

handful of amendments under a time agreement, and pass this bill before midnight. That would be the responsible thing to do.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the motion.

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

The motion was agreed to.

USA FREEDOM ACT OF 2015

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2048) to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1449

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I have a substitute amendment at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1449.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1450 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1449

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1450 to amendment No. 1449.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike Sec. 110(a) and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by sections 101 through 103 shall take effect on the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1451 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1450

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1451 to amendment No. 1450.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the amendment)

At the end, add the following:

(b) NONEFFECT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Section 401 of this Act, relating to appointment of amicus curiae, shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 110A. APPOINTMENT OF AMICUS CURIAE.

Section 103 (50 U.S.C. 1803) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(i) AMICUS CURIAE.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) is authorized, consistent with the requirement of subsection (c) and any other statutory requirement that the court act expeditiously or within a stated time—

“(A) to appoint amicus curiae to—

“(i) assist the court in the consideration of any application for an order or review that, in the opinion of the court, presents a novel or significant interpretation of the law; or

“(ii) provide technical expertise in any instance the court considers appropriate; or

“(B) upon motion, to permit an individual or organization leave to file an amicus curiae brief.

“(2) DESIGNATION.—The courts established by subsection (a) and (b) shall each designate 1 or more individuals who may be appointed to serve as amicus curiae and who are determined to be eligible for access to classified national security information necessary to participate in matters before such courts (if such access is necessary for participation in the matters for which they may be appointed). In appointing an amicus curiae pursuant to paragraph (1), the court may choose from among those so designated.

“(3) EXPERTISE.—An individual appointed as an amicus curiae under paragraph (1) may be an individual who possesses expertise on privacy and civil liberties, intelligence collection, communications technology, or any other area that may lend legal or technical expertise to the court.

“(4) DUTIES.—An amicus curiae appointed under paragraph (1) to assist with the consideration of a covered matter shall carry out the duties assigned by the appointing court. That court may authorize the amicus curiae to review any application, certification, petition, motion, or other submission that the court determines is relevant to the duties assigned by the court.

“(5) NOTIFICATION.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) shall notify the Attorney General of each exercise of the authority to appoint an amicus curiae under paragraph (1).

“(6) ASSISTANCE.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) may request and

receive (including on a non-reimbursable basis) the assistance of the executive branch in the implementation of this subsection.

“(7) ADMINISTRATION.—A court established under subsection (a) or (b) may provide for the designation, appointment, removal, training, or other support of an amicus curiae appointed under paragraph (1) in a manner that is not inconsistent with this subsection.

“(j) REVIEW OF FISA COURT DECISIONS.—Following issuance of an order under this Act, a court established under subsection (a) shall certify for review to the court established under subsection (b) any question of law that may affect resolution of the matter in controversy that the court determines warrants such review because of a need for uniformity or because consideration by the court established under subsection (b) would serve the interests of justice. Upon certification of a question of law under this subsection, the court established under subsection (b) may give binding instructions or require the entire record to be sent up for decision of the entire matter in controversy.

“(k) REVIEW OF FISA COURT OF REVIEW DECISIONS.—

“(1) CERTIFICATION.—For purposes of section 1254(2) of title 28, United States Code, the court of review established under subsection (b) shall be considered to be a court of appeals.

“(2) AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFING.—Upon certification of an application under paragraph (1), the Supreme Court of the United States may appoint an amicus curiae designated under subsection (i)(3), or any other person, to provide briefing or other assistance.”

AMENDMENT NO. 1452

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have an amendment to the text proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1452 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1449.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1453 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1452

Mr. MCCONNELL. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1453 to amendment No. 1452.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 2048, an act to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Ron Johnson, Dean Heller, Steve Daines, Cory Gardner, Johnny Isakson, Richard Burr, Tim Scott, James Lankford, Jeff Flake, Mike Lee, Lisa Murkowski, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Richard C. Shelby.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to proceed to H.R. 1735.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 99, H.R. 1735, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

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 motion to proceed to H.R. 1735, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Kelly Ayotte, Jeff Sessions, Shelley Moore Capito, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, James M. Inhofe, John Cornyn, Mike Lee, Cory Gardner.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING BEAU BIDEN

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, my heart and the hearts of my entire family go out to Vice President JOE BIDEN and his family on the tragic loss of his son, Beau Biden.

As a mother of children about Beau's age I know that this is the age when our children are coming fully into their own and Beau Biden was already there.

He was a skilled attorney general, a promising candidate for Governor, and above all an extraordinarily loving family member.

The Vice President has suffered too many losses in his lifetime and each one has cut deep. I hope he knows that all of us who love him are praying that his faith and the deep love of his family will see him through this tragic loss.

I know the people of California join me in sending the deepest condolences to the Biden family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO C. EDWARD BROWN

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I wish to recognize C. Edward "Ed" Brown, FACHE, on his election to the American Medical Group Association's Policy Hall of Fame. Ed has a long track record in Iowa and Washington as a leading advocate in health care policy reform. He also served in numerous leadership roles at the American Medical Group Association, chairing its public policy committee for 4 years and serving as chairman of its board.

Mr. Brown has had a distinguished career in health care in Iowa, where he has served for the last 21 years as chief executive officer of the Iowa Clinic, a multispecialty group practice in Des Moines. The Iowa Clinic is the largest physician-owned multispecialty group in central Iowa, with nearly 200 physicians and health care providers practicing in 40 specialties. The clinic serves a population area of 1.1 million, averaging 400,000 patient visits each year.

Ed has a long list of achievements in delivering cutting edge, quality-focused health care to the benefit of Iowans, and his achievements include the Iowa Clinic's adoption of electronic medical records and information technology systems. He holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Evansville and a master's degree in health administration from Washington University in St. Louis. Also, he is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, with more than 30 years of experience in executive and senior levels of health care management.

As an advocate for multispecialty medical groups and AMGA, Ed has been a leader in promoting a model of care delivery and an organization that represents some of the Nation's highest quality and most prestigious health care delivery systems. It is wonderful to see someone with such a distinguished health care record in Iowa recognized at the national level as a dedicated leader who is committed to improving health care at such an important time for our Nation's health care delivery system.

Ed's voice has been an invaluable contribution to the health care debate in this country, and I congratulate him on this deserved recognition for his countless achievements in the public policy realm. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate on January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 26, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1690. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse".

H.R. 2353. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the acting President pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1470. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide additional assistance to small business concerns for disaster recovery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. Res. 188. A resolution expressing appreciation of the goals of American Craft Beer Week and commending the small and independent craft brewers of the United States; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 188—EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF THE GOALS OF AMERICAN CRAFT BEER WEEK AND COMMENDING THE SMALL AND INDEPENDENT CRAFT BREWERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 188

Whereas American Craft Beer Week is celebrated annually in breweries, brew pubs, restaurants, and beer stores by craft brewers, home brewers, and beer enthusiasts nationwide;

Whereas in 2015, American Craft Beer Week is celebrated from May 11 to May 17;

Whereas craft brewers are a vibrant affirmation and expression of the entrepreneurial