are competing against farmed or wild-caught fish or seafood imports.

Small, rural communities in my home State of Maine have been hit hard by closures or partial shutdowns of mills, manufacturing plants, or other businesses that, in many cases, represent a large portion of jobs in the surrounding communities. In the past year, the communities of Lincoln, Millinocket, and Bucksport have experienced such devastating job losses. Moreover, the second and third-order economic effects on other businesses is significant. When these jobs are abruptly lost on such a massive scale, entire communities and the surrounding area are devastated. In times of such great upheaval, the laid off employees, who lost their good jobs through no fault of their own, need the time, support, and resources to learn new skills and seek viable employment opportunities.

TAA programs have made a tremendous difference in the lives of those working in trade-affected industries in Maine, such as the pulp and paper manufacturing, lobster, and blueberry industries. In fiscal year 2013, more than 700 Mainers benefitted from these programs, which led to an employment retention rate of more than 90 percent. In the last year alone, the Department of Labor approved TAA benefits for the hundreds of workers who lost their jobs with the closures of the Verso Paper mill in Bucksport, the Lincoln Paper and Tissue mill in Lincoln, the Great Northern Paper mill in East Millinocket, and the UTC Fire and Security plant in Pittsfield. Previously, TAA benefitted former employees of the Great Northern Paper mill in Millinocket when it closed, in addition to lobstermen and wild blueberry producers who needed help increasing the competitiveness of their unique commodities. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Eastern Maine Community College and tour its Fine Woodworking and Cabinet Making Shop. I met with a group of students formerly employed at the Bucksport Verso Paper mill, who now have the opportunity to learn a new skill because of the funds available through TAA.

TAA has been vitally important in helping Maine workers, and those across the Nation, who have been harmed by trade get the skills and training they need to prepare for jobs in other industries. Reauthorization of trade adjustment assistance programs must be a part of the national trade policy debate, and I am pleased that the Senate recognized the importance of TAA by approving the bipartisan amendment that I authored to the Budget Resolution related to reauthorizing TAA. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 to continue crucial investments in the American worker and protect them from unfair trade practices and increased imports.

#### VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act. Each year, tax payers across the country utilize accountants, tax software, and lawyers as they prepare their returns. For millions of low-income families, high-cost, high-tech tax assistance is not an option. As a result, the families most in need of tax preparation assistance—low- and moderate-income families, including elderly and disabled taxpayers—will fail to file their taxes or miss out on valuable tax credits.

The IRS created the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, VITA program in 1969 to assist individuals and families in submitting their Federal tax returns. For decades, this program operated predominantly with the resources and facilities of community partners. In 2007, Congress created a demonstration program awarding matching grants to VITA sites to serve additional low-income individuals and families. Since 2008, the VITA grant program has grown to over 200 grant recipients but is still only able to fund about two-thirds of grant applicants.

During the 2014 Federal income tax filing season, VITA programs filed approximately 1.7 million tax returns. Of those 1.7 million returns, more than 551,000 claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of nearly \$2.5 billion in tax refunds that went to VITA tax filers. In addition, VITA programs improve accuracy in the return process and reduce IRS costs by e-filing. In 2014, VITA program tax returns were e-filed 96 percent of the time, compared to 86 percent for the rest of the population.

Funding for the VITA program remains insufficient to meet demand and has not been made permanent. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act would ensure that volunteers and non-profits across the country can continue to provide essential tax preparation services each spring by creating a permanent matching grant program for VITA sites. The act would also build on the success of the VITA program by

creating a National Center to Promote Quality, Excellence, and Evaluation in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Through the center, VITA's many sites would have a mechanism to share best practices and create a more efficient and sustainable program to serve a large number of low- and middle-income families.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting working families by cosponsoring the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act.

#### RECOGNIZING SANOFI'S PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYEES

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contributions to global public health by the Pennsylvania employees of Sanofi. Yesterday, at the White House, they were presented with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent for Humanity award, in recognition of the development of a patented chemical and industrial process for producing semi-synthetic artemisinin, which is used in the creation of combination therapies, ACTs, treating malaria.

Malaria is one of the most deadly infectious diseases in the world, with 200 million cases in almost 100 countries. In 2013, an estimated 584,000 people died from malaria. This parasitic infection most significantly burdens countries with the highest rates of poverty. In Africa, where 90 percent of all malaria cases occur, one child dies every minute from the condition.

Artemisinin is an important anti-malarial drug derived from the sweet wormwood plant in Asia and Africa, but weather and other factors can yield an uncertain supply of natural artemisinin, threatening patients' access. Thus, developing semi-synthetic artemisinin will enable a stable supply of high-quality medication at affordable prices on a no-profit, no-loss model, lead to a stronger supply chain, and place more ACTs in the hands of the most vulnerable patients. Sanofi hopes to produce annually an average of 50 to 60 tons of artemisinin, which will produce 80 to 150 million ACT treatments.

This project to produce semi-synthetic artemisinin began in 2007, and involves a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the University of California Berkeley, the global health charity PATH, Sanofi, and Amiry's. I would like to commend in particular Alain Werner, Robert Sebbag, and Philippe Charreau of Sanofi who led the organization's work on this important project. Sanofi's achievement is only one example of a rich history of dedicating its resources to combat the world's most deadly diseases. Their work on malaria dates back to the 1930s. More recently, Sanofi, which has 112,000 employees and retains core strengths in human vaccines, animal health, consumer healthcare, diabetes, and rare diseases, created its Access to Medicines pro-

gram to improve access to healthcare in the poorest countries.

As the Senate continues to work on legislation to speed the development of therapies, I ask my colleagues keep in mind the important incentives and intellectual property protections that encourage scientists, such as those responsible for this breakthrough, to create lifesaving medicines for patients worldwide.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement"). I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by Title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), two classified annexes to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of China's export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-

related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with China based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, information, and technology for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of any Restricted Data. Transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities may only occur if the Agreement is amended to cover such transfers. In the event of termination, key nonproliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material, equipment, and components subject to the Agreement.

The proposed Agreement would obligate the United States and China to work together to enhance their efforts to familiarize commercial entities in their respective countries about the requirements of the Agreement as well as national export controls and policies applicable to exports and imports subject to the Agreement. It would have a term of 30 years from the date of its entry into force. Either party may terminate the proposed Agreement on at least 1 year's written notice to the other party.

Since the 1980s, China has become a party to several nonproliferation treaties and conventions and worked to bring its domestic export control authorities in line with international standards. China joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1992 as a nuclear weapon state, brought into force an Additional Protocol to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement in 2002, and joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2004. China is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for use, storage, and transport of nuclear material, and has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention. A more detailed discussion of China's civil nuclear program and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and in two classified annexes to the NPAS submitted to you separately. As noted above, the Director of National Intelligence will provide an addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of China with respect to nuclear-related matters.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the proposed Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 21, 2015.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 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-1306. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committees on Finance; and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1307. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Jacksonville Harbor Project in Duval County, Florida, for the purpose of deep draft navigation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1308. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lead-based Paint Programs; Extension of Renovator Certifications" ((RIN2070-AK04) (FRL No. 9925-71)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1309. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho; Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9926-52-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1310. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama: Non-interference Demonstration for Federal Low-Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement for the Birmingham Area" (FRL No. 9926-41-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1311. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Pennsylvania Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9926-43-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1312. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; SO<sub>2</sub> Rules" (FRL No. 9926-31-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1313. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; CO Monitoring" (FRL No. 9926-29-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1314. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Implementation Plan; Florida; Attainment Plan for the Hillsborough Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9926-34-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1315. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma" (FRL No. 9926-50-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1316. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (FRL No. 9926-51-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1317. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vermont: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 9926-54-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1318. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Charlotte; Base Year Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9926-47-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1319. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Carbofuran; Reinstatement of Specific Tolerances and Removal of Expired Tolerances" (FRL No. 9925-70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1320. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Right of Appeal for Medicare Secondary Payer Determinations Relating to Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance), No-Fault Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Laws and Plans" ((RIN0938-AS03) (CMS-6055-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1321. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1322. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-002); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1323. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-136); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1324. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-134); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1325. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-126); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1326. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-108); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1327. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System; Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities" (FRL No. 9919-44-OSWER) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1328. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting,

pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1329. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2014 annual report relative to the STARBASE Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1330. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Possession by Conservators and Receivers for Federal and State Savings Associations" (RIN3064-AE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1331. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1332. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1333. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the St. Louis Airport Storage Site in St. Louis, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1334. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Performance Standards for Ionizing Radiation Emitting Products; Fluoroscopic Equipment; Correction" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-0828) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1335. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2014 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1336. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "ANC 5C Did Not Comply Fully with the ANC Act"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1337. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 inventories of commercial and inherently governmental positions in the Department of Transportation; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1338. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Policy, Planning, and Liaison, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Small Business Size Decisions" (RIN3245-AG59) re-

ceived in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-1339. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting proposed legislation to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1340. 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 "Technical Corrections to 38 CFR Part 3" (RIN2900-AP33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1341. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (23); Amdt. No. 3631" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1342. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (278); Amdt. No. 3632" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1343. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (49); Amdt. No. 3633" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1344. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (209); Amdt. No. 3634" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1345. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers and Harlan Ltd. Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1001) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1346. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1093)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015;

to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1347. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; GA 8 Airvan (Pty) Ltd Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1123)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1348. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0749)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1349. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0619)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1350. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0284)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1351. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0489)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1352. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0579)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1353. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0752)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1354. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0229)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1355. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-1032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1356. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1357. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Tripoli (HLLL) Flight Information Registration (FIR); Extension of Expiration Date" ((RIN2120-AK70) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0246)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1358. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Coaldale, NV" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0871)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1359. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patents and Other Intellectual Property Rights" (RIN2700-AE02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 20, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1360. A communication from the Senior Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulation and Enforcement, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Use of Electronic Chain of Custody and Control Form in DOT-Regulated Drug Testing Programs" (RIN2105-AE35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1361. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2015-2017 Final Specifications for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfly Fisheries" (RIN0648-BE49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2015; to 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 Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1017. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the siting of interstate electric transmission facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1018. A bill to increase the penalty for fraudulent 9-1-1 calls that result in an emergency response from law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 1019. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to repeal certain provisions relating to criminal penalties and violations of foreign laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1020. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1021. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master's degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1022. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1023. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a refundable credit for costs associated with Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1024. A bill to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1025. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify when certain academic assessments shall be administered; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1026. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to repeal a provision prohibiting Federal agencies from procuring alternative fuels; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1027. A bill to require notification of information security breaches and to enhance penalties for cyber criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 1028. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1029. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing a final rule amending the efficiency standards for residential non-weatherized gas furnaces or mobile home furnaces until an analysis has been completed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1030. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for clarification as to the meaning of access without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1031. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1032. A bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1033. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to replace the current requirement for a biennial energy policy plan with a Quadrennial Energy Review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 1034. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "Charles Clark United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 142. A resolution honoring the life of Rachel Carson; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 143. A resolution supporting efforts to ensure that students have access to debt-free higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 122

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 122, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 142

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promul-

gate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 377

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 377, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare program and to reform payments for such services under such program, and for other purposes.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 619, a bill to include among the principal trade negotiating objectives of the United States regarding commercial partnerships trade negotiating objectives with respect to discouraging activity that discourages, penalizes, or otherwise limits commercial relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 667

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH)

was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to amend the Asbestos Information Act of 1988 to establish a public database of asbestos-containing products, to require public disclosure of information pertaining to the manufacture, processing, distribution, and use of asbestos-containing products in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 857

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 857, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of an initial comprehensive care plan for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 925, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 966

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 975

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 975, a bill to prohibit the award of Federal Government contracts to inverted domestic corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 993

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building".

S. 1006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1006, a bill to incentivize early adoption of positive train control, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 140, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1021. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master's degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1021

*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 "Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act".

#### SEC. 2. ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) GRANTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award grants to eligible institutions to enable the eligible institutions—

(A) to establish a master's degree program in orthotics and prosthetics; or

(B) to expand upon an existing master's degree program in orthotics and prosthetics, including by admitting more students, further training faculty, expanding facilities, or increasing cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of grants under this section to eligible institutions that have entered into a partnership with a medical center or clinic administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs or a facility administered by the Department of Defense, including by providing clinical rotations at such medical center, clinic, or facility.

(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

(b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for grants under this section.

(2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that seeks the award of a grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) demonstration of a willingness and ability to participate in a partnership described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) a commitment, and demonstration of an ability, to maintain an accredited orthotics and prosthetics education program after the end of the grant period.

(c) GRANT USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall use grant amounts to carry out any of the following:

(A) Building new or expanding existing orthotics and prosthetics master's degree programs.

(B) Training doctoral candidates in fields related to orthotics and prosthetics to prepare them to instruct in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(C) Training faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education or related fields for the purpose of instruction in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(D) Salary supplementation for faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education.

(E) Financial aid that allows eligible institutions to admit additional students to study orthotics and prosthetics.

(F) Funding faculty research projects or faculty time to undertake research in the areas of orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of furthering their teaching abilities.

(G) Renovation of buildings or minor construction to house orthotics and prosthetics education programs.

(H) Purchasing equipment for orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use not more than 50 percent of the grant amount to carry out paragraph (1)(G).

(3) ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall give preference in admission to the orthotics and prosthetics master's degree programs to veterans, to the extent practicable.

(4) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use the grant funds for a period of three years after the award of the grant.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "eligible institution" means an educational institution that offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that—

(A) is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

(B) demonstrates an ability to meet the accreditation requirements for orthotic and prosthetic education from the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs if the institution receives a grant under this section.

(2) The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$15,000,000 to carry out this section. The amount so authorized to be appropriated shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2018.

(2) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS TO BE RETURNED TO THE TREASURY.—Any amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1) that are not obligated by the Secretary as of September 30, 2018, shall be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 3. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC EDUCATION.

(a) GRANT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award a grant to an eligible institution to enable the eligible institution—

(A) to establish the Center of Excellence in Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (in this section referred to as the "Center"); and

(B) to enable the eligible institution to improve orthotic and prosthetic outcomes for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and civilians by conducting evidence-based research on—

(i) the knowledge, skills, and training most needed by clinical professionals in the field of orthotics and prosthetics; and

(ii) how to most effectively prepare clinical professionals to provide effective, high-quality orthotic and prosthetic care.

(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of a grant under this section to an eligible institution that has in force, or demonstrates the willingness and ability to enter into, a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or other appropriate Government agency, or a cooperative agreement with an appropriate private sector entity, which memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement provides for either, or both, of the following:

(A) The provision of resources, whether in cash or in kind, to the Center.

(B) Assistance to the Center in conducting research and disseminating the results of such research.

(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—The grant awarded under this section shall be in the amount of \$5,000,000.

(b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for the grant under this section.

(2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that seeks the award of the grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

(c) GRANT USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section shall use the grant amount as follows:

(A) To develop an agenda for orthotics and prosthetics education research.

(B) To fund research in the area of orthotics and prosthetics education.

(C) To publish or otherwise disseminate research findings relating to orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section may use the grant amount for a period of five years after the award of the grant.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "eligible institution" means an educational institution that—

(A) has a robust research program;

(B) offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;

(C) is well recognized in the field of orthotics and prosthetics education; and

(D) has an established association with—

(i) a medical center or clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(ii) a local rehabilitation hospital.

(2) The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1022. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1022

*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 "Wounded Warrior Research Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the grants described in this section is to advance orthotic and prosthetic clinical care for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians who have undergone amputation, traumatic brain injury, and other serious physical injury as a result of combat or military experience.

(b) GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PATIENT OUTCOMES.—The Secretary of Defense shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The actions that can be taken to prevent amputation of limbs.

(2) The point in the course of patient treatment during which orthotic and prosthetic intervention is most effective.

(3) The orthotic interventions that are most effective in treating the physical effects of traumatic brain injury.

(4) The patients that benefit most from particular orthotic and prosthetic technologies.

(5) The orthotic and prosthetic services that best facilitate the return to active duty of members of the Armed Forces.

(6) The effect of the aging process on the use of prosthetics, including—

(A) increased skin breakdown;

(B) loss of balance;

(C) falls; and

(D) other issues that arise during the aging process.

(c) GRANTS ON MATERIALS RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(d) GRANTS ON TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(e) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—A person seeking the award of a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor in the form and accompanied by such information as the Secretary shall require.

(f) AWARD REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PEER-REVIEWED PROPOSALS.—Grants under this section may be awarded only for research that is peer-reviewed.

(2) COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.—Grants under this section shall be awarded through competitive procedures.

(g) GRANT USE.—A person awarded a grant under subsection (b), (c), or (d) shall use the grant amount to carry out the research described in the applicable subsection.

(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, veterans, community-based clinicians, and expert researchers in the field of orthotics and prosthetics, submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) An agenda for orthotic and prosthetic research that identifies and prioritizes the most significant unanswered orthotic and prosthetic research questions pertinent to the provision of evidence-based clinical care to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians.

(2) For each report after the initial report under this subsection—

(A) a summary of how the grants awarded under subsection (b) are addressing the most significant orthotic and prosthetic needs; and

(B) the progress made towards resolving orthotic and prosthetic challenges facing members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(i) VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program, \$30,000,000 to carry out this section.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1027. A bill to require notification of information security breaches and to enhance penalties for cyber criminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to speak about two bipartisan bills that would help to modernize the way this country approaches cyber security.

Congress needs to get with the times and realize that the Internet is no longer a new concept. Swiping a credit card, conducting online banking, storing prescription records online—these are not new activities. The cloud is no longer new. Hackers are no longer new. So why are we still so taken aback, in shock, every time we suffer another major cyber attack? Why are we still not requiring that consumers be notified when their information has been stolen? Why aren't we unleashing law enforcement to go after cyber criminals?

If we want to defend against 21st-century threats, then we have to bring our laws into the 21st century. We have to get out of the mindset that the only

way we can be hurt is from an actual physical attack. Hackers don't operate on battlefields; they operate in basements and in cubicles.

Our approach to cyber security so far has been certifiably wrong. We have the largest defense budget in the world by far, but that hasn't stopped our hospitals and banks from falling victim to a near constant barrage of attacks. Last year, data breaches in this country hit a record high; they were up more than 27 percent from the year before. In New York State, between 2006 and 2013, we had nearly 5,000 individual data breaches that were reported by businesses, not-for-profits, and government entities. In the same period, 23 million personal records of New Yorkers were exposed to criminals. And that is just my home State. Imagine how big that number actually is nationwide.

We are long overdue for a new national approach to cyber security, and I am introducing two bills that would finally make this happen. The first is the Data Breach Notification and Punishing Cyber Criminals Act. It would set, for the first time, a national standard for how and when victims of cyber attacks will be informed. When an attack takes place on a business, for example, one that has your financial data or medical information, this law would require that you be informed quickly, with information about what was targeted, what was taken, and whether you were personally affected. This bill would seriously increase the penalties on people found guilty of hacking and cyber crime. It would raise the allowable fines and imprisonment sentences for many of the most common cyber crimes, including identity theft and theft of personal information.

The second bill is the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Credit Act—a bill that would incentivize America's businesses to share cyber security information critical to preventing attacks, without having to involve their competitors. Instead, businesses would be encouraged, with significant tax credits, to adopt the preferred, most efficient method for information sharing; that is, membership in private, sector-specific cyber security networks designed to protect an industry, such as health care and hospitals, from attack. At the individual level, companies, hospitals, and banks can only do so much to protect us. Any good cyber defense has to involve information sharing so that patterns can be recognized, industries can bolster their defenses, and the same hacks aren't just repeated over and over again.

To modernize America's approach to cyber security, we as individuals have to take action, companies have to take action, law enforcement has to take action, and local governments must take action. Most importantly and most urgently, Congress has to take action. We desperately need to modernize our cyber security laws. I urge my colleagues to support these two bills.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1030. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for clarification as to the meaning of access without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Aaron's Law Act of 2015 to reform the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, a sweeping anti-hacking law that criminalizes many forms of common Internet and computer use. This overly broad law currently allows breathtaking levels of prosecutorial discretion that invites serious overuse and abuse.

Together with Senator RAND PAUL, and my colleagues in the House of Representatives, we introduce legislation to fix the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act which is long overdue for reform. Aaron's Law would curb the abuses of this outdated law while still preserving the tools needed to prosecute malicious attacks.

Our bill, inspired by the late Internet innovator and activist Aaron Swartz, who faced up to 35 years in prison for an act of civil disobedience, would reform the quarter-century-old law to better reflect computer and Internet activities in the digital age. Numerous and recent instances of heavy-handed prosecutions for non-malicious computer crimes have raised serious questions as to how the law treats violations of terms of service, employer agreement or website notices.

Aaron's Law is smart legislation that keeps up with the constant evolution of the Internet, and honors the late Aaron Swartz.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1030

*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 “Aaron's Law Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 2. CLARIFYING THAT “ACCESS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION” UNDER SECTION 1030 OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, MEANS CIRCUMVENTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS IN ORDER TO GAIN UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1030(e)(6) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) striking “exceeds authorized access” and all that follows; and

(2) inserting the following: “‘access without authorization’ means—

“(A) to obtain information on a protected computer;

“(B) that the accesser lacks authorization to obtain; and

“(C) by knowingly circumventing one or more technological or physical measures that are designed to exclude or prevent unauthorized individuals from obtaining that information;”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(10), by striking “unauthorized access, or exceeding authorized access, to a” and inserting “access without authorization of a protected”; and

(2) by striking “exceeds authorized access” each place it appears.

**SEC. 3. ELIMINATING REDUNDANCY.**

(a) REPEAL.—Section 1030(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4); and  
 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—  
 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “(a)(6)” each place it appears and inserting “(a)(5)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—  
 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (a)(4) or (a)(7)” and inserting “subsection (a)(6)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (a)(4), or (a)(7)” and inserting “subsection (a)(6)”; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—  
 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “subsection (a)(5)(B)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)(B)”;  
 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “subsection (a)(5)(A)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)(A)”;  
 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “subsection (a)(5)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)”;  
 (iv) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “subsection (a)(5)(C)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)(C)”;  
 (v) in subparagraph (E), by striking “subsection (a)(5)(A)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)(A)”;  
 (vi) in subparagraph (F), by striking “subsection (a)(5)(A)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)(A)”; and  
 (vii) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking “subsection (a)(5)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)”; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking “subsection (a)(5)” and inserting “subsection (a)(4)”.

**SEC. 4. MAKING PENALTIES PROPORTIONAL TO CRIMES.**

(a) Section 1030(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—  
 (1) in subparagraph (A)—  
 (A) by striking “conviction for another” and inserting “subsequent”; and  
 (B) by inserting “such” after “attempt to commit”;  
 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting after “financial gain” the following: “and the fair market value of the information obtained exceeds \$5,000”;

(3) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “the offense was committed” and all that follows through the semicolon, and inserting the following: “the offense was committed in furtherance of any criminal act in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of any State punishable by a term of imprisonment greater than one year, unless such criminal acts are prohibited by this section or such State violation would be based solely on accessing information without authorization.”;

(4) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by inserting “fair market” before “value”; and  
 (5) in subparagraph (C)—  
 (A) by striking “conviction for another” and inserting “subsequent”; and  
 (B) by inserting “such” after “attempt to commit”.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI,

Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1032. A bill to expand the use of E-Verify, to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in 1986, Congress made it unlawful for employers to knowingly hire or employ individuals who are not eligible to work in the United States. Identity theft and counterfeit documents have made a mockery of this law.

Under current law, if the documents provided by an employee reasonably appear on their face to be genuine, the employer has met its obligation to review the worker’s documents. This is why Congress created a pilot program, known as the Basic Pilot program, to help employers verify the work eligibility of its new hires.

This program has allowed employers to check records maintained by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. It was successful, and in 2003, Congress made the program available in all 50 States.

Now known as E-Verify, this nationwide program is free for employers and accessible via the internet. This program has been a valuable tool for those who want to hire a legal workforce. Employers like it. In fact, according to Westat, a private statistical survey research corporation that conducted a survey last year, 97 percent of employers found E-Verify user-friendly, and 92 percent said the program was effective. Employers also reported that “E-Verify takes the guess work out of determining the validity of documents, provides immediate results, offers reassurance that the company is not hiring unauthorized workers, and helps them to show a good faith effort to comply with the law.”

So, today, along with several colleagues, I am introducing legislation to permanently authorize and expand the E-Verify program. My bill, the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act, will ensure that employers can rely on this program while holding them accountable for their hiring practices.

My bill would make E-Verify a staple in every workplace. It would pave the way to modify and simplify the I-9 process required today. It would increase penalties on employers who hire people unauthorized to work in the country. Employers would be required to check the status of current employees within three years, and would allow employers to run a check prior to offering a job, saving that employer valuable time and resources. Employers will also be required to re-check those workers whose authorization is about to expire, such as those who come to the United States on temporary visas.

As Congress considers the reauthorization of E-Verify this year, I hope my

bill will be a starting point for discussion. We need to enhance and expand the program so that our immigration laws are being upheld. I hope my colleagues will consider joining me in making E-Verify a permanent part of our immigration laws.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1035

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.**

(a) ROVING SURVEILLANCE AND ACCESS TO BUSINESS RECORDS.—Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (50 U.S.C. 1805 note) is amended by striking “June 1, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

(b) INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS.—Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking “June 1, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—HONORING THE LIFE OF RACHEL CARSON

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 142

Whereas May 27, 2007, marked the centennial of the birth of Rachel Carson, a longtime Maryland resident, a noted author, and an environmental visionary;

Whereas Rachel Carson was born on May 27, 1907, in Springdale, of western Pennsylvania, where she learned to love nature while exploring the Allegheny River with her family and friends;

Whereas Rachel Carson graduated magna cum laude from Pennsylvania College for Women (now known as “Chatham University”) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1928, and went on to earn her master’s degree in zoology from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1932;

Whereas Rachel Carson abandoned her pursuit of a doctorate degree in 1935 when her father died so that she could provide financial support for her aging mother by taking part-time teaching positions at The Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland as well as a position as a writer for the United States Bureau of Fisheries (now known as the “United States Fish and Wildlife Service”);

Whereas Rachel Carson continued her writing career with feature columns in the Baltimore Sun on the marine life of the Chesapeake Bay until she was employed full-time in the Federal Government where she rose to become the editor-in-chief for all Fish and Wildlife Service publications;

Whereas Rachel Carson's first book, "Under the Sea-Wind", published in 1941, gave readers across the country a chance to enjoy her poetic style and her careful use of scientific information for the first time;

Whereas Rachel Carson's second book, "The Sea Around Us", earned the 1952 National Book Award and allowed her to fully devote her time to her writing career;

Whereas Rachel Carson's guide to seashore life, "The Edge of the Sea", was published in 1955 and became another best seller;

Whereas in 1962, while a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring", a book that detailed how synthetic chemicals accumulate in water, soils, fish, and animals, including birds;

Whereas President John F. Kennedy convened an expert panel of scientists that confirmed Rachel Carson's scientific findings, leading to the domestic ban on the sale of the chemical dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (commonly known as "DDT") in 1972, an action that many individuals credit with saving the bald eagle from extinction;

Whereas in 2015, there are more bald eagles in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed than there were in the entire lower 48 States in 1972; and

Whereas Rachel Carson passed away on April 14, 1964, at her home in Silver Spring, Maryland, leaving behind a history of tireless advocacy on behalf of the natural world, a legacy of scientific rigor coupled with poetic sensibility, and a book that helped launch the modern environmental movement; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors the life of Rachel Carson, a scientist, writer, and pioneer of the environmental movement.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO DEBT-FREE HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 143

Whereas the economic competitiveness of the United States in the global economy requires a well-educated workforce;

Whereas current and future young people in the United States should have the same opportunity offered to those who went to college in previous generations, including the ability to attend State colleges and universities without taking on burdensome debt;

Whereas, in 2015, higher education is more important than ever because it is an essential step to entering and remaining in the middle class;

Whereas, because of the importance of higher education, the United States should expand the opportunity to pursue and attain higher education to more people than had that opportunity in the past;

Whereas public investment in higher education pays off, as evidenced by the fact that workers with college degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less on government services; and

Whereas student loan debt saddles the very students who most depend on a college degree to level the economic playing field with a burden that—

(1) constrains the career choices and hurts the credit rating of the students;

(2) prevents people from fully participating in the economy by purchasing goods and services; and

(3) threatens essential milestones of the American dream, including the purchase of a home or car, starting a family, and saving for retirement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports efforts—

(1) to ensure that, through a combination of efforts, all students have access to debt-free higher education, defined to mean having no debt upon graduation from all public institutions of higher education;

(2) to provide support to States so States can make increased investments in higher education that will result in lower tuition and costs for students;

(3) to increase financial aid to students to help them afford the total cost of college attendance without taking on debt;

(4) to encourage innovation by States and institutions of higher education to cut costs for students and make college more affordable by increasing efficiency and enabling speedy and less-costly degree completion; and

(5) to reduce the burden of existing student loan debt.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1123. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1124. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1125. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1126. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1127. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1128. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1123. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FOR MAJOR MALFEASANCE, CRIMINAL CONDUCT, AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AT ODDS WITH THE MISSION OF AN AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “Subchapter VI—Major Malfeasance, Criminal Conduct, and Other Misconduct at Odds With the Mission of an Agency

##### “§ 7551. Definitions

“In this subchapter—

“(1) the term ‘agency’ has the meaning given that term in section 551;

“(2) the term ‘employee’ means an individual employed by an agency; and

“(3) the term ‘suspension’ means the placing of an employee, for disciplinary reasons, in a temporary status without duties and pay.

##### “§ 7552. Suspension and removal

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, or any other provision of law, the head of an agency may suspend without pay an employee of the agency if the head of the agency determines—

“(1) the employee has engaged in major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at odds with the mission of the agency; or

“(2) the employee failed to report major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at odds with the mission of the agency the employee knows was engaged in by an employee of the agency who is supervised by the employee.

“(b) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.—For an employee suspended under subsection (a)—

“(1) the head of an agency shall notify the employee of the reasons for the suspension; and

“(2) not later than 30 days after the date of the notification, the employee is entitled to submit to the officer designated by the head of the agency statements or affidavits to show why the employee should be restored to duty.

“(c) REMOVAL.—Subject to subsection (d), the head of an agency may remove an employee suspended under subsection (a) if, after such investigation and review as the head of the agency considers necessary, the head of the agency determines that removal is necessary or advisable, in light of the major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at issue. The determination of the head of the agency under this subsection is final.

“(d) PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An employee described in paragraph (2) is entitled, after suspension and before removal, to—

“(A) not later than 30 days after the date of the notification of the suspension, a written statement of the charges against the employee, which—

“(i) not later than 30 days after providing the written statement, may be amended; and

“(ii) shall be stated as specifically as possible;

“(B) not later than 30 days after the later of the date on which the written statement is provided or the date on which the written statement is amended, an opportunity to answer the charges and submit affidavits;

“(C) a hearing, at the request of the employee, by an agency authority duly constituted for this purpose;

“(D) a review of the matter by the head of the agency or a designee, before a decision adverse to the employee is made final; and

“(E) a written statement of the decision of the head of the agency.

“(2) EMPLOYEES COVERED.—An employee described in this paragraph is an employee who—

“(A) is suspended under subsection (a) of this section;

“(B) has a permanent or indefinite appointment;

“(C) has completed his probationary or trial period; and

“(D) is a citizen of the United States.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VI—MAJOR MALFEASANCE, CRIMINAL CONDUCT, AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AT ODDS WITH THE MISSION OF AN AGENCY

“7551. Definitions.

“7552. Suspension and removal.”.

**SA 1124.** Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 101 and insert the following:

**SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 3014. Additional special assessment

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September 30, 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

“(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

“(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

“(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

“(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

“(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien’s spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

“(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines, orders of restitution, and any other obligation related to victim-compensation arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the ‘Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Fund’), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

“(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims’ programming under—

“(A) section 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), none of the amounts in the Fund may be used to provide health care or medical items or services.

“(f) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

“(g) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

“(h) HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES.—

“(1) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(E)), as amended by section 221 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, there shall be transferred to the Fund an amount equal to the amount transferred under subsection (d) for each fiscal year, except that the amount transferred under this paragraph shall not be less than \$5,000,000 or more than \$30,000,000 in each such fiscal year, and such amounts shall remain available until expended.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (1) to award grants that may be used for the provision of health care or medical items or services to victims of trafficking under—

“(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

“(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

“(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(3) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than \$2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

“(4) APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—The application of the provisions of section 221(c) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 shall continue to apply to the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraph (1).”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

“3014. Additional special assessment.”.

**SA 1125.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**TITLE IV—FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT**

**SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 402. AUDIT REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 714 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, an audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks under subsection (b) of such section 714 shall be completed within 12 months of the date of enactment of this title.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A report on the audit required under subsection (a) shall be submitted by the Comptroller General to the Congress before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date on which such audit is completed and made available to the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee and each subcommittee of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and any other Member of Congress who requests it.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed description of the findings and conclusion of the Comptroller General with respect to the audit that is the subject of the report, together with such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Comptroller General may determine to be appropriate.

(c) REPEAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) of section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking all after “in writing.”.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f).

**SEC. 403. AUDIT OF LOAN FILE REVIEWS REQUIRED BY ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the review of loan files of homeowners in foreclosure in 2009 or 2010, required as part of the enforcement actions taken by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System against supervised financial institutions.

(b) CONTENT OF AUDIT.—The audit carried out pursuant to subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the guidance given by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to independent consultants retained by the supervised financial institutions regarding the procedures to be followed in conducting the file reviews;

(2) the factors considered by independent consultants when evaluating loan files;

(3) the results obtained by the independent consultants pursuant to those reviews;

(4) the determinations made by the independent consultants regarding the nature and extent of financial injury sustained by each homeowner as well as the level and type of remediation offered to each homeowner; and

(5) the specific measures taken by the independent consultants to verify, confirm, or rebut the assertions and representations made by supervised financial institutions regarding the contents of loan files and the extent of financial injury to homeowners.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the audit required under subsection (a).

**SA 1126.** Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which

was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:  
**SEC. 118. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.**

The Attorney General shall make available, on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a database for trafficking victim advocates, crisis hotline personnel, foster parents, law enforcement personnel, and crime survivors that contains information on—

- (1) counseling and hotline resources;
- (2) housing resources;
- (3) legal assistance; and
- (4) other services for trafficking survivors.

**SEC. 119. EXPANDED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS BY CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.**

Section 1595(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “not later than 10 years after the cause of action arose.” and inserting “not later than the later of—

- “(1) 10 years after the cause of action arose; or
- “(2) 10 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged offense.”.

**SA 1127.** Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT REAUTHORIZATION.**

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “for fiscal year 2009,” and all that follows through the period and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.” and inserting “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “for fiscal year 2009” and all that follows through the period and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”.

(b) OFFSET; REPEALING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11) is repealed.

(2) RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under such section 4002, the unobligated balances are rescinded.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection takes effect on October 1, 2015.

**SA 1128.** Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE IV—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**

**SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking”.

**SEC. 402. CAPTA AMENDMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) made by this section

shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) STATE PLANS.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—  
 (A) in clause (xxii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:  
 “(xxiv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (10)); and

“(xxv) provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters to serve this population.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

“(17) The number of children determined to be victims described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv).”.

(c) SPECIAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended—

(A) by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4), a child shall be considered a victim of ‘child abuse and neglect’ and of ‘sexual abuse’ if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section.

“(2) STATE OPTION.—Notwithstanding the definition of ‘child’ in section 3(1), a State may elect to define that term for purposes of the application of paragraph (1) to section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4) as a person who has not attained the age of 24.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting “(including sexual abuse as determined under section 111)” after “sexual abuse or exploitation”.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (5)(C) of subsection (a), as so designated, of section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended by striking “inhumane;” and inserting “inhumane.”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room 328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Opportunities and Challenges for Agriculture Trade with Cuba.”

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Advancing Telehealth through Connectivity.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization: Certification and U.S. Aviation Manufacturing Competitiveness.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Congress and U.S. Tariff Policy.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Improving Accountability and Oversight of Juvenile Justice Grants.”

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Fulfilling the Promise to Women Veterans."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID MANAGEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International

Development be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Department of State."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Greg Pollock, who is serving as a legislative fellow for national security issues this year for Senator REID, be granted floor privileges for the duration of 2015.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1035

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1035) to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place

the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 178.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.